

PRODUCER OVERVIEW OF PASTURE DAIRYING



HUMBOLDT & DEL NORTE COUNTY DAIRY DEMOGRAPHICS



- Number of Dairies in 2017: 61
 - Organic Dairies: 59
 - Conventional Dairies: 2
- Average Herd Size: 307
 - Largest Herd: 1,500 cows
 - Smallest Herd: 47 cows
- Annual Days on Pasture: 120-365
- Housing Styles:
 - Free Stall Barns
 - Mechanical Scrape
 - Hand Scrape
 - Flush
 - Bedded Pack Barns
 - Bedded Outdoor Pack
 - Pasture Only
- Pasture Based Dairies: 100%

* Source: Western United Dairymen & North Coast Region Water Board

WHY PASTURE?

- Climate
- Tradition
- Historic Isolation
- Available Markets
- Labor



“WE ARE FORAGE FARMERS, DAIRY CATTLE ARE THE MECHANISM BY WHICH WE HARVEST THAT FORAGE”



FEED:

- Feed Types
 - Pasture: grass, legumes, various forbs
 - Dry Hay: alfalfa, grass/ clover
 - Haylage: alfalfa & grass/ clover
 - Grain: milk barn and heifers
- Feed is a function of seasonality



PASTURE MANAGEMENT:

- Established pastures are maintained and rarely replanted
- Rotational grazing occurs year round
- High intensity short duration strip grazing practiced in growing season
 - 30 years in practice
 - Managed for utilization, residual organic matter and stubble height
- Stocking rate
 - 1 cow per acre (annually)
- All fields double for pasture and feed production
- Irrigation on an as needed basis
- Weed Management
 - Clipping
 - Hand grubbing
 - Biologic weed controls



**All management practices are a function of soil, plant community and seasonality*

GRAZING



Seasonal strip grazing



Winter grazing on rotational pastures

MANURE MANAGEMENT

- Points of collection
 - Feed Lane
 - Maternity barn
 - Milk Barn
- Storage
 - Dry storage
 - Above ground “pit”
- Application
 - Dry manure applied annually to pasture
 - Liquid manure spread biweekly/ as weather permits
 - High density grazing



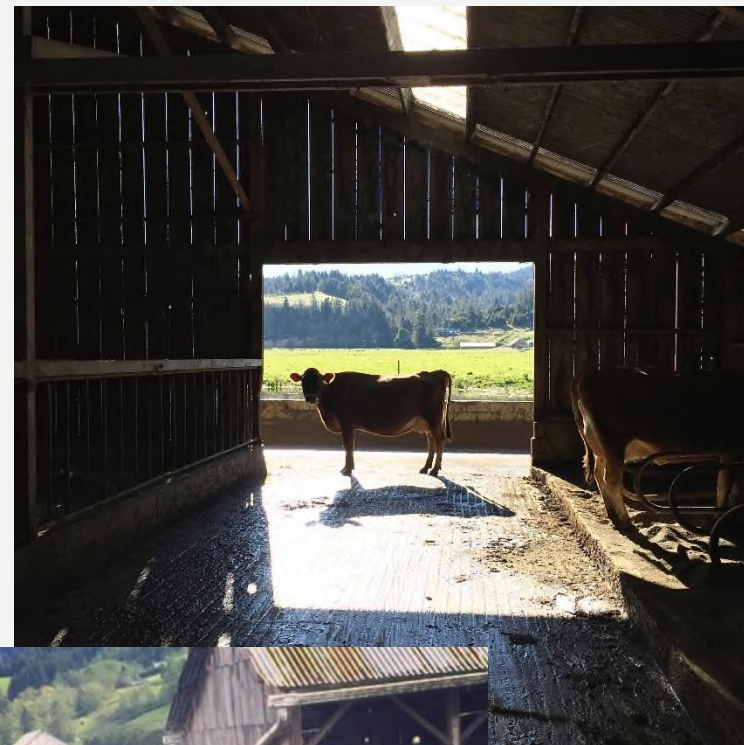
SARVINSKI DAIRY

- Herd Size: 150
- Breeds: Crossbred
- Annual Access to Pasture: 275+
- Housing System:
 - Bedded Pack Barn
- Manure Storage
 - dry storage
 - Small 2-pond settling basin system
- Manure Application
 - Biweekly spread from pond/ as weather permits
 - Dry manure annually spread
 - Pasture
 - Organic Vegetables
- Grazing Practice
 - Seasonal strip grazing



HANSEN FAMILY DAIRY

- Herd Size: 80
- Breeds: Jersey & Holstein
- Annual Access to Pasture: 365
- Housing System:
 - Free Stall (sand bedding)
- Manure Storage:
 - Under ground liquid storage pit
- Manure Application:
 - spread on pasture biweekly/ as weather permits
- Grazing Practice:
 - Seasonal strip grazing



HOLGIEVILLE JERSEYS

- Herd Size: 130
- Breeds: Jersey
- Annual Access to Pasture: 365
- Housing System
 - Free Stall (water beds)
 - Bedded pack
- Manure Storage
 - Covered dry storage
 - Covered liquid pit
 - Screw press separator
- Manure Application
 - Annual dry spread
 - Biweekly liquid spread/ weather permitting
- Grazing Practice
 - Seasonal strip grazing



BROOKEHAVEN DAIRY

- Herd Size: 47
- Breeds: Jersey & Holstein
- Annual Access to Pasture: 365
- Housing System
 - Free Stall Barn (sand bedding)
- Manure Storage
 - dry storage
 - Liquid holding pit
- Manure Application
 - routine spread
- Grazing Practice
 - Seasonal strip grazing



