

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

December 23, 1935.

MILK PRODUCTION OF DECEMBER 1, 1935

Milk production on December 1 was still rather light for that season of the year because of the decrease in the number of milk cows last winter, the small proportion of the cows that have freshened during the fall and the tendency of farmers to feed their milk cows rather lightly partially in consequence of the more favorable returns being secured from other classes of livestock. Following a very sharp decrease in production during September and October, towards the close of the pasturage season, there was only about the usual seasonal decline in milk production during November. Milk production is expected to show the usual upward trend during December, instead of continuing to decline as it did last year, because farmers are beginning to feed more grain to their cows in response to the increase in the price of butter and the more abundant supply of grain on the farms. During the summer when pasturage was abundant and grain high in price farmers fed very little grain to milk cows, but on December 1 crop correspondents were feeding an average of 35 percent more than on the same date in 1934, and about 10 percent more than in 1933, but probably less than in any of the preceding 6 years when more nearly normal conditions prevailed.

On December 1 the milk cows in the herds kept by crop correspondents were producing an average of 11.05 pounds of milk per day. This is between one and two percent above the abnormally low December production reported a year ago, about the same as was reported in 1933, and 5 percent below the average December production reported during the preceding 8 years. As the number of milk cows is somewhat less than the number on hand a year ago total milk production on December 1 appears to have been about 1 percent less than it was on that date last year. On November 1 production is estimated to have been about 3 percent lower than at the same season in 1934, and on September 1, 4 percent higher than in 1934.

In the herds kept by crop correspondents an average of 3.87 pounds of grain per cow was fed on December 1 compared with 2.86 pounds on the same date last year, and 3.54 pounds in 1933. Only 26 percent of the herds reported were not fed any grain on December 1 compared with 37 percent on December 1, 1934, and 30 percent on the same date in 1933.

Milk production per cow, as reported for December 1, showed marked regional differences. In the North Atlantic area where milk production per cow during August, September and October this year was the highest on record for those months, the decline during November was the most rapid in recent years and the production on December 1 was the lowest since 1928. In the East North Central States where milk production per cow on September 1 was near the highest point on record for that season, production declined until on December 1 it was the lowest that has been reported for that date during the 11 years on record. In the West North Central States, milk production per cow was reported lower on December 1 than in any year since 1925, with the exception of last year, but production is now apparently increasing with some of the important butter producing States reporting quite heavy grain feeding. In the South, the production per cow appears to have been averaging higher than in the past few years, but was still below the average of the last 10 years. On the Pacific Coast, milk production per cow continues well above average.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD  
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS 1/				
STATE	December 1	December 1	December 1	December 1
	(Avg.) 1925-1932	1933	1934	1935
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	12.5	11.4	11.0	11.7
N. H.	14.8	13.5	13.0	14.4
Vt.	12.7	12.5	12.7	13.2
Mass.	16.2	16.8	14.6	16.2
R. I.	17.0	19.2	14.8	15.6
Conn.	15.9	16.3	15.2	16.2
N. Y.	14.2	14.7	14.5	14.2
N. J.	17.6	17.1	16.9	16.4
Pa.	15.1	14.4	14.7	14.0
N. ATL.	14.59	14.55	14.41	14.34
Ohio	13.5	12.6	13.0	12.3
Ind.	12.4	11.5	11.6	11.7
Ill.	12.1	12.5	12.2	11.8
Mich.	14.4	14.3	14.2	14.5
Wis.	13.4	12.3	12.3	12.2
E. N. CENT.	13.20	12.50	12.53	12.35
Minn.	13.1	12.8	11.3	12.1
Iowa	11.3	12.3	11.3	10.9
Mo.	8.5	8.1	8.7	7.2
N. Dak.	9.6	8.2	7.6	9.2
S. Dak.	9.2	7.9	7.2	9.1
Nebr.	10.7	11.6	11.1	11.3
Kans.	11.5	12.3	11.6	11.6
W. N. CENT.	10.81	10.68	10.21	10.32
Del.	12.9	12.1	12.7	11.4
Md.	13.8	13.5	13.6	12.9
Va.	10.5	8.6	9.2	9.7
W. Va.	10.0	8.8	8.6	9.2
N. C.	10.6	9.4	9.4	10.0
S. C.	9.3	8.7	8.9	9.5
Ga.	8.8	7.7	7.8	7.4
Fla.	6.9	6.5	5.6	6.6
S. ATL.	10.32	9.21	9.34	9.53
Ky.	10.2	8.9	8.8	9.4
Tenn.	9.1	7.3	7.6	8.4
Ala.	7.7	6.1	7.3	7.7
Miss.	7.1	6.2	5.5	5.9
Ark.	3.0	6.4	6.3	7.1
La.	6.5	6.0	5.1	5.0
Okla.	9.3	9.0	8.7	7.8
Tex.	8.3	7.1	6.7	9.0
S. CENT.	8.53	7.58	7.36	7.92
Mont.	10.6	9.0	10.2	10.3
Idaho	14.9	14.6	13.2	15.3
Wyo.	10.3	10.9	9.6	11.0
Colo.	11.4	11.2	10.4	11.5
N. Mex.	9.3	8.7	7.3	10.0
Ariz.	14.3	14.7	15.9	13.6
Utah	14.7	14.1	13.3	13.6
Nev.	13.3	14.3	13.5	16.0
Wash.	15.1	13.2	14.0	15.2
Oreg.	14.1	13.2	12.3	14.3
Calif.	15.0	15.2	17.5	16.4
WEST	13.24	12.41	12.77	13.54
U. S.	11.62	11.05	10.89	11.05

1/ Averages obtained by dividing the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds.