

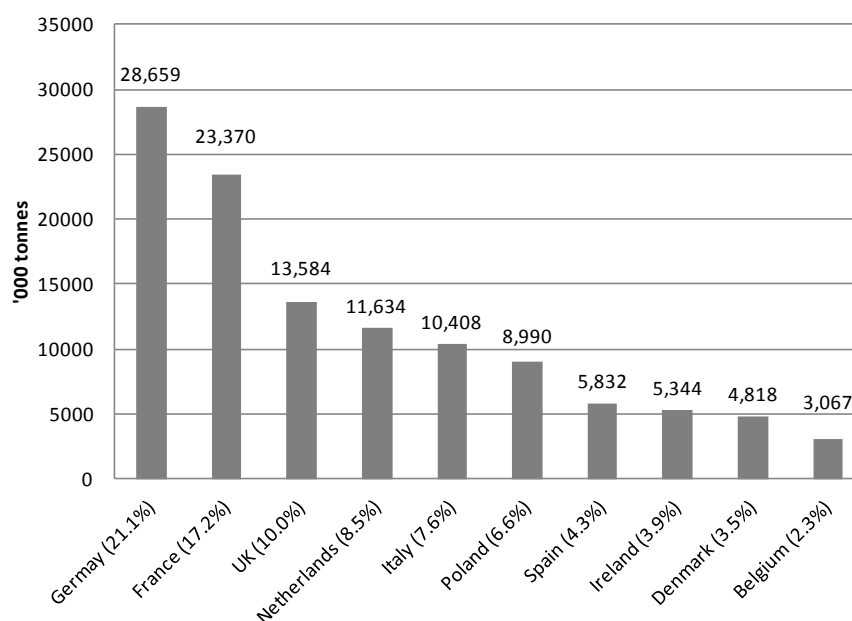
Milk production in the EU

Production

There are just over 24 million dairy cows in the EU-27 producing just over 136 million tonnes of milk per annum (Eurostat, 2011). Germany and France are the largest producers (Figure 1) accounting for 21 and 17% of EU production, respectively. Globally, there are over 240 million cows producing almost 600 million tonnes of milk per annum (FAO Stat, 2010).

Figure 1. Top 10 milk producing countries in the EU.

Graph shows '000 tonnes of milk produced and (% of EU production) per annum by country (Eurostat, 2011)



Germany is also the largest producer of cheese (just under 2 million tonnes), cream (568,000 tonnes), butter (410,000 tonnes) and skimmed milk powder (286,000 tonnes); the largest quantity of drinking milk is produced in the United Kingdom (6.7 million tonnes), representing 50.7% of UK the milk produced (European Commission, 2011). Drinking milk represents 19%, 16%, and 25% of milk produced in Germany, France and Italy and only 6.2% in the Netherlands.

Production systems for dairy are highly variable and not well documented. The percent of dairy cows in organic systems is less than 2% in Germany (0%), France (1.6%), and the Netherlands (1.5%), 2.6% in Italy and 7.8% in the UK (European Commission, 2011). Pasture access is also highly variable. A recent survey of 680 dairy farmers in France, found 84% of respondents provide pasture access, but less than 40% provide sufficient access that would allow grass grazing to form a significant part of the feed ration (Elevage-net 2012).

Trade

Germany is the 6th largest global producer of milk (4.9% of global production); France (3.9%) and the UK (2.3%) are the 7th and 9th, respectively. The USA is the largest global producer of milk, producing just over 87 million tonnes per annum (14.6% of global production) (FAO stat, 2010).

Germany is the largest global importer and exporter of dairy products. Italy and the UK are the 2nd and 3rd largest importers, whilst France and the Netherlands are the 2nd and 3rd largest exporters. Outside the EU, the USA is the 8th largest importer and New Zealand is the 4th largest exporter of dairy products (OFC, 2012)

Consumption

In 2009, per capita consumption of liquid milk in the EU-27 was 79kg per annum, whilst consumption of cheese and butter was 18 and 4kg per capita per annum, respectively (European Commission, 2011). The UK has a higher than average drinking milk consumption at 116kg and less than average cheese consumption at 10kg. Germany and France have similar dairy consumption rates: below EU average for drinking milk (~64kg) and above average for cheese (~23kg) and butter (~7kg) (European Commission, 2011).

Legislation

There are no specific legislative minimum standards for the protection of dairy cows. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations (2010), Schedule 7, requires:

1. Where lactating dairy cows or calving cows are kept in a building, they must have access at all times to a well-drained and bedded lying area.
2. A pen or yard in a building used for calving must be of such a size as to permit a person to attend the cows.
3. Calving cows which are kept in a building must be kept separate from livestock other than calving cows.

Council Directive 2008/119/EC (codified version) lays down minimum standards for the protection of calves. Attention should be paid to the following:

Article 3a. No calf shall be confined in an individual pen after the age of 8 weeks

Individual pens must not have solid walls, but perforated walls which allow calves to have direct visual and tactile contact

Article 3b. Provides minimum unobstructed space allowance

Liveweight (kg)	Area (m ²)
<150	1.5
150-<220	1.7
>220	1.8

Annex I

8. Calves must not be tethered.....
10. The lying area must be comfortable, clean, adequately drained, and must not adversely affect the calves. Appropriate bedding must be provided for calves less than two weeks old.
11. All calves must be provided with an appropriate diet adapted to their age, weight and behavioural and physiological needs, to promote good health and welfare.....
12. All calves must be fed at least twice a day.
15. Each calf must receive bovine colostrum as soon as possible after it is born and in any case within the first six hours of life.

References

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