

California's Dairy Industry & Water Use

California dairies – **99% of which are family owned** – are battling the drought together and are proud of our conservation efforts. **We are continually looking for ways to best utilize the precious resource of water efficiently and effectively.** Water is part of life – it is essential to our economy, environment, day-to-day activities and basic survival. Understanding the full picture of water consumption will help us all keep sight on conservation efforts. California food production has experienced drastic cuts in water supply. Continued recycling and reclamation of water on dairies maximizes its value while continuing to produce the wholesome milk that is the basis for all the dairy products that nourish American families.



DAIRY FARMERS ARE COMMITTED TO USING WATER EFFICIENTLY

California dairy farms maximize resources with a minimized environmental footprint.

IMPROVED PRACTICES

- Our farmers apply 23% less water to their fields than they did in the early 1980s
- With less water over the same period, average crop yields increased by more than 40%

DRIP IRRIGATION OFFERS POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE SAVINGS

- Promising results from test plots: 25% reduction in water use with 20-25% increase in feed crop yields

Lifecycle of Water on a Dairy

TODAY'S DAIRY FARMS USE WATER MULTIPLE TIMES WITHOUT IT EVER LEAVING THE FARM.

