

F E E D E F F I C I E N C Y

JERSEY ADVANTAGE: SMALL BODY SIZE AND AN IMPRESSIVE METABOLIC SYSTEM



Biological Difference

Although smaller, Jerseys cows are incredibly efficient feed converters compared with other breeds. They have the unique biological ability to utilize the energy in feed for milk production, rather than expelling it as waste.

Jerseys deliver a quality product that you get paid for. Compared to average pooled milk, a glass of Jersey milk has 18% more protein, 29% more milkfat and 20% more calcium. It is also especially rich in vitamins.

Saving You Money

Studies show that Jerseys save 13-18% in total feed expenses compared with other breeds. With feed costs representing approximately 55% of the input in your dairy operation, this can be a significant savings.

Less Feed More Solids

When a Jersey is in production, she will ingest up to 4.5% of her total body weight in dry matter. For the average 450 kg Jersey cow, this works out to **20.25** kg of dry matter per day in her ration. Larger dairy breeds consume 4.0% of their total body weight in dry matter and a 700 kg cow would eat **28** kg of dry matter per day.

If you look at the kilograms of milk solids produced per kilogram of body weight in 305 days, the 450 kg Jersey comes in at **1.23** solids/kg, while the 700 kg cow would produce **0.97** solids/kg. In the end, that's a 21% difference!

Less Pre-Calving Investment

Jerseys mature earlier than other breeds. They can be bred at a younger age and enter the milking herd sooner. It also means that you need less feed to get them to first calving than larger breeds.

Less Land & Storage

With Jerseys, decreased feed requirements can result in the need for less crop land, 24% less manure storage, as well as reduced costs to harvest and store feed. Less phosphorus in the manure also benefits the environment.