

# WORLD DAIRY DIGEST

## British teen girls drinking less milk than in the past

Teen girls in Britain are ditching dairy, according to a survey of 2,000 United Kingdom adults, including more than 1,000 parents, which showed almost one in five teen girls aged 13 to 19 are drinking less milk than two years ago, and one in six stopped drinking it completely.

Sophie Medlin, leading dietitian and lecturer in nutrition and dietetics at King's College London, suggests this is a result of fad diets, presumed intolerances and a preference for what teens perceive as "healthier" plant-based alternatives. She predicts a generational health crisis of osteoporosis and poor health in the future should this trend continue. "Many teenage girls are completely unaware the majority of calcium needed for good bone health is stored in the body during your early years, and

your opportunity for strengthening bones ends after the age of 30. Iodine is also critical for a functioning metabolism and proper growth and development. Cows' milk is one of the richest sources of both in the U.K. diet."

A fifth of teenage girls surveyed blamed an intolerance to lactose for their avoiding cows' milk. However, the Food Standards Agency reports the actual proportion of Brits who suffer from true lactose intolerance is as low as five per cent. New clinical research published in the *UK Nutrition Journal* last year suggests the cause of perceived intolerance could be A1 protein in milk, not lactose. Switching to cows' milk that is naturally free from A1 protein, such as a2 Milk, could be the answer. [www.hippocraticpost.com](http://www.hippocraticpost.com)

## California approves milk quota program

California dairy farmers have voted to continue their quota program if a federal milk marketing order is finalized for the state.

Nearly 90 per cent of dairy farmers representing more than 90 per cent of the milk voters approved the referendum.

California currently uses a state milk marketing order but is awaiting approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to replace it with a

federal order. The state's quota system allows farmers to pool their milk and more evenly distributes payments.

A report by RaboResearch says a federal order would slightly increase milk prices in California and stabilize production. Analysts say it would also give more flexibility to processors.

USDA has not issued a final rule on the proposed California federal order. [www.brownfieldagnews.com](http://www.brownfieldagnews.com)

## French president blames dairy giant for food scandal

French President Emmanuel Macron recently deflected blame in the latest chapter of a dairy scandal that has embarrassed the French government, major supermarkets and a dairy giant.

Speaking from a press conference in Rome, Macron hit out at dairy giant Lactalis after major supermarkets acknowledged millions of baby food products recalled in December over fears of salmonella contamination still made it onto French store shelves.

Calling Lactalis' practices "unacceptable," Macron says "food security of all French and European citizens is a priority that must be guaranteed at the highest levels."

Some of the retailers concerned have accepted joint responsibility, but it's still not

clear how the recall was bungled.

Lactalis, among the world's biggest dairy product producers, launched a global recall of its products made at its factory in Craon, northwest France, in December after discovering salmonella bacteria onsite. France's consumer protection agency ordered a halt to sales of products from the site.

French retailers Carrefour, Auchan 52 and Systeme-U Leclerc says the recalled products were still available to buy after the halt. In an attempt to control the damage and perceptions of incompetence, including at the government level, Macron says he asked all stakeholders to stop the fallout and promised punishment for those involved. [www.startribune.com](http://www.startribune.com)



## Basketball star credits growth in height to drinking milk

Does milk really help you grow? Phoenix Suns forward Josh Jackson grew 2.5 inches during the 2017 offseason and credits milk for the growth spurt.

When the fourth overall draft pick went in for his physical before the 2018 season, he was listed at 6' 8". Doctors recently measured him at 6' 10.5" and he says he still feels like he is growing. What could be the cause of a 20-year-old grown man sprouting up?

"I don't really think I gained a couple inches. It's probably just the hair. Every day I wake up and I just feel like my hair probably got a little longer and makes me look a little taller."

The basketball player favours any kind of chocolate milk but he's not picky if regular milk is the only option. "I was a big fan of milk growing up. My mom didn't like to cook a lot when I was a kid so I pretty much survived off milk and cereal." [www.abc15.com](http://www.abc15.com)

## New Zealand to test dairy cows for disease

New Zealand plans to roll out a nationwide program to test the country's dairy farms for *Mycoplasma bovis* as the number of affected properties steadily grows, stated the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Fourteen farms in the world's biggest dairy exporter have tested positive for the disease since it was first detected in South Canterbury on the country's south Island in July.

*Mycoplasma bovis* is common in many countries and can lead to various conditions, such as udder infection, pneumonia and arthritis in affected cattle, but does not pose a food safety risk or any risk to humans.

The disease had spread for the first time to a property on the North Island, the ministry stated in December. Under the stepped-up program, which will start in February, three separate milk samples will be tested from every dairy farm in the country, the ministry said in a statement on its website. [www.channelnewsasia.com](http://www.channelnewsasia.com)