Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
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Oregon Dairy Farmers Association – 2019 Energy Usage

Results based on responses from dairy producers across the state, both organic and conventional

Fuel Consumption:

Diesel usage varied greatly from large to small producers

- Off-Road (red) usage varied from 5,000 gallons to over 98,000 gallons purchased
- On-Road (green or clear) usage varied from 290 gallons to more than 30,000 gallons
- Less than 20% of responses said they only purchase clear diesel

Transportation Costs:

The two largest transportation expenses for dairy farms are milk hauling and feed delivery (hay, grain, silage, commodities, etc.)

- Milk hauling ranged from $16,250 to $223,361 and feed hauling costs went as high as $380,000

Electricity Costs:

The activities that require the most electricity on dairy farms are the milking parlor, milk storage, irrigation, manure separator/manure pump, lighting, and feed processing.

The milking parlor requires the most energy year-round and irrigation in the spring, summer and fall is very high usage for many producers.

kWh Usage:

There is a significant range of usage from a very small producer with 47,920 kWh to several over 1,000,000 and a few over 2,000,000 kWh. One medium sized farm shared their cost at nearly $160,000 per year. Another dairy farm that has a hay farm in Central Oregon said the energy costs were nearly double in the Willamette Valley compared to Central Oregon.

Electrical Service Providers:

PGE, Pacific Power, Tillamook PUD, Mac Power & Light, Idaho Power and Central Electric.

Natural Gas:

Less than 20% of respondents use Natural Gas. NW Natural was the provider.

Propane:

About 75% of respondents use Propane. Heating water for washing the milking equipment and bulk tank, and laundry were the prime uses.

- Usage varied from 550 gallons to 20,000 gallons