

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Washington, D. C.,

March 10, 1938

Agricultural Economics Division

3:00 P.M. (E.T.)

## CROP REPORT

as of

March 1, 1938

CROP REPORTING BOARD

## MILK PRODUCTION MARCH 1, 1938

Milk production increased somewhat more rapidly than usual during February in nearly all sections of the United States. On March 1 total milk production was between 4 and 5 percent above the rather low production on the same date last year, and was the highest on that date since 1933. However, production was still moderately low in proportion to population for milk production per capita, while somewhat higher than at this season following recent drought years, was about 2 percent below the average for March 1 during the 10-year period 1925-34.

The number of milk cows on farms March 1 was about the same as a year earlier but milk production per cow was heavier, chiefly because of more liberal feeding in response to the large supplies of grain on farms and the relatively low cost of purchased feed. February weather was also favorable in most areas. In the West North Central group of States, where the winter feeding situation has contrasted most sharply with that of last year, milk production per cow was 10 percent higher than on March 1 a year ago, while in the Southern and Western groups of States it was from 6 to 8 percent higher. In the North Atlantic area production per cow on March 1 was several percent below the high level at the same season last year but close to the 1926-35 average, while in the East North Central region it was not much different from either last year or average. For the country as a whole milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 12.98 pounds on March 1, compared with 12.42 pounds on the same date last year and a 1926-35 average of 12.93 pounds for March 1.

The proportion of milk cows reported milked in herds kept by crop correspondents on March 1 was only moderately above the 1926-35 average in the North Central and North Atlantic States but elsewhere was at record or near record levels for March 1. For the country as a whole the 66.9 percent of the milk cows reported milked on March 1, compares with 66.5 percent on the same date last year and was the highest reported for March 1 in the last dozen years with the exception of the 67.8 percent reported on that date in 1932. As there is no evidence of a high percentage of fall freshening such as was apparent in 1931 and 1932, the persistently high and increasing percentage of the cows reported milked appears to reflect a trend towards earlier weaning of the calves in order to increase the amount of milk secured.

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

State	March 1 (Avg.) 1926-35 Pounds	March 1 1936 Pounds	March 1 1937 Pounds	March 1 1938 Pounds
N. Eng.	15.43	14.11	15.27	14.93
N. Y.	15.2	15.1	16.3	15.5
N. J.	18.8	18.5	18.9	19.0
Pa.	16.3	16.2	16.7	16.0
N. Atl.	15.73	15.50	16.39	15.83
Ohio	14.5	14.1	14.6	14.0
Ind.	13.1	13.7	12.2	13.0
Ill.	13.8	13.3	14.3	14.6
Mich.	16.4	15.8	16.8	16.2
Wis.	16.3	16.5	15.9	16.0
E. N. Cent.	15.14	14.41	15.04	15.07
Minn.	16.8	16.1	15.8	17.8
Iowa	13.6	13.3	13.6	14.4
Mo.	8.5	8.3	7.7	8.5
N. Dak.	11.9	11.3	10.5	11.1
S. Dak.	11.6	9.8	8.8	10.3
Nebr.	13.6	11.7	11.1	12.1
Kans.	13.4	12.0	11.9	13.0
W. N. Cent.	13.12	12.11	11.85	13.02
Md.	13.7	12.2	13.7	13.6
Va.	9.9	9.6	9.1	10.1
W. Va.	8.9	8.3	8.3	8.5
N. C.	10.2	9.8	10.0	10.6
S. C.	9.0	9.2	9.5	10.2
S. Atl.	9.89	9.50	9.63	10.18
Ky.	9.8	8.6	9.3	9.9
Tenn.	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.6
Miss.	6.8	6.1	6.0	7.1
Ark.	7.6	6.9	6.7	7.9
Okla.	10.2	8.6	9.6	10.0
Tex.	8.6	8.2	8.9	9.1
S. Cent.	8.54	7.76	8.05	8.73
Mont.	11.3	11.8	12.0	11.0
Idaho	15.6	16.0	15.0	16.2
Wyo.	11.2	11.1	9.6	11.3
Colo.	12.7	13.1	12.2	13.4
Wash.	15.6	16.0	15.5	15.2
Oreg.	14.4	14.0	13.8	13.7
Calif.	16.7	17.3	15.3	19.9
West.	13.92	14.53	13.54	14.58
I. S.	12.93	12.24	12.42	12.98

<sup>1/</sup> 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.