



Fig 1. Units of Jersey semen sold in domestic and export markets and custom collection services reported by regular members of the National Association of Animal Breeders, 2011-2020.

## A Measure of Success

Information detailing Jersey breed growth and indicating its trajectory has been issued by the National Association of Animal Breeders and the National Dairy Herd Information Association.

On March 1, NAAB reported that its regular members handled 4,845,387 units of Jersey semen in 2020, making it the third highest year in history for domestic and export sales. Total sales were 10% higher than reported in 2019.

- Domestic Jersey semen sales were at 2,835,675 units, a decrease of 5.2% last year.
- 1,903,152 doses were exported, showing an increase of 43.6% over 2019.
- Decade growth (*illustrated above*) is 36.8% higher for sales from all sources, including custom collection.

Industry-wide, domestic semen sales dropped to 18.38 million units (-5.7%) with export sales of 29.32 million units (+14.8%). Jersey market shares are now 15.4% domestic and 6.5% export. Combined markets (domestic, export and custom collection) total 15.87%.

A few weeks before NAAB released its numbers, National DHIA issued its annual cow enrollment report, showing that 370,176 Jersey cows were on test at the end of 2020. That is an increase of 2.3% over the previous year. National

DHI has reported annual gains for the past 15 years and there are 98% more Jersey cows enrolled in DHI programs today than there were on January 1, 2000.

Also, National DHI reported that 14% of all lactation records used for national genetic evaluations in 2020 were made by Jersey cows. The standardized lactation average (*yield adjusted to 305 days, twice daily milking, for month of calving, and to a mature-age basis*) was 20,740 lbs. milk, 1,000 lbs. fat (4.82%) and 764 lbs. protein (3.68%). Compared to the previous year, Jersey was the only breed to show an increase in cows calving. Jersey's production gains led all breeds. Milk yield increased by 157 lbs. per cow, fat yield by six pounds per cow, and protein yield by seven lbs.

Extrapolating from these statistics, Jerseys comprise 14% of the U.S. population today, or 1.32 million milking cows. For every one (1) Jersey cow enrolled on performance programs with AJCA and DHI, there are another 2½ cows in the national dairy herd, all of them bred to live longer, reproduce more often, and produce high levels of milk protein and milkfat more efficiently than any other breed.

Without question, the breed is in a good position. We like our prospects going forward.