

6 Breeds of Dairy Cows

Holstein

- This breed originated in Europe and was brought to the U.S. by Dutch settlers.
- This breed has the highest milk production of all dairy breeds.
- The Holstein is the dominant dairy breed in the U.S.
- The average Holstein cow produces around 23,000 pounds of milk, or 2,674 gallons, of milk each lactation. With a standard lactation lasting 305 days, that comes out to 75 pounds, or almost 9 gallons of milk per cow per day.



Ayrshire

- This breed originated in Scotland.
- Ayrshires are known for vigor and efficiency of milk production.
- Average output is 17,000lbs./7,711kg (~2000 gallons) of milk per 305 day-cycle/year, with 3.9% butterfat, 3.3% total protein.



Brown Swiss

- This breed originated in the Alp Mountains.
- Brown Swiss cows are known for being hearty and rugged, having superior feet and legs.
- This breed is very quiet and docile.
- Average output is 21,000lbs./9525kg (~2450 gallons) of milk per cycle with 4.0% butterfat, 3.5% total protein.



Guernsey

- This breed originated in the English Channel, 30 miles off the coast of France.
- Guernsey cows are known to be hearty and adaptable and for the yellow color of their milk.
- Guernseys are small, about three-fifths the size of a Holstein, but produce up to 14,700lbs./6,350kg (~1700 gallons) milk with 4.5% butterfat, 3.5% total protein each cycle.



Jersey

- This breed originated from the island of Jersey, 15 miles off the coast of France.
- Jerseys produce more butterfat in their milk than other dairy breeds.
- average, 16,000lbs./7,260kg (~1860 gallons) per cycle, with a high butterfat content of 4.9%, total protein 3.7%.



Milking Shorthorns

- This breed originated in England.
- The Milking Shorthorn has a wide range of adaption and the reputation of being a good milker.
- A typical cow produces 15,400lbs./6,990kg (~1880 gallons) of milk per cycle with a butterfat content of 3.8%, total protein 3.3%.

