

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

October 12, 1936.

MILK PRODUCTION OCTOBER 1, 1936

With dairy pastures showing marked recovery from previous drought conditions, and with butterfat prices the highest since 1930, milk production per cow on October 1 was reported by crop correspondents to be about 2 percent higher than on September 1. This is the first time during the 12 years on record that milk production has increased during September. The average seasonal decline during September has been about 6 percent and the smallest decrease previously reported during that month was the 4 percent decrease which occurred in 1930 just after the drought of that year was broken.

October 1 reports, compared with those for the same season last year, show between 4 and 5 percent more milk per cow, and, allowing for 1 to 2 percent fewer cows, total milk production was apparently about 3 percent greater. Total milk production was also about 3 percent greater than on October 1 in 1934. This contrasts sharply with the situation on September 1, 1936 when milk production was substantially lower than in either of the two previous years. The change was particularly marked in the East North Central group of States where September 1 reports showed less than average milk production per cow for that season and the October 1 reports averaged nearly 7 percent above the previous high record for October. For the country as a whole the reported production increased from substantially below average on September 1 to the highest on the 12-year record with the exception of 1928.

The sharp departure from the usual seasonal decline in milk production occurred almost exclusively in the States where pastures improved markedly during September and chiefly in States where pastures had recovered sufficiently by October 1 to furnish nearly the usual amount of feed. Milk production showed nearly the usual seasonal decline in the South Atlantic and Gulf States from Virginia to Carolina and also in much of the area west of the Rockies. In most parts of the country, however, the proportion of the milk cows reported milked has been running unusually high for this season of the year. This probably results chiefly from the unusually heavy feeding of grain, rather close culling out of dry cows and a reduction in the quantity of milk secured by calves. The drought during the summer increased the price of butterfat so that it has shown an unusually favorable margin over the cost of the grain fed. The drought has also caused heavy marketings of calves so that veals have recently been cheaper in comparison with butterfat than in any September since 1923. All of these influences are to some extent temporary. The rapidly recovering pastures will continue to be an important factor only so long as the weather permits their utilization. The increased volume of milk produced has caused some reduction in the price of butter and has tended to weaken the prices of other dairy products. The prospect is still for rather low milk production during the winter and early spring months.

For the United States as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 12.82 pounds on October 1, 1936, compared with 12.57 pounds on September 1, 12.24 pounds on October 1, 1935, 11.87 pounds on October 1, 1934, and a 1925-33 average of 12.33 pounds for October 1. The percentage of milk cows reported milked was the highest on record for October 1 in all regions except the South Atlantic where it was well above average. For the

United States as a whole 72.5 percent were reported milked on October 1 compared to 71.7 percent on October 1, 1935, 70.4 percent on October 1, 1934 and a 1925-33 average of 69.0 percent.

PASTURES OCTOBER 1, 1936

Pastures showed a marked recovery during September but were still generally below average condition on October 1 with the exception of a few States. The condition of dairy pastures on October 1 was reported at 59.9 percent compared with 75.1 percent on that date last year, 59.2 percent in 1934 and the average of 73.0 percent of normal during the 10 years 1923 to 1932. The improvement in the condition of pasture during September this year was greater than occurred following the drought of 1934 and was by far the largest increase shown for any one month in 30 years. Pastures showed improvement during the month over practically the whole area affected by drought this year. Some improvement occurred in most of the North Atlantic States also. In the States of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and New York, where the drought was largely relieved by rains in late August, the increases in pasture conditions during September range from about 20 to 50 percentage points and in much of this area pastures are now furnishing nearly their usual supply of feed for this season of the year. In most of the Great Plains area, north of Texas, pastures were still very poor on October 1 but the recent heavy rains in the southern and central plains area and extending eastward into Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio should cause further improvement in pastures in this area. Prospects for supplementary pasturage from fall-sown small grains have also been greatly improved. West of the Rockies both pastures and ranges declined somewhat during September, but were generally in fair to good condition on October 1. Pasture conditions also declined slightly during September in the eastern Cotton belt.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 9, 1936

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}				
STATE	: October 1 : :(Avg.) 1925-33 :	October 1 1934	: October 1 : 1935	: October 1 : 1936
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
N. Eng.	14.90	14.43	14.83	15.27
N. Y.	15.6	15.7	16.4	17.6
N. J.	18.1	18.7	18.8	18.5
Pa.	15.4	16.0	16.4	17.1
N. Atl.	15.45	15.68	16.24	16.95
Ohio	14.6	14.4	14.6	15.4
Ind.	13.8	13.5	13.3	14.8
Ill.	12.6	13.4	12.1	13.2
Mich.	15.3	15.5	15.8	17.9
Wis.	13.9	13.8	15.0	16.3
E. N. Cent.	13.98	13.98	14.36	15.65
Minn.	12.1	10.7	12.3	13.6
Iowa	12.0	12.2	11.8	12.4
Mo.	10.3	9.8	9.1	8.6
N. Dak.	10.8	9.4	11.3	11.6
S. Dak.	9.7	8.3	9.4	10.3
Nebr.	11.1	11.3	10.9	11.7
Kans.	11.3	10.2	10.2	10.0
W. N. Cent.	11.24	10.49	10.86	11.37
Md.	14.8	14.8	14.9	14.9
Va.	11.9	12.1	12.5	11.6
W. Va.	12.6	11.7	12.5	13.2
N. C.	11.6	11.4	11.9	11.5
S. C.	9.6	9.8	9.8	10.6
S. Atl.	11.21	11.05	11.34	11.31
Ky.	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8
Tenn.	10.3	9.2	10.4	10.8
Miss.	7.5	6.4	6.2	6.5
Ark.	9.0	6.6	7.6	7.6
Okla.	9.6	8.1	8.5	8.3
Tex.	9.0	8.3	9.3	9.0
S. Cent.	9.25	8.48	8.62	8.83
Mont.	12.1	12.0	10.5	12.4
Idaho	16.3	15.0	16.1	17.4
Wyo.	12.1	11.2	13.6	11.5
Colo.	11.9	10.9	11.8	12.6
Wash.	16.4	16.1	16.0	17.9
Oreg.	13.9	13.7	14.0	15.3
Calif.	16.4	16.2	17.5	17.4
West.	13.86	13.44	14.04	14.64
U. S.	12.33	11.87	12.24	12.82

^{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. The regional averages shown were based in part on records from less important dairy States not shown separately, as follows: South Atlantic, Delaware, Georgia, Florida; South Central, Alabama, Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada.