

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

May 11, 1936.

MILK PRODUCTION MAY 1, 1936

Daily milk production on May 1 appears to have been 2 to 3 percent above production on that date last year. Although there are still around 2 percent fewer milk cows on farms than at this time last year, production per cow on May 1 was averaging from 4 to 5 percent above production a year earlier which more than offset the decrease in number of milk cows. The increase in production during May was slightly less than the average, probably because of the lateness of pastures.

Crop correspondents were securing a daily production of 14.48 pounds of milk per cow on May 1 compared to 13.85 pounds on that date last year, 13.54 pounds in 1934 and a May 1 average of 15.07 pounds during the previous 9 years. In the Western States, with pasture conditions mostly favorable and much better than on May 1 last year, production per cow was markedly higher in most States than on that date last year and above the 9-year average for May 1. Elsewhere pastures were generally poor or late, but hay and feed supplies were ample, prices of feed were low in comparison with price of dairy products and farmers were feeding their milk cows nearly as heavy as usual for May 1 and much heavier than on May 1 last year, when many farmers were short of feed because of the 1934 drought. In the West North Central States the shortage of pasturage was more than offset by heavier feeding of grain and roughage, and production per cow was markedly above May 1 last year and about average for that time of the year. In Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan also, production per cow was above last year, but from Indiana eastward most States show a lower production than last year although in the Northeastern group of States production per cow was only slightly below the May 1 average. In all of this area cows are going on pastures later than usual. In the South, pastures were poor on May 1 and production per cow was lower than usual but above production on May 1 last year in most of the States.

PASTURE CONDITIONS, MAY 1, 1936

On May 1 the condition of pastures was below average rather generally east of the Rocky Mountains and was most unusually low in much of the area from central Colorado and New Mexico eastward to Kentucky and Tennessee. Several States in this area reported the lowest May 1 condition on record. In some areas the low condition merely reflected a retarded growth due to cold weather during April but in most of the Mississippi Valley the light rainfall was an important factor in reducing both the May 1 condition and prospects. West of the Rockies farm pastures were mostly about average or better on May 1 except in some dry areas in Washington, and reports on the condition of ranges in these States were mostly average or better. The May 1 condition of pastures in dairy areas where some of the cows are usually on pasture at that season, averaged 71.2 compared with 73.5 last year, 66.0 in 1934 and an average of 78.9 during the 10-year period, 1923-32.

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

State	May 1, (Avg.) 1925-1933	May 1, 1934	May 1, 1935	May 1, 1936
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	14.8	13.5	13.8	13.9
N.H.	15.7	14.2	15.1	13.8
Vt.	15.9	15.5	15.9	15.4
Mass.	18.6	16.2	17.4	17.3
R.I.	19.0	18.7	19.8	16.4
Conn.	17.8	18.2	18.7	18.7
N.Y.	18.9	18.7	19.1	18.8
N.J.	20.0	19.1	19.8	19.2
Pa.	17.8	16.7	18.1	18.1
N. ATL.	15.97	17.28	16.13	17.93
Chio	16.8	14.7	15.2	15.7
Ind.	15.7	14.3	14.8	14.1
Ill.	15.9	15.2	14.4	15.1
Mich.	18.6	17.0	17.5	18.0
Wis.	18.9	16.1	17.3	18.4
E. N. CENT.	17.58	15.56	16.26	16.73
Minn.	17.6	15.6	16.2	18.7
Iowa	16.0	14.3	14.2	15.3
Mo.	11.2	10.6	12.2	11.2
N. Dak.	13.3	10.8	10.4	14.1
S. Dak.	13.7	10.1	9.3	13.1
Nebr.	15.0	14.3	13.5	15.1
Kans.	15.3	14.2	14.3	14.6
W. N. CENT.	14.72	13.24	13.06	14.70
Del.	15.3	12.6	13.9	15.9
Md.	15.5	13.2	13.9	14.9
Pa.	12.1	10.0	10.5	10.6
W. Va.	12.1	10.3	10.0	10.1
N. C.	12.0	10.0	10.5	11.2
S. C.	10.3	9.5	9.5	8.6
Ga.	9.6	8.0	8.9	8.3
Fla.	7.2	6.8	6.6	6.9
S. ATL.	11.56	9.82	10.31	10.34
Ky.	12.6	10.7	10.8	10.5
Penn.	11.4	9.2	10.0	10.2
Ala.	8.7	7.1	8.9	8.7
Miss.	9.2	7.8	7.9	8.1
Ark.	10.2	8.7	9.3	9.4
La.	7.8	6.9	6.4	6.4
Okla.	12.9	10.9	12.0	11.8
Tex.	10.4	9.4	9.6	10.3
S. CENT.	10.80	9.52	9.99	9.98
Mont.	13.8	13.1	13.3	14.4
Idaho	18.1	16.3	17.6	17.9
Wyo.	12.4	12.3	12.6	14.6
Colo.	14.0	13.4	11.2	15.8
N. Mex.	11.1	8.8	10.2	11.2
Ariz.	16.8	17.4	18.2	19.2
Utah	16.2	16.8	17.8	15.2
Nev.	14.2	14.4	17.5	14.2
Wash.	19.2	19.5	18.5	19.9
Oreg.	18.9	18.6	17.5	19.0
Calif.	20.0	19.1	21.6	21.3
WEST.	16.44	15.76	15.50	17.00
U. S.	15.07	13.54	13.85	14.48

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.