

DAIRY BREEDS

Pounds & Gallons of Milk Per Lactation

Milk Fat Percent

Milk Protein Percent

Average (lbs/per lactation)
Average (gals/per lactation)

Average Milk Fat*

Average Milk Protein*

Information presented is based on standard and average characteristics, however variations do exist. Dairy cattle presented represents a portion of recognized breeds.

27,031 lbs.
3,144 gal.
3.7 %
3.2 %



1,500 lbs.

Holstein

18,918 lbs.
2,200 gal.
4 %
3.3 %



1,250 lbs.

Ayrshire

18,040 lbs.
2,098 gal.
4.9 %
3.8 %



1,000 lbs.

Jersey

23,090 lbs.
2,686 gal.
4.1 %
3.5 %



1,500 lbs.

Brown Swiss

17,622 lbs.
2,050 gal.
4.7 %
3.6 %



1,200 lbs.

Guernsey

18,578 lbs.
2,161 gal.
3.8 %
3.4 %



1,400 lbs.

Milking Shorthorn

*Average Milk Fat and Average Milk Protein percentages can vary.

Factors which affect milk composition include genetics, stage of lactation, level of milk production and age of cow, environment, disease (i.e. mastitis) and nutrition. Of the variation in milk composition, 55 percent is due to heredity and 45 percent is due to environmental factors, such as feeding management. - University of Nebraska Extension

Data Source: <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/livestock/dairy/breeds>, University of North Dakota, Michigan State University
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