

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 14, 1935.

MILK PRODUCTION ON MARCH 1, 1935.

On March 1 milk production was apparently picking up in the Northeast and in the far Northwest but continued low in most of the South and abnormally low in the drought States where hay and grain supplies are running out and many farmers are hard pressed to find feed. Taking the country as a whole, crop correspondents secured an average of 11.77 pounds of milk per milk cow on hand compared with the 11.96 pounds per cow reported on March 1, last year.

Judging from these records, production per cow was between 1 and 2 percent less than it was on the same date last year, 8 percent less than in 1933, 14 percent less than the high March record of 1930, and 2 percent less than on March 1, 1925 after the short corn crop of 1924.

As the number of milk cows is estimated to be 4 to 5 percent below the number a year ago, total milk production in the United States on March 1 was probably about 6 percent less than on that date last year. The greater part of this reduction was in the drought area. In the West North Central group of States and in Montana, Colorado and Oklahoma, the reduction, compared with a year ago, was probably 15 percent or more and would have been even heavier if recent weather had not been unusually mild.

Because of the shortage of feed the trend of milk production during the next three months will depend largely on weather conditions and on how soon pasturage is available. Farmers will not be able to feed much grain or concentrates until new grain is available. While there are indications that in some limited dairy areas farmers are now again raising about the usual proportion of the heifer calves, the number of yearling heifers is relatively low, and the number of milk cows appears to be still declining. Probably more than the usual proportion of the cows will freshen during the spring months but unless good pasturage is available at an early date milk production is likely to continue low most of the spring.

The extent to which farmers in the drought area are being pinched by the shortage of feed is well shown by the February 1 reports of dairy correspondents showing the value per 100 pounds of the grains and concentrates being fed to their cows. Reports from Nebraska showed an average value of \$1.38 compared with 72¢ last year and 32¢ two years ago. The present value per 100 pounds is nearly six times the value two years ago. During the same period prices in the Atlantic Coast States have not doubled. In the North Atlantic group the value was reported at \$1.99 compared with \$1.48 last year and \$1.14 two years ago.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD  
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS <sup>1/</sup>

| S T A T E  | March 1            | March 1 | March 1 | March 1 |
|------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|            | :(Avg.) 1925-1932: | 1933    | 1934    | 1935    |
|            | Pounds             | Pounds  | Pounds  | Pounds  |
| Me.        | 13.6               | 11.9    | 10.9    | 11.8    |
| N.H.       | 15.0               | 15.1    | 13.7    | 13.4    |
| Vt.        | 14.6               | 12.7    | 13.5    | 13.7    |
| Mass.      | 17.8               | 16.9    | 15.7    | 16.8    |
| R.I.       | 19.3               | 18.8    | 16.8    | 18.3    |
| Conn.      | 17.5               | 17.6    | 17.5    | 15.4    |
| N.Y.       | 15.2               | 14.2    | 14.4    | 15.6    |
| N.J.       | 19.0               | 19.0    | 17.8    | 18.3    |
| Pa.        | 16.5               | 15.6    | 15.1    | 15.6    |
| N. ATL.    | 15.92              | 14.98   | 14.78   | 15.47   |
| Ohio       | 14.8               | 14.0    | 13.3    | 13.3    |
| Ind.       | 13.3               | 13.1    | 11.5    | 11.9    |
| Ill.       | 13.7               | 14.4    | 13.6    | 13.1    |
| Mich.      | 16.6               | 16.3    | 15.4    | 15.1    |
| Wis.       | 16.5               | 15.8    | 14.7    | 14.8    |
| E.N. CENT. | 15.32              | 14.97   | 13.87   | 13.79   |
| Minn.      | 17.1               | 17.2    | 15.9    | 14.2    |
| Iowa       | 13.4               | 14.0    | 13.4    | 12.2    |
| Mo.        | 8.4                | 8.3     | 7.7     | 7.9     |
| N.Dak.     | 12.4               | 11.7    | 9.9     | 9.6     |
| S.Dak.     | 12.1               | 12.2    | 9.3     | 8.6     |
| Nebr.      | 13.7               | 14.0    | 12.2    | 11.0    |
| Kans.      | 13.2               | 14.1    | 12.9    | 11.9    |
| W.N. CENT. | 13.25              | 13.35   | 12.12   | 11.28   |
| Del.       | 14.5               | 14.6    | 11.5    | 12.4    |
| Md.        | 14.4               | 13.0    | 12.4    | 12.0    |
| Va.        | 10.3               | 8.9     | 8.4     | 8.9     |
| W.Va.      | 9.1                | 8.3     | 7.8     | 8.3     |
| N.C.       | 10.6               | 9.4     | 9.1     | 8.7     |
| S.C.       | 8.6                | 9.4     | 8.4     | 8.0     |
| Ga.        | 8.5                | 8.6     | 6.9     | 7.1     |
| Fla.       | 7.3                | 7.7     | 7.0     | 5.9     |
| S. ATL.    | 10.24              | 9.44    | 8.62    | 8.69    |
| Ky.        | 10.4               | 9.5     | 7.9     | 8.4     |
| Tenn.      | 9.9                | 8.2     | 7.0     | 7.1     |
| Ala.       | 7.9                | 6.6     | 6.2     | 7.0     |
| Miss.      | 7.0                | 6.6     | 5.4     | 5.6     |
| Ark.       | 8.0                | 7.2     | 6.0     | 6.1     |
| La.        | 6.5                | 5.2     | 5.5     | 4.7     |
| Orla.      | 10.7               | 9.5     | 8.3     | 7.9     |
| Tex.       | 8.8                | 8.0     | 7.2     | 7.0     |
| S. CENT.   | 8.91               | 8.02    | 7.01    | 7.06    |
| Mont.      | 11.2               | 10.7    | 11.3    | 10.9    |
| Idaho      | 15.9               | 14.7    | 13.8    | 15.9    |
| Wyo.       | 11.0               | 11.8    | 10.7    | 10.5    |
| Colo.      | 12.8               | 12.0    | 12.1    | 11.1    |
| N.Mex.     | 10.8               | 9.1     | 8.9     | 10.1    |
| Ariz.      | 15.9               | 11.1    | 17.3    | 14.3    |
| Utah       | 14.0               | 14.8    | 14.4    | 14.5    |
| Nev.       | 12.0               | 12.3    | 13.3    | 11.4    |
| Wash.      | 15.7               | 14.4    | 14.9    | 15.5    |
| Oreg.      | 14.8               | 12.8    | 13.1    | 13.5    |
| Calif.     | 16.4               | 16.3    | 18.2    | 18.0    |
| WEST       | 13.94              | 13.06   | 13.76   | 13.11   |
| U.S.       | 13.28              | 12.77   | 11.96   | 11.77   |

<sup>1/</sup> These are not estimates but averages obtained by dividing reported daily production of herds kept by reporters by number of milk cows in these herds.