

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

April 10, 1936

MILK PRODUCTION APRIL 1, 1936

The record increase for the month of March in milk production per cow, following the unusually large seasonal increase during February carried production per cow on April 1 to a level about 7 percent above the low production on that date last year, judging by reports from crop correspondents. With this heavier production per cow partially offset by a decrease of around 2 percent in the number of milk cows on farms, total daily milk production on April 1 was apparently averaging about 5 percent above production on that date last year.

The increase in production per cow during March amounted to over 9 percent which compares with an increase of 8.5 percent during March last year, about 6 percent in March, 1934, slightly over 4 percent in 1933 and an increase of only 1.6 percent during March 1932 when fall freshening was apparently at its peak. During the preceding 7 years, 1925 to 1931, the increase during March averaged 6.2 percent.

On April 1 milk cows were getting even less than the usual small amount of early feed from pastures but a rather large proportion of the cows were in production and farmers were feeding heavier than during recent years. As a result production per cow for the country as a whole was reported higher than on any April 1 since 1932. In Washington and California and also in a few scattered States in the South production per cow was reported lower than last year, chiefly because of less favorable weather and pasture conditions, but averages for all larger groups of States show a heavier production than on April 1 last year. The increases over last year were largest in the States where feed supplies were very short last year as a result of the 1934 drought. In the West North Central group of States, where production was most seriously reduced by the 1934 drought, production per cow was reported only two percent below the average for April 1 during the 9 years previous to 1934. For the country as a whole, April 1 production in the herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 13.36 pounds per milk cow per day compared to 12.51 pounds last year and the April 1 average of 13.83 pounds during the 9 years from 1925 through 1933. Crop correspondents reported that they were milking 68.8 percent of their milk cows compared to 67.7 percent last year and the average of 67.9 percent.

During most of the year to date the cost of feed has been unusually low in comparison with the prices farmers have been receiving for dairy products. This has encouraged farmers to feed more heavily, and as there is increasing evidence that more than the usual proportion of the cows are to freshen in the spring, production is likely to continue above last year's low level for some months; and unless pastures are hurt by hot weather or drought or there is an unexpected decline in the prices of dairy products, production seems likely to continue fairly heavy through the remainder of the summer.

PASTURE CONDITIONS, APRIL 1, 1936.

Farm pastures were favored by warm weather during much of March but about the last of the month they were set back by cold weather in the western half of the country. On April 1, the condition of pastures, as reported by crop correspondents, averaged 74.6 percent of normal, which is slightly higher than at the same season in any of the last four years but below the corresponding average in any of the previous 8 years for which records are available.

In a large section of the Great Plains area, extending from Texas north to western South Dakota, ranges and pastures have not fully recovered from recent droughts and there is still a rather general lack of soil moisture. In most other parts of the country, soil moisture conditions are fairly favorable and the rather low condition of pastures indicates chiefly a late start that could be largely offset by normal weather during the remainder of the season.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS 1/

State	April 1, (Avg.) 1925-1933	April 1, 1934	April 1 1935	April 1, 1936
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	13.6	12.9	11.6	13.1
N.H.	15.7	13.3	15.2	13.6
Vt.	15.2	13.9	14.6	14.6
Mass.	18.0	17.0	17.9	16.3
R. I.	17.9	16.1	18.4	20.3
Conn.	17.3	17.0	17.4	17.2
N. Y.	17.3	16.3	17.1	17.7
N. J.	18.6	19.3	18.2	18.3
Pa.	17.3	15.8	16.7	17.3
N. ATL.	17.03	15.85	16.64	17.01
Ohio	15.3	13.7	14.7	14.8
Ind.	14.0	12.1	12.7	13.0
Ill.	14.3	13.5	13.7	13.7
Mich.	17.5	15.0	16.5	17.5
Wis.	17.6	16.2	15.7	17.2
E. N. CENT.	16.24	14.64	14.80	15.73
Minn.	17.5	16.3	14.6	17.5
Iowa	13.9	13.6	13.9	14.3
Mo.	9.3	8.3	8.3	9.3
N. Dak.	12.3	10.1	10.3	12.4
S. Dak.	12.4	9.6	8.4	10.9
Nebr.	13.7	15.4	11.5	13.3
Kans.	14.3	14.0	13.3	13.9
W. N. CENT.	13.73	12.60	11.99	13.44
Del.	13.0	12.4	13.2	11.9
Md.	14.3	12.2	12.8	13.1
Va.	10.3	8.5	9.3	9.6
W. Va.	9.9	8.1	9.2	8.6
N. C.	10.8	8.9	9.1	10.0
S. C.	10.1	8.6	8.3	9.7
Ga.	8.7	7.2	7.5	8.1
Fla.	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.7
S. ATL.	10.43	8.74	9.37	9.70
Ky.	10.8	8.4	9.5	9.5
Tenn.	9.4	7.7	7.7	8.8
Ala.	7.5	6.9	7.3	7.3
Miss.	7.4	5.5	6.6	6.6
Ark.	8.4	6.3	7.4	8.1
La.	6.9	4.6	5.4	5.2
Okla.	11.2	9.1	9.8	10.4
Tex.	9.4	8.8	9.2	9.3
S. CENT.	9.25	7.87	8.76	8.79
Mont.	12.0	11.4	10.1	12.5
Idaho	16.0	15.0	14.3	16.1
Wyo.	11.2	10.8	10.0	11.5
Colo.	13.4	12.3	11.1	14.1
N. Mex.	9.6	8.9	8.7	11.0
Ariz.	17.2	16.3	19.6	20.8
Utah	15.3	15.3	14.3	15.7
Nev.	13.5	15.3	14.3	14.1
Wash.	16.7	16.8	17.1	16.8
Oreg.	16.0	15.4	15.2	16.1
Calif.	19.2	19.8	20.8	20.2
WEST.	14.22	14.44	14.25	15.54
U. S.	13.83	12.44	12.51	13.36

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.