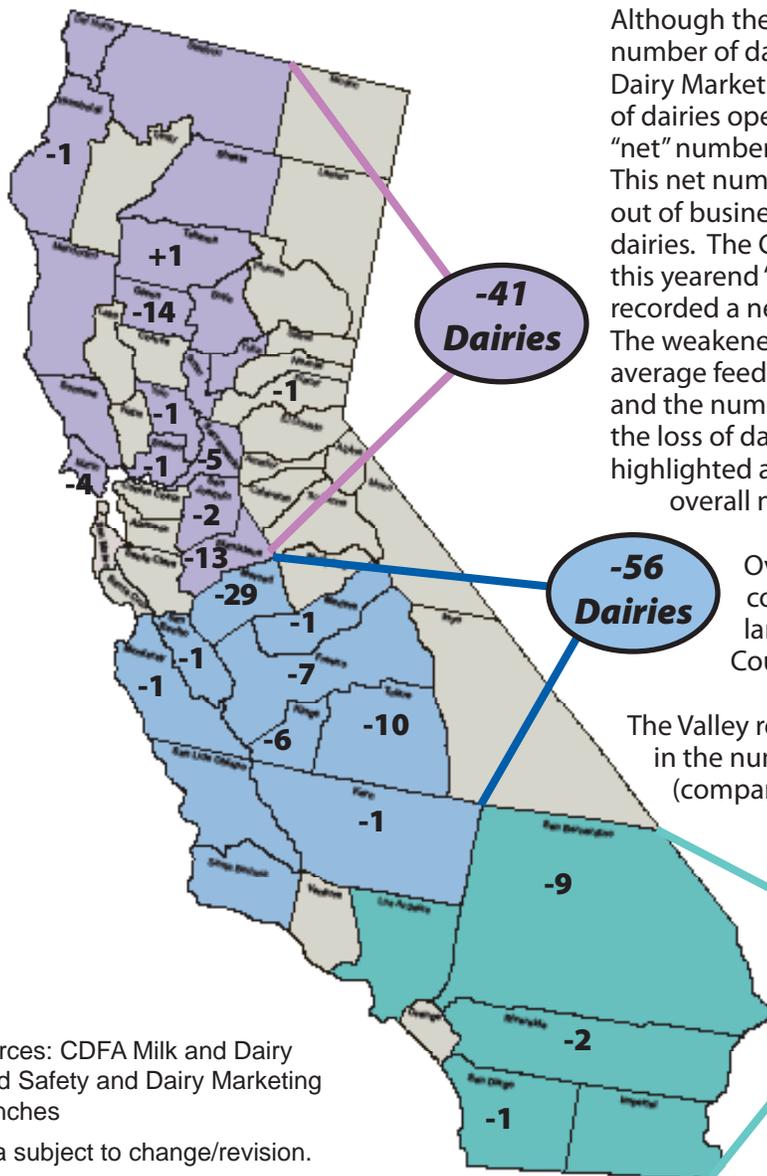


CALIFORNIA Dairy Information

BULLETIN

A publication serving the dairy industry for over 67 years

California Dairy Landscape . . . 2009 Reflects Net Loss of 109 Dairies



Although there are numerous sources and reportings of the number of dairies no longer operating in California for 2009, the Dairy Marketing Branch has always published the “net” number of dairies operating in California at yearend - essentially the “net” number of dairies operating on the last day of December. This net number reflects changes such as dairies that have gone out of business, relocated, or merged, and also includes new dairies. The CDFA Milk and Dairy Food Safety Branch provides this yearend “net” number of dairies. For 2009, California recorded a net loss of 109 total dairies (as shown on the map). The weakened state of the economy combined with higher than average feed costs, consistently low prices paid to producers, and the numerous herd buyout programs, all contributed to the loss of dairies operating in California. Each of the three highlighted areas of the state experienced net losses in the overall number of dairies when compared to 2008.

Overall, California recorded a net loss of **109** dairies compared to 2008. Merced County recorded the largest net decrease of **29** dairies, followed by Glenn County, showing a net decline of **14** dairies.

The Valley region (blue shaded area) showed the largest change in the number of dairies, recording a net loss of **56** dairies (compared to last year’s net loss of 36 dairies).

The Northern region (purple shaded area) showed a net loss of **41** dairies (compared to last year’s net loss of 49 dairies).

The southern California region (green shaded area) showed a net loss of **12** dairies (compared to last year’s net loss of 14 dairies).

Sources: CDFA Milk and Dairy Food Safety and Dairy Marketing Branches

Data subject to change/revision.

- The numbers inside the counties indicate the change in the number of dairies, 2009 vs. 2008.
- Grey areas indicate counties recording no operating dairies as of 12/31/09.
- Purple, blue, and green shaded-counties with no numbers indicate no change in the number of dairies compared to 2008.

