

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

November 12, 1936

MILK PRODUCTION, NOVEMBER 1, 1936

Milk production continued fairly heavy through October, following the unseasonal increase that occurred during September. In the country as a whole milk production per cow in the reported herds showed only about the usual October decline, and increases were indicated in the States where pastures improved markedly during the month.

Among the factors which have helped to maintain milk production at the present high levels are the unusually good fall pastures which have prevailed in the principal dairy States east of the Mississippi River. The prices of dairy products have also been high enough to cause farmers to feed more grain per head than at the same season in either of the last two years. There are also some indications that the cows are being more closely stripped and that the calves are being weaned earlier. The shortage of grain feed is causing rather close culling of dairy herds, but most of the animals culled have been cows that were dry or nearly dry, and milk production has not been greatly affected as yet. Since mid-summer the percentage of the milk cows reported milked has been running unusually high and on November 1 it was the highest or nearly the highest on record for that date in all groups of States. In the country as a whole, an average of 70.8 percent of the milk cows in the herds reported were being milked compared with November 1 averages ranging from 66.6 to 69.3 during the previous 10 years.

In these herds, counting all milk cows whether in milk or dry, milk production per cow was about 8 percent higher than on November 1 last year. As the number of milk cows on farms is believed to be about 2 percent less than the number a year ago, daily milk production in the country on November 1 appears to have been somewhere around 6 percent above production on the same date last year. This represents a rather sharp change in the situation, for on the first of October production appeared to be only about 3 percent above last year and on September 1 production was about 8 percent less than at that time last year.

In the nearly 20,000 herds on which November 1 reports were secured, daily milk production per cow averaged 12.20 pounds compared with 11.31 pounds on November 1, 1935, 11.35 pounds in 1934 and a 1925-33 November 1 average of 11.88 pounds. The high production reported this month, which is only 1 percent below the high November record set in 1931, reflects primarily exceptionally high production in the North Atlantic and East North Central States and Iowa. Elsewhere production per cow was reported rather close to the usual November level. Since heavy fall production has been reported only in States where improvement in pastures temporarily relieved the feed shortage, production is expected to decline rather rapidly as the pasture season closes.

DAIRY PASTURES

Pastures made further recovery during October with marked improvement occurring from Ohio and Kentucky westward to Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma, where good rains in September were followed by several weeks of growing weather during October. In the important dairy section extending from Wisconsin and northern Illinois eastward through New England, pastures were supplying about the usual quantity of feed until late in October. In the far Southwest and in most of Texas conditions were also favorable, while in the southern part of the Winter Wheat Belt, fall-seeded grain has begun to supply some feed. In most other parts of the country, pastures were somewhat below average on November 1, continuing scant in the Northern Great Plains area, and becoming short in the far Northwest, especially in Oregon, and in a number of States along the South Atlantic and East Gulf Coast where dry weather has prevailed this fall. For the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures on November 1 averaged 64.1 compared with 69.5 last year and 59.7 on November 1, 1934.

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

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

STATE	: November 1 :(Avg.) 1925-33 :	: November 1 1934 :	: November 1 1935 :	: November 1 1936
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	14.70	14.47	14.52	14.90
N. Y.	14.9	15.5	15.0	16.1
N. J.	17.3	18.0	17.2	17.8
Pa.	15.2	15.2	15.5	15.8
N. Atl.	15.01	15.28	15.21	15.90
Ohio	13.9	13.6	13.6	14.4
Ind.	13.1	12.4	11.9	13.8
Ill.	12.3	13.0	11.0	13.6
Mich.	14.7	14.4	14.7	15.5
Wis.	13.2	13.1	12.7	15.5
E. N. Cent.	13.41	13.21	12.72	14.77
Minn.	11.9	10.5	11.4	12.3
Iowa	11.7	11.8	11.0	13.1
Mo.	9.2	9.9	8.2	9.0
N. Dak.	9.5	8.0	9.6	9.1
S. Dak.	9.4	7.2	9.0	8.7
Nebr.	10.8	11.4	10.3	11.0
Kans.	11.2	11.6	10.4	10.8
W. N. Cent.	10.77	10.32	10.05	10.90
Md.	14.2	16.0	14.3	13.9
Va.	11.2	9.7	11.1	10.7
W. Va.	11.5	10.5	10.6	11.5
N. C.	11.0	10.0	10.4	10.8
S. C.	9.4	8.9	9.5	9.8
S. Atl.	10.68	10.14	10.53	10.63
Ky.	11.1	10.0	9.4	11.0
Tenn.	9.6	8.2	8.7	9.2
Miss.	7.1	5.9	6.5	6.6
Ark.	8.6	6.9	7.0	7.3
Okla.	9.4	8.2	8.1	8.7
Tex.	8.6	8.3	9.3	9.1
S. Cent.	8.86	7.81	8.09	8.70
Mont.	11.4	11.8	10.8	10.3
Idaho	15.6	13.7	16.2	15.7
Wyo.	11.1	10.1	12.5	11.4
Colo.	11.5	9.7	11.5	11.4
Wash.	16.0	15.8	16.3	16.9
Oreg.	14.4	13.7	14.0	14.5
Calif.	15.2	17.6	17.3	16.1
West.	13.60	12.98	13.85	13.75
U.S.	11.88	11.35	11.31	12.20

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.