



Friends of Toppenish Creek

Mabton Dairies Withdraw Over a Million Gallons of Groundwater Every Day

March 2025

“A milking dairy cow drinks about 30 to 50 gallons of water each day. During periods of heat stress water intake may double.”¹

“A dairy cow produces an average of 6 to 8 gallons of milk per day while a beef cow only produces an average of 1 gallon of milk per day.”²

One Yakima Valley dairy estimates that LYV dairies need 85 gallons of water per day per cow for drinking, for washing the cows and for flushing manure to lagoons. “For a herd of 3500 milking cows water usage will be near 210 gallons per minute, 300,000 gallons per day, or 360-acre-feet per year. One accessory use will be parlor cleaning.”³

$300,000 \text{ gallons per day} / 3,500 \text{ cows} = 85.7 \text{ gallons per day per cow}$

We estimate there are over 15,000 milk cows in the six dairies around Mabton.

$15,000 \text{ cows} \times 85 \text{ gallons per cow per day} = 1,275,000 \text{ gallons of water per day}$

This is a lot of water. Think about it.

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¹ **Drinking water for dairy cattle: Part 1**

Craig Thomas, [Michigan State University Extension](#) - April 05, 2011. Available at [Drinking water for dairy cattle: Part 1 - MSU Extension](#)

² **How Much Milk Does a Cow Produce In A Day? What You Can Expect**

Written by [Tabitha](#) in [Cow Care](#) Last Updated September 23, 2022. Available at [How Much Milk Does A Cow Produce In A Day? What You Can Expect](#)

³ **Sage Brush Dairy**. Conditional Use Application. 2018. Page 12/29. Available at [Fryslan 2018 9 Sage Brush Dairy.pdf](#)

Mabton Area in the Lower Yakima Valley

