

Connecticut Dairy Farms Provide Many Benefits



Open Space...

Connecticut Dairy is a
\$1 Billion Industry *

*The Economic & Fiscal Impacts of
Connecticut's Dairy Industry
Prepared By
DECD & the CT Dept of Ag with
The University of CT Dept. of Ag &



Economic Impact...



Fresh Food...



Local Farms & Cows...



Family Farms...



Wildlife Habitat...

Connecticut's dairy farms operate over 65% of our states agricultural landscape !



Quality of Life...

PREPARED, PRODUCED & PRINTED BY: CONNECTICUT DAIRY FARMERS
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Connecticut Dairy Farms

IN CRISIS

Needed!!

Long-Term Plan For Sustainability



THE PROBLEM

- The CT milk price sometimes falls below the cost of production.
- US Dept. of Agriculture sets the price for milk in Connecticut.
- Federal pricing system is biased against the North East.
- CT milk price is affected by the global economy.

THE SOLUTION

- Develop a Long-Term Plan for Dairy Farm Sustainability.
- Action is needed to allow CT dairy farms the opportunity to survive!

THE CONSEQUENCES

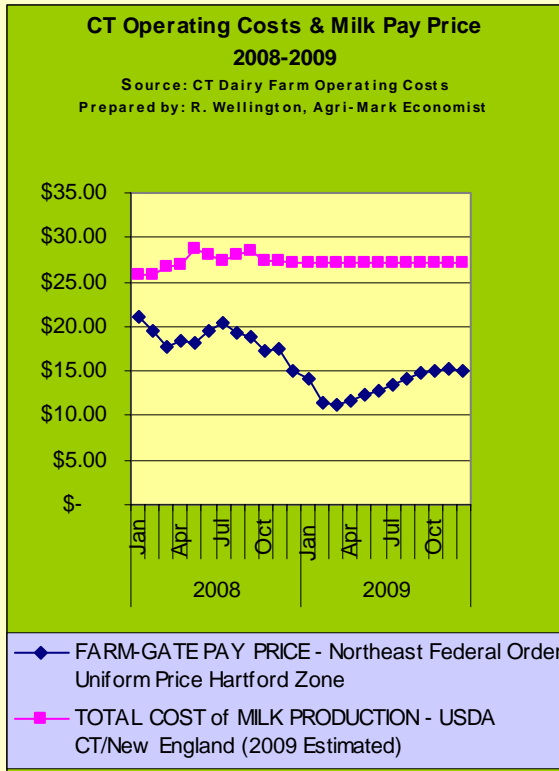
- At Risk: \$1 Billion dairy industry.
- At Risk: Local source of fresh dairy products & food security.
- At Risk: Open space, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities & quality of life for future generations.



A question on the minds of many
CT Dairy Farmers is:

***'How do we survive when
the price we are paid for milk doesn't
cover the cost of feeding our cows?'***

"For perhaps the first time since the Great
Depression, February milk prices might not
even cover the cost of feed to produce that
milk."
- Jim Dickrell, Editor 'Dairy Today', 1/20/09



Dairy Farmers are
Price Takers - NOT Price Makers

*Farmers have no control over the
price they receive for their milk*

Dairy farmers cannot pass along any
increases in the costs of production

*Connecticut is in danger of losing a large
number of dairy farms due to low milk \$*

Selling assets & use of credit are keeping
CT dairy farms operating temporarily

*CT Dairy Farms provide a critical mass of
goods and services that benefits the total
infra-structure of CT Agriculture*

THE SOLUTION:

Long-Term Plan For Dairy Farm Sustainability

***Create a permanent structure to
kick in and distribute funds when
the farm-gate price of milk falls
below the cost of production.***

**An Investment to Ensure the
Stability of Connecticut's**

\$1 Billion

Dairy Industry*

**Legislation or Programs Must
Be Determined**

Surrounding States
Have Created Long-Term
Programs To Support Their
Critical Dairy Industries!!

- Massachusetts passed a tax credit program
- Maine & Pennsylvania have programs
- Vermont is developing a program
- CT dairy farms need to remain competitive with neighboring states

*Dairy farming is a significant industry.
We need to maintain the economic
infrastructure and the thousands of
associated jobs. The investment made
today will position Connecticut's
agricultural future for the benefit of our
children and grandchildren.*

*The Economic & Fiscal Impacts of Connecticut's Dairy Industry, 2009
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