

# Top 50 cooperatives produce over 152 billion pounds of milk

by Danielle Brown

**M**ILK production reported by the top 50 cooperatives was up 1.6 billion pounds from last year to 152.3 billion pounds total. That compares to total U.S. milk production which was up 3.49 billion pounds to 192.8 billion. The number of member farms was down 2.2 percent to 40,415 farms, while total U.S. farm numbers dropped 3.3 percent to 53,127 farms in 2010.

Last year's No. 51 cooperative Lakes Area Cooperative, formerly known as Perham Cooperative Creamery Association, makes its debut on the list at

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No. 50. In 2009, Country Classic Dairies, Inc., held that spot, but the cooperative merged with Northwest Dairy Association last year. The top 13 cooperatives remain unchanged. This year's biggest mover was White Eagle Cooperative Association, jumping from No. 46 to No. 42. The first tie occurred on the list since 2004. Southeast Milk, Inc., and Milwaukee Cooperative Milk Producers both reported 2.6 billion pounds to tie for the No. 15 spot.

In 2010, the top 50 cooperatives marketed 79 percent of the 192.8 billion pounds of total milk produced in the U.S. That is the lowest market share held by the top 50 cooperatives since 2007. Members of the top 5 cooperatives handled 42 percent of the total U.S. milk production while repre-

sented 28.8 percent of total U.S. dairy farms.

A trio of New Mexico cooperatives led the way for milk per dairy. Select Milk Producer's Association topped the list with a staggering 65.9 million pounds, followed by Continental Dairy Products, Inc., with 59.7 million pounds, and Zia Milk Producers, Inc., with 59.1 million pounds per member dairy.

Information for the top 50 cooperatives list is gathered by Hoard's Dairyman every summer. Each cooperative is contacted and asked to provide information on the previous year's production. Because cooperatives have different ending dates for their fiscal year, milk volume and member farms may not necessarily represent the 2010 calendar year.

Rank	Dairy cooperative	Member milk volume (bil. lbs.)	Member farms	Rank	Dairy cooperative	Member milk volume (bil. lbs.)	Member farms
1	✓ Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. Kansas City, Mo.	37.800	9,168	26	Organic Valley/CROPP La Farge, Wis.	1.147	1,336
2	California Dairies, Inc. Visalia, Calif.	16.900	490	27	Magic Valley Quality Milk Producers, Inc Jerome, Idaho	0.930	34
3	✓ Land O'Lakes, Inc. St. Paul, Minn.	12.870	2,734	28	✓ Zia Milk Producers, Inc. Roswell, N.M.	0.827	14
4	✓ Northwest Dairy Association Seattle, Wash.	7.300	551	29	Bongards' Creameries Bongards, Minn.	0.720	350
5	✓ Dairy Lea Cooperative, Inc. Syracuse, N.Y.	6.250	2,357	30	✓ Farmers Cooperative Creamery McMinnville, Ore.	0.702	69
6	✓ Associated Milk Producers, Inc. New Ulm, Minn.	6.000	3,000	31	Lanco-Pennland Quality Milk Producers Hagerstown, Md.	0.687	700
7	Family Dairies USA Madison, Wis.	5.890	2,897	32	✓ Tillamook County Creamery Association Tillamook, Ore.	0.676	110
8	✓ Foremost Farms USA Baraboo, Wis.	5.648	2,099	33	✓ Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery Ellsworth, Wis.	0.648	460
9	✓ Manitowoc Milk Producers Cooperative Manitowoc, Wis.	5.200	2,841	34	High Desert Milk, Inc. Burley, Idaho	0.617	13
10	✓ Select Milk Producers, Inc. Artesia, N.M.	4.416	67	35	Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association Mount Joy, Pa.	0.536	289
11	✓ Michigan Milk Producers Association Novi, Mich.	3.900	1,415	36	Plainview Milk Products Cooperative Plainview, Minn.	0.494	224
12	✓ United Dairymen of Arizona Tempe, Ariz.	3.436	70	37	Cobblestone Milk Cooperative, Inc. Chatham, Va.	0.357	17
13	✓ Maryland and Virginia Milk Prod. Co-op Assn. Reston, Va.	3.000	1,565	38	Burnett Dairy Cooperative Grantsburg, Wis.	0.337	224
14	✓ Lone Star Milk Producers Windthorst, Texas	2.830	224	39	Lowville Producers Dairy Cooperative, Inc Lowville, N.Y.	0.310	184
*15	✓ Southeast Milk, Inc. Belleview, Fla.	2.600	275	40	Scenic Central Milk Producers Co-op Assn. Yuba, Wis.	0.295	231
*15	Milwaukee Cooperative Milk Producers Brookfield, Wis.	2.600	544	41	Central Equity Milk Cooperative, Inc. Billings, Mo.	0.290	161
17	✓ Agri-Mark, Inc. Lawrence, Mass.	2.553	1,276	42	White Eagle Cooperative Association South Bend, Ind.	0.285	11
18	✓ Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc. LeRoy, N.Y.	1.800	425	43	✓ Mid-West Dairymen's Company Rockford, Ill.	0.283	165
19	✓ Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. Carlinville, Ill.	1.700	844	44	Hastings Cooperative Creamery Company Hastings, Minn.	0.239	127
20	✓ Continental Dairy Products, Inc. Artesia, N.M.	1.611	27	45	✓ Cooperative Milk Producers Association, Inc. Blackstone, Va.	0.238	98
21	✓ Swiss Valley Farms Company Davenport, Iowa	1.453	758	46	Sunrise Ag Cooperative Buckman, Minn.	0.212	160
22	Security Milk Producers Association Chino, Calif.	1.336	43	47	Calhoun Cooperative Creamery Company Lansing, Iowa	0.202	75
23	✓ First District Association Litchfield, Minn.	1.265	665	48	Cortland Bulk Milk Producers Co-op, Inc. Cortland, N.Y.	0.195	70
24	✓ St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc. St. Albans, Vt.	1.242	451	49	Northwest Independent Milk Producers Assn. East Olympia, Wash.	0.176	20
25	Woodstock Progressive Milk Producers, Inc. Woodstock, Ill.	1.175	400	50	Lakes Area Cooperative Perham, Minn.	0.150	87
✓	Member of National Milk Producers Federation		*tie	Total		152.328	40,415