

EAAP

Grass- based pasture dairy systems
in the Mid Western USA

August 25, 2014

Copenhagen, Denmark

Vance Haugen

Department of Agriculture and Life Science

University of Wisconsin

US: Midwest Region



Copyright © Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

United States Department of Agriculture Statistics 2013 Data

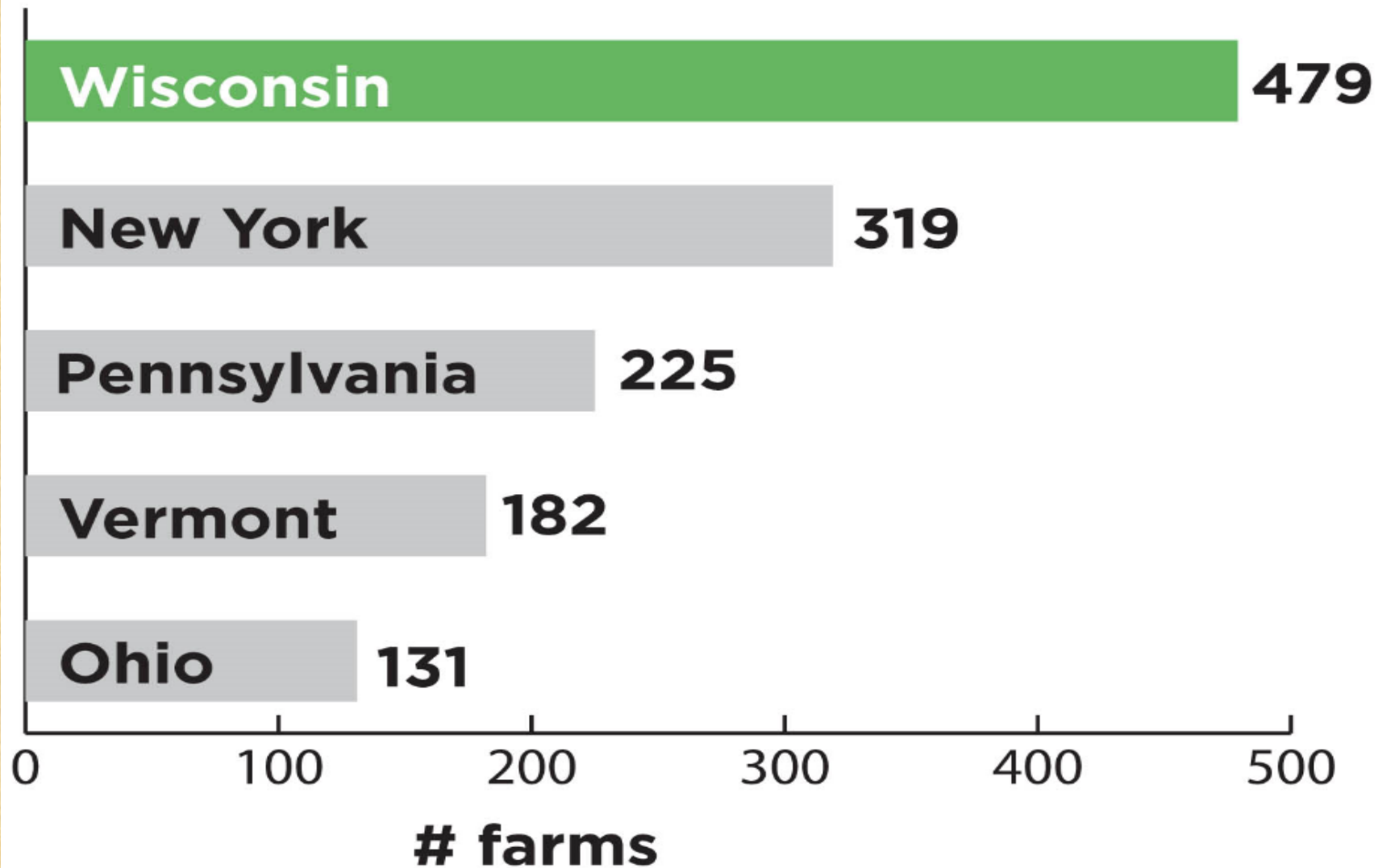
	Herds	Number of Cows
US Dairy Herds	46,960	9,221,000
Wisconsin	10,880	1,271,000
Minnesota	3,895	484,000
Iowa	1,425	208,000

Organic Milk Sales as a % of Total US milk sales

- 2006 – 1.92 %
- 2013 – 4.38%

Figure 2. Top five states in number of organic dairy farms, 2008

Source: USDA. 2008. Organic Production Survey, Table 10.



Total Grass-fed Organic Herd



Intensive Grazing using Grazing Corn



Out Wintering Dairy Cattle



Out Wintering Dairy Cattle



Consumer Appreciation of Grazing

- US Organic Milk production must have a grazing component
 - 2012 Conventional Milk = \$2.22/ ½ Gal
 - 2012 Organic Milk = \$3.50/ ½ Gal

Organic milk that is only produced from Grass (Grassmilk)

2014 Grassmilk Organic = \$5.95/ ½ Gal

Grazing Overview in Wisconsin

- Average Herd size in USA 198 Cows
- Average Herd size in Wisconsin 116 cows
- Average Grazing Herd in Wisconsin 65 cows
- Largest Grazing Herd in Wisconsin 1800 cows
- 25% of the Herds in Wisconsin are self reported graziers (2,720 out of 10,880)

Graziers Adopt Low Cost Milking Systems



Governmental Involvement of Dairy Grazing

- No direct payments
- Soil conservation and water quality are considered a by product of Grazing and have good support

Grazing Education is Peer Centric



Profitability of Grazing

- Managed Intensive Grazing profitability has been equal or greater than Confinement

Conclusions

- Grazing dairy numbers continue to grow in the Midwest at a modest rate
- Small Scale (50 cows or less) conventional dairies continue but tend to be terminal or associated with Amish and Mennonite
- Consumer support of grazing is very solid
- Soil Conservation Agencies and Wildlife support organizations (Trout Unlimited) support controlled grazing