The Last Days of Dairy Farming in Loudoun County
Route 7 & Loudoun County Parkway
Reed Dairy Farm – Lovettsville 1957

Photo courtesy of Lovettsville Historical Society
Reed Dairy Farm – Lovettsville 2020
Lovettsville’s new county park

Historic Buildings
Orchard Crest Farm – Purcellville/Hillsboro

Owned by the Potts family since 1747

Once a dairy farm – now primarily beef cattle, corn, and hay
Orchard Crest Farm

Recognized as a Virginia Century Farm
Decline of the dairy industry*

- Dulles Airport
- Urban and suburban growth
- Lack of acreage
- Lack of labor
- Low milk prices
- Increase in costs
- Inheritance taxes

* The Story of Loudoun’s Dairy Industry
Decline of the dairy industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Milk Cows</th>
<th># of Farms with Dairy Sales*</th>
<th>Value of Dairy Sales</th>
<th>% of all Ag Sales in Loudoun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>14,854</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>$3,824,000</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>16,076</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>$4,169,000</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>11,751</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>$4,202,000</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>9,912</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>$4,027,000</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>7,058</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>$4,433,000</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>5,231</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>$4,521,000</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>4,815</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>$5,721,000</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$4,574,000</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2,381</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>$3,716,000</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,479</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$3,274,000</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$1,082,000</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* farms with Grade A and Grade B milk sales (Grade A milk is fluid milk used for drinking and must be produced under stricter regulations than Grade B milk which can only be used for manufacturing of dairy products)
Decline of the dairy industry

• 1950s and 1960s – Loudoun #1 in Virginia for number of dairy farms and dairy cows

• 2006 – only one dairy farm remained
Dogwood Farm – near Lincoln

Lincoln Road, Purcellville

Family farm for over 200 years

4th generation dairy farm

Currently milking 90 registered Holsteins
The Brown and Potts Families
Dogwood Farm
Dogwood Farm

Dogwood Farm LP Celebrates 100 Years of Membership with Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative