UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Report as of December 1, 1939

December 12, 1939
3:00 P. M. (E.T.)

MILK PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, 1939

This year milk production during November was better maintained than usual as the result of mild, open weather in the Northern and Western parts of the country, together with relatively heavy feeding of supplementary grains and concentrates to milk cows, it was announced by the Agricultural Marketing Service. On December 1, usually about the low point of the year, total daily milk production was about 3 percent above the previous high record for that date. With allowance for a steadily increasing population, per capita milk production on December 1 was about 2 percent above the 1928-37 average but several percent short of the 1931 record per capita production for the date.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on December 1 averaged the highest for that date in the 15 years of record and showed an increase of 2 percent over that on the same date a year ago. With the number of milk cows on farms believed to be up about 1 percent from this time last year, total milk production appears to have been about 3 percent greater than on December 1, 1938. Looking ahead, the seasonal rise in milk production is expected to be about average, but with more severe weather in prospect, the present spread over the corresponding date a year ago may not be fully maintained.

Regionally, milk production per cow showed less than the usual November decline in practically all the States in the Great Lakes region, upper Mississippi Valley, and Central and Northern Great Plains. Unusually mild temperatures and freedom from severe storms have provided milk cows in these areas with exceptionally favorable conditions for late fall production. In spite of the mild weather, the quantities of grains and concentrates fed to milk cows was reported unusually heavy, apparently offsetting reduced pasturage in some areas, but in general reflecting ample supplies of feed grains on farms. In much of the South, however, the weather has been rather cold and early frosts and lack of moisture have reduced the pasturage available for milk cows. In both the South Atlantic and South Central groups of States, milk production per cow showed somewhat more than the usual seasonal decrease from November 1 to December 1. In the Western group of States milk production per cow on December 1 was well above average, having shown only about the usual November decline.

For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on December 1 averaged 12.09 pounds compared with a previous high for the date of 11.99 pounds in 1930, 11.83 pounds on the same date a year ago, and a 1928-37 average for December 1 of 11.48 pounds. In these herds, 68.3 percent of the milk cows were reported milked compared with 68.6 a year ago, and a range of 64.3 percent to 68.3 percent in the preceding 13 years of record.

GRAIN AND CONCENTRATES FED TO MILK COWS

Liberal quantities of grains and concentrates have been fed to milk cows this fall. The high rate of feeding appears likely to continue well into the winter months except in a few limited areas where the production of supplementary feed was reduced by drought this year. Supplies of feed grains on farms are abundant in most areas again this winter, following the third successive season of good

crops. Livestock numbers have increased, but with prices of dairy products not far from average in relation to feed grains, the supply appears ample to insure that milk cows will be well fed.

On December 1, the quantity of grain fed per milk cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged about the same as on that date a year ago and well above that on December 1 in any of the 5 preceding years. A month earlier when the shortage of pasture feed in some areas was more severely felt and the tempering effect of the seasonably mild weather was less in evidence, the quantity of grain fed per milk cow was probably even higher in relation to previous years than on December 1. In herds kept by dairy reporters, a group of more specialized dairy farmers, the amount of grain fed per cow on November 1 averaged nearly 10 percent greater than a year earlier, and was the highest reported for that date in the 9 years of record starting in 1931.

Regionally, the quantity of grain fed per milk cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on December 1 this year was well above the 5-year average in the Middle and South Atlantic States, Kentucky and Tennessee, in all of the North Central group, and in practically all the Mountain States, but was only about average or below in northern New England and on the Gulf and Pacific Coasts. In some important dairy areas of southern New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, where reserve supplies of feed on farms were reduced by the summer drought, the rate of feeding has so far held up well, but later in the season may be somewhat reduced unless supplemented by more than the usual quantity of shipped-in feed. In general, however, such shortages are of local nature and for the country as a whole an abundance of feed is available.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C. December 12, 1939

"GRAIN" FED AND MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/

State	"Grain" Fed per Milk Cow 2/			Milk Produced per Milk Cow 3/			
	Dec. 1 Av. 1933-37	Dec. 1 1938	Dec. 1 1939	Dec. 1 Av. 1928-37	Dec. 1 1937	Dec. 1 1938	Dec. 1 1939
		Pounds			Pounds		
Me.	4.3	4.5	4.2	12.3	11.6	11.6	11.8
N.H.	4.3	4.2	4.0	14.7	13.7	12.5	13.4
Vt.	4.0	4.4	4.2	12.5	11.6	12.0	12.1
Mass.	6.1	6.2	5.8	16.9	17.7	16.1	17.6
Conn.	5.4	5.2	6.2	15.7	16.1	15.8	17.0
N.Y.	4.6	5.1	5.0	14.5	14.4	15.3	15.3
N.J.	6.7	7.4	7.3	17.7	17.7	18.2	18.7
Pa.	5.5	6.0	6.1	14.8	14.3	15.1	14.9
N.ATL.	4.9	5.3	5.2	14.69	14.58	15.17	15.17
Ohio	5.0	5.8	5.8	13.2	12.3	13.3	13.7
Ind.	4.6	5.7	5.3	12.1	11.6	12.2	13.0
Ill.	4.8	5.3	5.5	12.4	12.3	12.6	13.3
Mich.	4.2	5.2	5.3	14.4	14.1	14.9	16.0
Wis.	3.3	3.7	3.9	13.0	12.5	12.7	13.5
E.N.CENT.	4.2	4.8	4.9	13.01	12.50	13.00	13.74
Minn.	3.1	4.3	4.2	12.9	12.9	13.1	13.6
Iowa	4.4	5.3	5.6	11.7	11.5	12.8	13.0
Mo.	3.0	4.1	3.7	8.4	7.9	8.6	8.3
N.Dak.	2.2	2.7	3.1	9.1	8.5	8.8	9.4
S.Dak.	1.9	2.7	2.4	8.8	8.6	9.9	9.7
Nebr.	2.8	3.8	3.7	10.9	10.4	11.9	11.8
Kans.	2.8	3.9	4.0	11.8	11.2	12.3	12.1
W.N.CENT.	3.1	4.1	4.1	10.80	10.45	11.33	11.44
Md.	5.4	6.7	5.9	13.5	13.2	14.6	14.6
Va.	3.6	4.0	3.9	10.0	10.5	10.3	10.0
W.Va.	3.1	3.9	3.7	9.6	9.3	9.9	9.6
N.C.	3.9	4.6	4.6	10.2	10.8	10.7	11.0
S.C.	3.3	3.0	3.5	9.4	9.6	9.3	10.6
S.ATL.	3.6	4.1	4.2	9.90	10.18	10.61	10.52
Ky.	4.5	5.2	5.4	9.7	10.2	10.2	9.9
Tenn.	3.4	4.5	4.2	8.5	8.1	8.5	8.9
Miss.	2.1	2.2	2.0	6.6	6.4	6.3	5.7
Ark.	2.6	2.9	3.0	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.6
Okla.	2.5	3.2	3.3	8.9	9.5	9.8	8.9
Tex.	2.8	2.9	2.9	8.1	8.5	8.2	8.3
S.CENT.	3.0	3.3	3.3	8.18	8.39	8.25	8.12
Mont.	1.6	3.2	2.4	10.7	10.9	13.3	13.7
Idaho	1.7	2.6	2.6	15.0	14.7	15.4	16.5
Wyo.	1.8	2.0	1.7	10.4	10.6	10.8	11.4
Colo.	2.4	2.8	3.4	11.4	11.5	13.1	14.5
Wash.	3.5	4.0	3.8	14.8	14.8	15.1	15.3
Oreg.	3.0	3.9	3.4	13.7	13.6	13.8	14.2
Calif.	2.8	2.2	2.6	15.9	17.5	16.3	18.4
WEST	2.5	2.9	2.9	13.26	13.74	14.10	15.08
U.S.	3.56	4.18	4.19	11.48	11.32	11.83	12.09

1/ Figures for New England States are based on combined returns from Crop and Special Dairy reporters (milk per cow weighted by counties). Figures for other States, regions, and U. S. are based on returns from Crop reporters only. The regional averages are based in part on records of less important dairy States not shown separately, as follows: North Atlantic, Rhode Island; South Atlantic, Delaware, Georgia, and Florida; South Central, Alabama, Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.

2/ Averages per cow computed from answers to question, "How many pounds of grain (including mill feeds and concentrates) were fed yesterday to milk cows on your farm (or ranch)?"

3/ Averages represent the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds.

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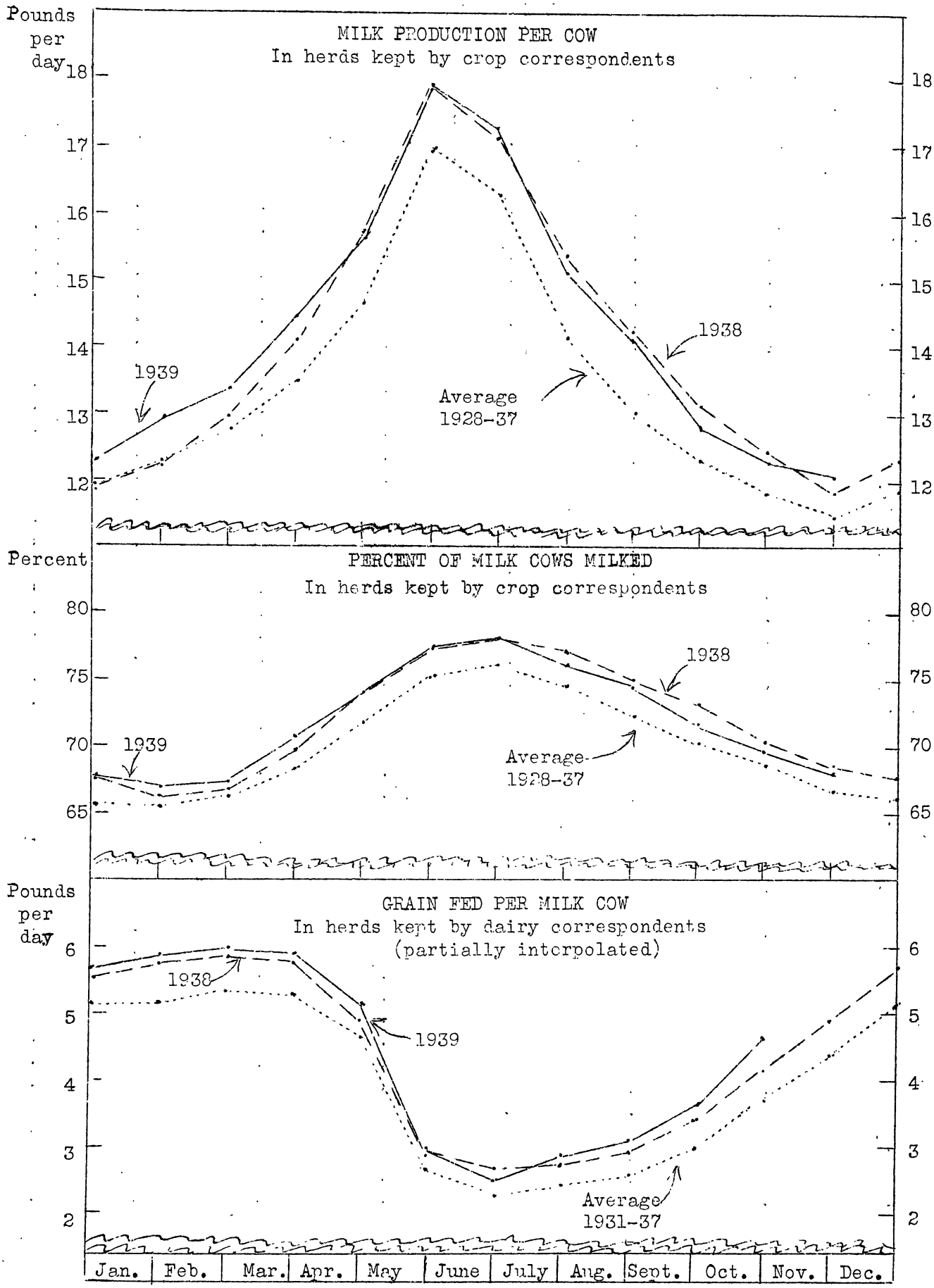
MILK PRODUCTION PER COW
In herds kept by crop correspondents
Pounds per day
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
1939
1938
Average 1928-37
PERCENT OF MILK COWS MILKED
In herds kept by crop correspondents
Percent
80
75
70
65
1939
1938
Average 1928-37
GRAIN FED PER MILK COW
In herds kept by dairy correspondents
(partially interpolated)
Pounds per day
6
5
4
3
2
1938
1939
Average 1931-37
Jan.
Feb.
Mar.
Apr.
May
June
July
Aug.
Sept.
Oct.
Nov.
Dec.