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

January 13, 1937.

MILK PRODUCTION - JANUARY 1, 1937.

Milk production showed about the usual seasonal increase during December, and at the close of the month daily milk production appears to have been about 2 percent higher than at the same season last year. The number of milk cows on farms is believed to be 2 or 3 percent less than a year ago, but milk production per cow was reported nearly 5 percent higher, and nearly as high as the 10-year average for December 1.

The continuance of milk production per cow near average in the face of light grain supplies presents an interesting contrast with the winter milk situation two years ago following a drought similar in character to the one last summer. In both years milk production was low in the drought months but recovered sharply when fall rains revived pastures. In 1936, however, the increase in prices occurred much earlier and the fall increase in production was much more pronounced than that of two years ago. Production this year has held up through December while two years ago it slumped sharply during that month. Both years were characterized by mild fall weather and late pastures, but hay supplies are much more plentiful this year, and December was much milder. With butterfat prices higher and a more favorable spread between butterfat and grain prices than two years ago, grain feeding was considerably heavier this last fall than in 1934.

Regional variations in feed prices have apparently influenced milk production this year. Corn, for example, could be purchased in most of the Middle Atlantic States this fall for 10 percent less than in the Western part of the Corn Belt, although usually it is from 35 to 40 percent higher. This price relationship has tended to allow heavier feeding in the East Coast dairy areas, and milk production per cow in this section has continued above the 10-year average through December; while in the West North Central States milk production has dropped from above average on November 1 to about 4 percent below average on January 1.

In the North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Pacific Coast areas, milk production per cow on January 1 was at the highest level in the last six years, from 6 to 10 percent above a year ago and 1 to 5 percent above the 10-year average. In the region extending from Ohio westward to Minnesota and Iowa, milk production per cow was above last month and last year, but not far from average except in Iowa and Illinois where it was more than half a pound per cow above the 10-year average. In the Dakotas, production per cow was up somewhat from last month and from the low level of January 1934, but was lower than a year ago and considerably below the 10-year average. Milk production per cow in the South Central States was mostly higher than in the past 4 or 5 years, but somewhat below the 10-year average. The proportion of milk cows reported milked continued high in all regions, and in the East North Central and South Central States was the highest on record for January 1.

United States Averages of Herds Reported by Crop Correspondents January 1

	1925-34 Average	1935	1936	1937
Milk Production per Cow in Herd (lbs.)	11.92	10.68	11.27	11.80
Percent of Milk Cows reported milked	65.1	65.6	66.5	67.1

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

STATE	January 1 (Avg.) 1925-34 Pounds	January 1 1935 Pounds	January 1 1936 Pounds	January 1 1937 Pounds
New Eng.	14.92	13.81	14.06	14.47
N.Y.	14.4	14.5	14.4	15.8
N.J.	18.6	17.2	16.4	18.7
Pa.	15.2	14.4	14.4	15.4
N. Atl.	14.97	14.46	14.47	15.69
Ohio	13.8	12.9	12.4	13.6
Ind.	12.3	10.9	11.2	12.4
Ill.	12.6	11.6	11.6	13.3
Mich.	15.3	13.7	15.1	15.6
Wis.	14.1	12.5	13.8	14.2
E. N. Cent.	13.76	12.30	13.03	13.92
Minn.	14.8	11.7	14.0	14.2
Iowa	11.8	11.3	11.7	12.5
Mo.	7.9	7.8	7.3	7.6
N.Dak.	10.0	7.6	10.3	8.3
S.Dak.	10.0	7.0	9.5	8.2
Nebr.	11.4	10.6	11.5	10.3
Kans.	12.0	11.4	11.5	12.0
W.N.Cent.	11.47	10.00	10.91	11.00
Md.	13.7	11.8	12.3	13.1
Va.	9.6	8.9	9.2	9.6
W.Va.	8.9	8.7	8.3	9.6
N.C.	10.4	9.3	9.7	10.2
S.C.	9.2	7.9	9.0	9.9
S. Atl.	9.91	8.74	9.22	10.12
Ky.	9.7	8.2	8.6	9.6
Tenn.	8.8	7.4	8.0	8.4
Miss.	6.6	5.4	5.2	6.1
Ark.	7.5	6.0	6.5	7.1
Okla.	9.4	8.3	8.3	9.0
Tex.	8.3	7.7	7.1	8.0
S. Cent.	8.30	7.24	7.38	8.04
Mont.	10.7	9.9	10.9	10.5
Idaho	14.1	13.4	15.1	15.4
Wyo.	9.6	10.3	13.0	10.0
Colo.	11.4	9.9	12.2	12.1
Wash.	14.9	14.7	14.9	15.2
Oreg.	13.2	13.2	13.6	14.1
Calif.	15.0	16.5	14.8	16.1
West.	12.90	12.45	13.68	13.49
U. S.	11.92	10.68	11.27	11.80

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.