

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

October 11, 1939

MILK PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1, 1939

Milk production this year showed the sharpest September decline in the 15 years of record, with the most severe reduction apparent in Central States where drought and high temperatures have adversely affected early fall pastures. For the country as a whole, October 1 milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged between 2 and 3 percent lower than at the same time last year, and the number of milk cows increased only fractionally. Total milk production on October 1 therefore appears to have been nearly 2 percent lower than on the same date a year ago. Although production on the first of the month, as thus calculated, was the third highest for October 1 in the 15 years of record, milk production in relation to population was only slightly above the average for October 1 in the decade 1928-37. Considering the prospects for some improvement in fall pastures as the result of recent rains and the adequate supply of supplementary feedstuffs in most areas, milk production is expected to show only about the usual seasonal decline during the next month or two.

In practically all the States between the Appalachian Mountains and the Rocky Mountain States, milk production per cow decreased during September more rapidly than average for the month due primarily to the marked deterioration of pastures, but in the States east of the Mississippi river the decline in pastures was partially offset by increased supplementary feeding. In the North Atlantic group of States also, milk production has been aided by rather heavy feeding of grain and concentrates for this season of the year, and showed only slightly more than the usual seasonal decline. In the Western States production mostly declined less than average for September except in the Northwest where pastures were short and dry.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on October 1 was at or above the 1928-37 average for the date in all major groups of States, and for the country as a whole averaged 12.82 pounds, compared with 13.15 pounds on the same date last year and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 12.36 pounds. In these herds 71.9 percent of the cows were reported milked compared with 73.1 percent on October 1 a year ago.

DAIRY PASTURES, OCTOBER 1, 1939

With lack of moisture delaying the fall start of new grass and with abnormally high temperatures drying and browning the growth of earlier months, the condition of dairy pastures in the United States this year showed a record decline for September. As the result of very rapid deterioration of pastures in Central and East Central States where pastures during the summer months were unusually good, together with continued dry weather in important Northeastern dairy sections and in many of the Great Plains, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast States, the average condition of dairy pastures in the country as a whole on October 1 was the second lowest for the date in more than twenty years.

The most rapid decline in condition during September was in the belt of States extending from Iowa, Kansas, and Oklahoma, eastward through the Virginias. In most of this territory the poor pastures resulted from dry warm weather, and material improvement may be expected with improved moisture conditions. Late September or early October rains have broken the drought from Ohio eastward, and scattered showers have been helpful in other areas. In the more northern sections however, the rains have come so late that the fall pasture season has been materially shortened. In the Great Plains States and eastern Rocky Mountain States, pastures were generally poor with areas of extreme drought and wheat pastures were furnishing less feed than usual for October 1. In the central and northern Pacific coast area pastures were generally quite short.

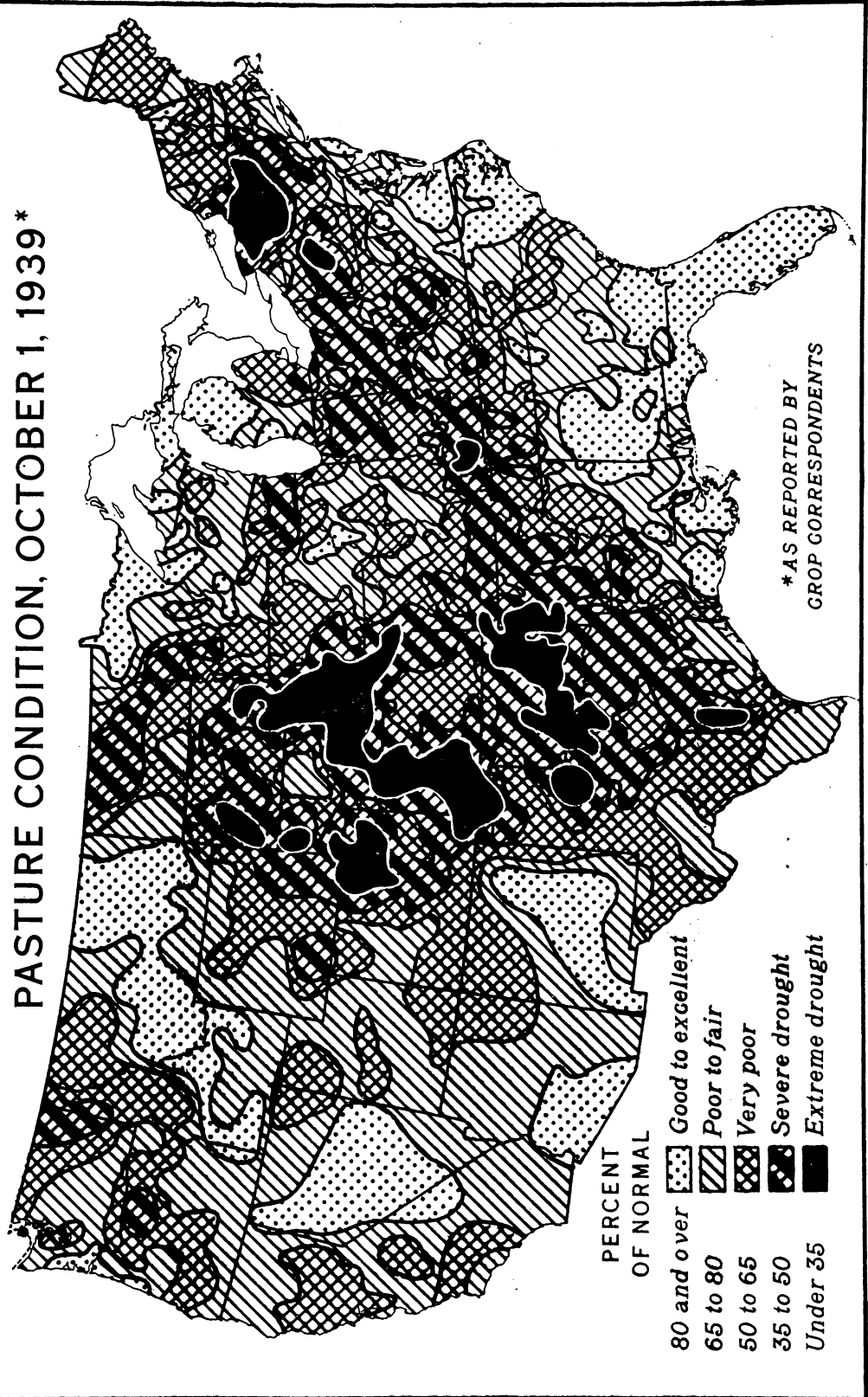
For the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures on October 1 averaged 58 percent of normal compared with 78 percent on the same date last year, and an average of 65.5 percent for October 1 in the ten year period 1928-37.

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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS ^{1/}				
State	: October 1 : (Avg.) 1928-37	: October 1 : 1937	: October 1 : 1938	: October 1 : 1939
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	13.6	14.5	14.6	15.0
N.H.	14.9	14.9	15.2	14.6
Vt.	13.2	14.1	14.2	13.4
Mass.	17.7	17.6	17.8	17.6
Conn.	16.7	17.2	18.2	18.2
N.Y.	16.0	16.6	16.2	15.7
N.J.	18.3	19.0	18.7	18.8
Pa.	15.9	17.1	16.3	15.7
<u>N. ATL.</u>	<u>15.87</u>	<u>16.74</u>	<u>16.36</u>	<u>15.96</u>
Ohio	14.6	14.5	15.2	14.7
Ind.	13.8	13.5	14.6	13.9
Ill.	12.8	13.0	14.0	14.1
Mich.	15.6	15.6	17.0	16.4
Wis.	14.1	13.4	14.6	14.7
<u>E. N. CENT.</u>	<u>14.14</u>	<u>13.82</u>	<u>14.90</u>	<u>14.71</u>
Minn.	12.0	12.2	12.9	12.7
Iowa	12.2	11.9	13.4	12.5
Mo.	10.0	9.6	10.6	9.8
N. Dak.	10.9	11.6	10.6	10.8
S. Dak.	9.7	10.0	10.8	9.9
Nebr.	11.4	10.7	12.4	11.4
Kans.	11.1	10.5	11.9	11.3
<u>W. N. CENT.</u>	<u>11.24</u>	<u>11.06</u>	<u>11.97</u>	<u>11.41</u>
Md.	14.7	15.4	15.9	16.7
Va.	11.8	13.2	12.4	12.2
W. Va.	12.5	13.5	13.2	12.1
N. C.	11.5	12.2	12.4	12.6
S. C.	9.9	10.1	10.5	10.8
<u>S. ATL.</u>	<u>11.07</u>	<u>12.07</u>	<u>11.95</u>	<u>12.04</u>
Ky.	11.8	12.2	13.5	12.0
Tenn.	10.3	10.8	11.4	10.4
Miss.	7.2	7.4	7.1	6.5
Ark.	8.3	8.9	9.0	7.7
Okla.	9.2	10.7	10.6	9.6
Tex.	9.0	9.6	9.3	8.8
<u>S. CENT.</u>	<u>9.11</u>	<u>9.73</u>	<u>9.76</u>	<u>9.11</u>
Mont.	12.5	13.6	16.3	15.9
Idaho	16.6	16.9	17.9	17.3
Wyo.	12.0	12.2	13.6	14.4
Colo.	12.1	12.4	11.8	14.0
Wash.	16.5	17.8	16.8	17.3
Oreg.	14.4	15.0	14.7	14.9
Calif.	16.6	16.9	17.9	20.1
<u>WEST.</u>	<u>14.17</u>	<u>15.38</u>	<u>15.59</u>	<u>16.12</u>
<u>U. S.</u>	<u>12.36</u>	<u>12.63</u>	<u>13.15</u>	<u>12.82</u>

^{1/} 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. Figures for New England States are based on combined returns from Crop and Special Dairy reporters and are 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, Nevada.

PASTURE CONDITION, OCTOBER 1, 1939*

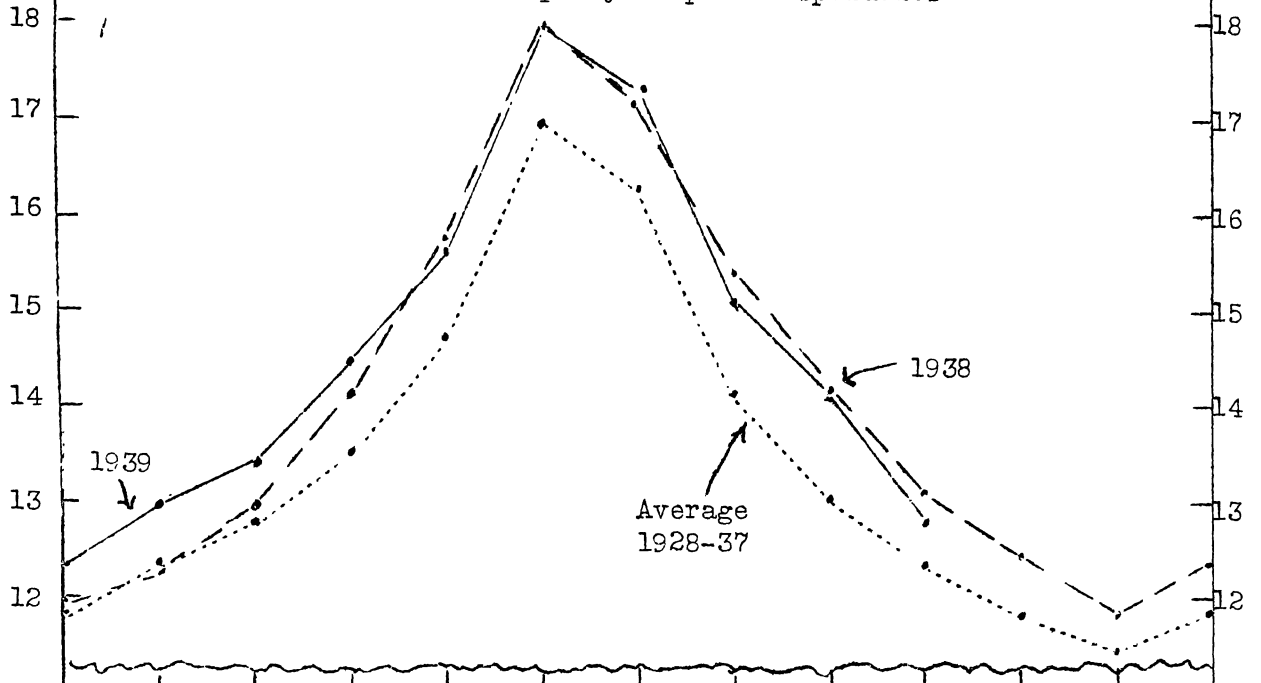


- PERCENT OF NORMAL
- 80 and over Good to excellent
 - 65 to 80 Poor to fair
 - 50 to 65 Very poor
 - 35 to 50 Severe drought
 - Under 35 Extreme drought

*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS

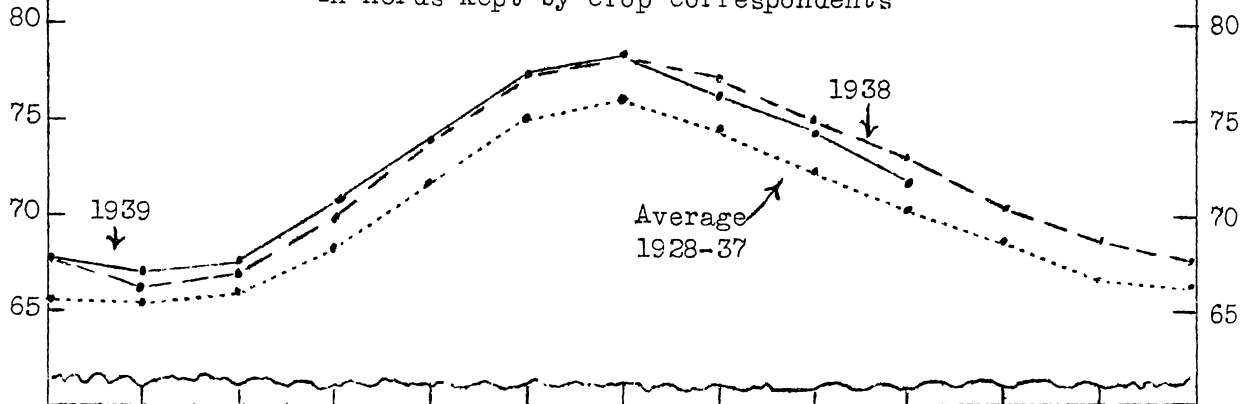
Pounds
per
day

MILK PRODUCTION PER COW In herds kept by crop correspondents



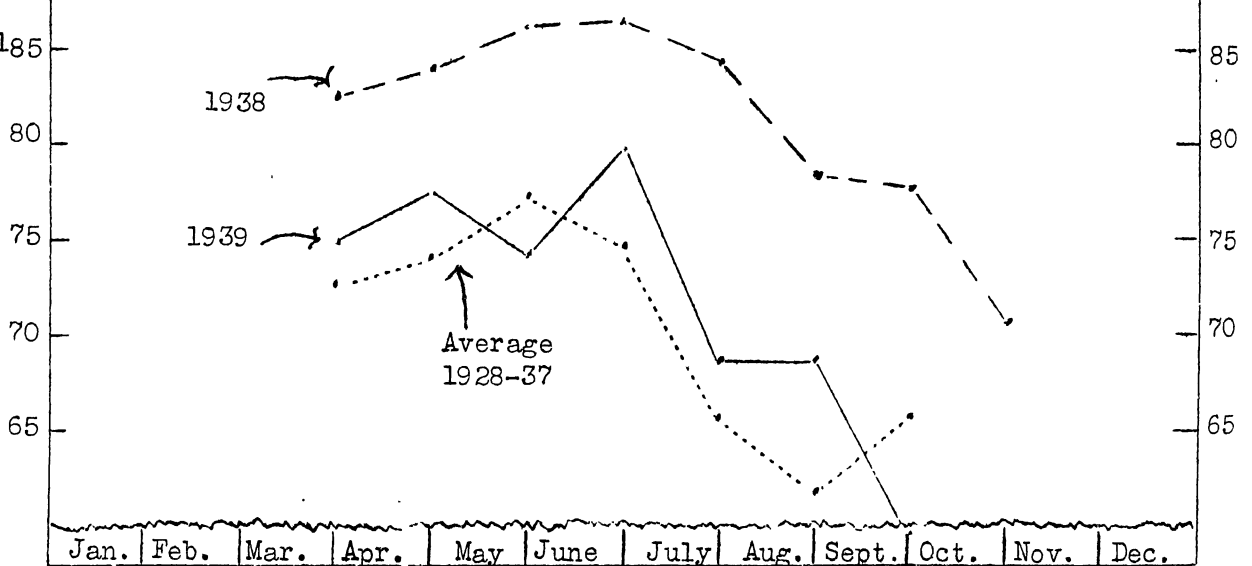
Percent

PERCENT OF MILK COWS MILKED In herds kept by crop correspondents



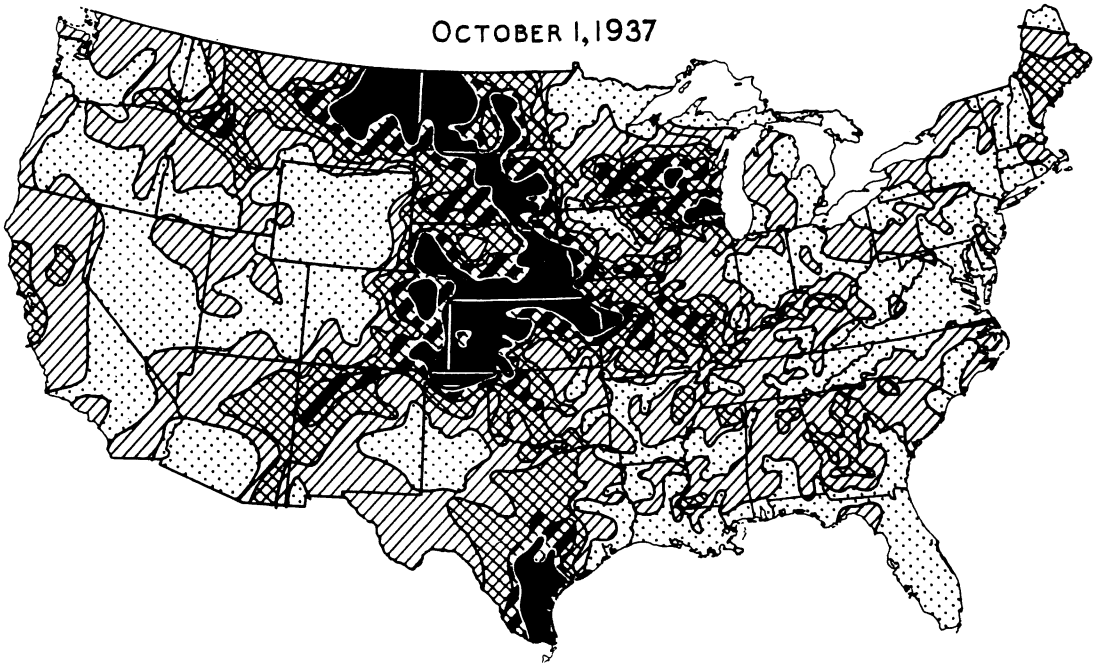
Percent
of
normal

CONDITION OF DAIRY PASTURES

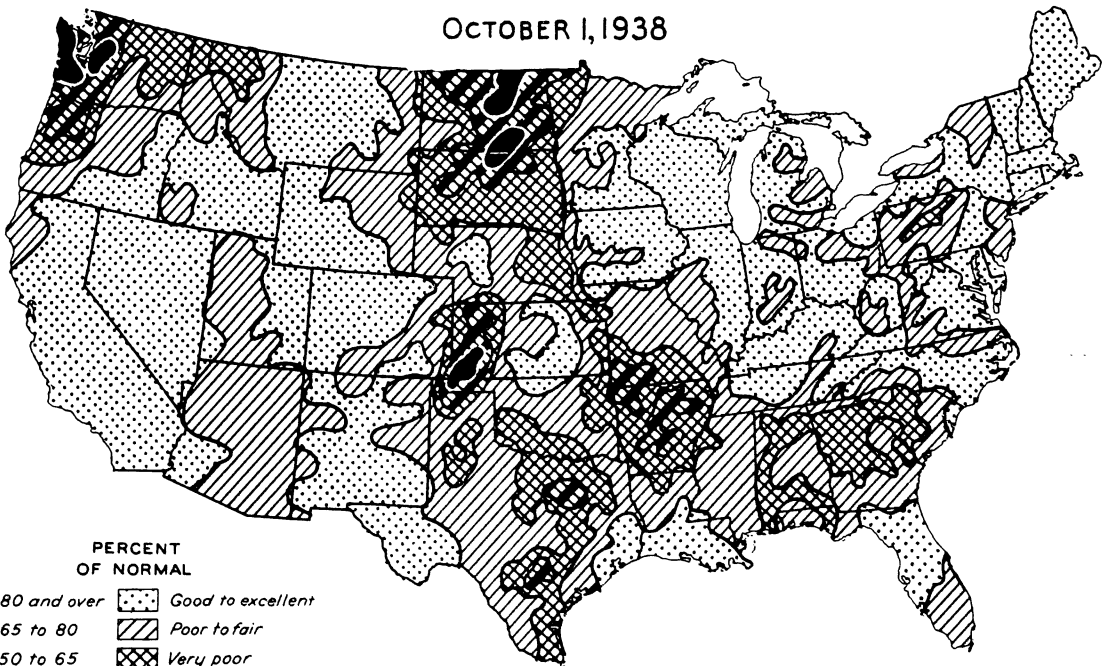







PASTURE CONDITION *

OCTOBER 1, 1937



OCTOBER 1, 1938



PERCENT OF NORMAL	
80 and over	 Good to excellent
65 to 80	 Poor to fair
50 to 65	 Very poor
35 to 50	 Severe drought
Under 35	 Extreme drought

* AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS