

MILK PRODUCTION IN 1939

(Also Milk Production and Grain Being Fed February 1, 1940)

Milk production in the United States in 1939 is estimated to have been 1.2 percent greater than in 1938 and about 4 percent greater than in 1933, the year of next highest production. However, milk production per capita, which appears to have varied within narrow limits during recent years, was about a half of 1 percent larger than in 1938 and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent above the average during the preceding 10 years. The average number of milk cows on farms during the year was about 1 percent larger than in 1938 and production per cow appears to have been very slightly higher, most of the increase being in the first few months of the year. The average production per cow is estimated at 4,538 pounds or 528 gallons, which is above the estimated production per cow in any of the preceding fifteen years except 1929.

In the table below are shown the 1939 estimates for the United States, together with those for the 5 preceding years and the 1924-33, 10-year average.

Year	Milk Cows on Farms ^{1/} (yearly average) Thousands	Annual Milk Production on Farms	
		Per cow Pounds	Total Million pounds
1924-33 Av.	22,246	4,553	96,278
1934	25,198	4,029	101,538
1935	24,376	4,178	101,431
1936	23,988	4,501	105,133
1937	23,710	4,350	103,132
1938 ^{2/}	25,717	4,522	107,255
1939 ^{3/}	25,923	4,538	108,558

^{1/} Excludes heifers not yet in production.

^{2/} Revised. ^{3/} Preliminary.

Regionally, the increase in milk production over 1938 was most pronounced in the central and northern Great Plains and eastern Rocky Mountain areas where restocking of milking herds has been apparent and where heavy production per cow has been encouraged by supplementary feeding which offset, to a large extent, an only fair pasture season in 1939. In the States from Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota, south to Arizona, New Mexico, and Kansas, milk production in 1939 was up from 2 to 9 percent as compared with 1938.

In the Northeast, where many important dairy areas suffered from drought last summer, milking herds were increased only slightly and milk production was generally not far from that in 1938. In the eastern and central Corn Belt States, milk cow numbers in 1939 were only slightly above those in 1938, but a generally favorable season with ample feed supplies resulted in moderate increases in milk production per cow and total milk production. In Michigan increases in both milk cows and production per cow resulted in milk production in 1939 nearly

February 15, 1940

4 percent above that in 1938, while in Wisconsin an increase in cow numbers was partially offset by some decline in milk production per cow.

In the South, most States east of the Mississippi River showed moderately higher milk production in 1939 than in 1938, but West Virginia, Kentucky, and Mississippi showed a decline, and west of the Mississippi River, milk production ranged from no change to a 4 percent decline in Texas. On the Pacific Coast milk production was up slightly with the most pronounced change in Washington.

MILK PRODUCTION FEBRUARY 1: Milk production was adversely affected by the abnormally cold weather of January, particularly in the South, and the increase in production between January 1 and February 1 was under 2 percent, or less than in any recent year except 1937 when feed supplies were short because of drought in the previous year.

Milk production in the United States on February 1 appears to have been between 1 and 2 percent lower than on the same date last year but production per unit of population was just about average for the date.

For the United States as a whole, the reports of February 1 averaged 12.65 pounds of milk per milk cow compared with 12.93 pounds last year and an average of 12.29 pounds during the previous ten years.

GRAIN FED PER MILK COW FEBRUARY 1: With grain supplies on farms generally adequate and with prices of dairy products about average in relation to price of feed grain, the severe weather in late January encouraged farmers to feed more than the usual quantity of grain and concentrates per milk cow. On February 1, the quantity fed per head in herds kept by crop correspondents was the highest for that date in the last seven years, averaging 5.0 pounds per cow in the country as a whole compared with 4.9 pounds a year ago.

In the Northeast, dairymen were feeding their herds more grain and concentrates per milk cow than on any other February 1 in the nine years for which records are available. In the North Central group of States, grain fed per milk cow this February 1 averaged the highest in seven years being exceeded on that date in only the depression years 1932 and 1933, when low prices of feed encouraged heavy feeding of home-grown grains. In the South, the quantity fed per cow this February 1 averaged somewhat lower than in 1932 but was the highest for the date since that time. In the Western States the rate of feeding was somewhat lower than in the past two years, but was above average.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

February 15, 1940

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, BY STATES, 1938-39

State	Number of milk cows on farms during year 1/		Annual milk production per cow 2/		Milk produced on farms during year 2/		
	1938		1939 3/		1939 as % of 1938		
	Thousands	Thousands	Pounds	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	% of 1938
Me.	140	140	4,730	4,660	662	652	98
N. H.	74	74	4,800	4,780	355	354	100
Vt.	283	267	4,880	4,850	1,531	1,522	101
Mass.	137	137	5,850	5,870	801	804	100
R. I.	23	23	6,240	6,500	114	145	101
Conn.	122	124	5,780	5,810	705	720	102
N. Y.	1,340	1,355	5,540	5,509	7,424	7,465	101
N. J. 4/	138	140	6,540	6,490	903	909	101
Pa.	873	882	5,300	5,240	4,627	4,622	100
N. ATL.	3,130	3,162	5,432	5,396	17,002	17,063	100.4
Ohio	1,000	1,004	4,570	4,570	4,570	4,588	100
Ind.	734	743	4,290	4,330	3,149	3,217	102
Ill.	1,075	1,080	4,750	4,840	5,106	5,227	102
Mich.	877	886	5,200	5,350	4,560	4,740	104
Wis.	2,081	2,108	5,700	5,680	11,862	11,973	101
E. N. CENT.	5,767	5,821	5,071	5,110	29,247	29,745	101.7
Minn.	1,603	1,600	5,100	5,100	8,175	8,160	100
Iowa	1,386	1,393	4,650	4,680	6,445	6,519	101
Mo.	938	933	3,650	3,700	3,424	3,452	101
N. Dak.	498	508	3,950	4,070	1,967	2,068	105
S. Dak.	474	476	3,600	3,750	1,706	1,785	105
Nebr.	601	620	4,180	4,400	2,512	2,723	109
Kans.	729	743	4,150	4,200	3,025	3,121	103
W. N. CENT.	6,229	6,273	4,375	4,437	27,254	27,833	102.1
Del.	33	34	4,140	4,200	137	143	104
Md.	187	191	4,450	4,530	832	875	105
Va.	395	405	3,650	3,530	1,442	1,450	101
W. Va.	238	238	3,570	3,530	850	840	99
N. C.	362	369	3,880	3,900	1,405	1,439	102
S. C.	162	164	3,540	3,550	573	582	102
Ga.	358	362	3,250	3,330	1,164	1,224	105
Fla.	97	98	2,850	2,850	276	279	101
S. ATL.	1,832	1,861	3,643	3,671	6,679	6,832	102.3
Ky.	524	521	3,730	3,620	1,955	1,806	96
Tenn.	542	553	3,520	3,500	1,908	1,956	101
Ala.	386	390	3,500	3,520	1,274	1,295	102
Miss.	521	522	2,730	2,830	1,422	1,373	97
Ark.	426	430	3,200	3,110	1,363	1,357	98
La.	274	280	2,300	2,240	630	627	100
Okla.	677	687	3,680	3,620	2,491	2,437	100
Tex.	1,349	1,342	3,270	3,150	4,411	4,227	96
S. CENT.	4,699	4,725	3,289	3,210	15,454	15,163	98.1
Mont.	143	146	4,550	4,770	651	696	107
Idaho 4/	190	194	5,660	5,790	1,075	1,121	104
Wyo.	64	64	4,230	4,320	271	276	102
Colo.	230	230	4,450	4,640	1,024	1,067	104
N. Mex.	70	73	3,650	3,670	256	268	105
Ariz.	43	44	5,100	5,230	219	250	105
Utah 4/	95	96	5,500	5,600	522	533	103
Nev.	20	20	5,650	5,670	113	113	100
Wash.	323	328	6,030	6,100	1,948	2,001	103
Oreg.	250	248	5,400	5,500	1,350	1,364	101
Calif. 4/	632	633	6,630	6,650	4,190	4,243	101
WEST.	2,060	2,081	5,640	5,727	11,619	11,917	102.6
U. S.	23,717	23,923	4,522	4,538	107,255	108,558	101.2

1/ Average number on farms during year, heifers that have not freshened excluded.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves and milk produced by cows not on farms.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ 1938 estimates revised.

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 WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 15, 1940

"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/			
	Feb 1 Av.	Feb. 1	Feb. 1	Feb. 1 Av.	Feb. 1	Feb. 1	Feb. 1
	1934-38	1939	1940	1939-38	1938	1939	1940
	Pounds			Pounds			
Me.	4.4	4.8	4.8	12.6	12.2	11.8	13.0
N.H.	4.5	4.7	4.5	14.9	14.3	14.6	14.6
Vt.	4.4	4.4	4.4	13.5	13.2	13.6	15.1
Mass.	6.2	6.2	6.4	17.4	16.9	17.2	17.3
Conn.	5.4	6.0	6.4	16.9	17.2	17.3	16.8
N.Y.	4.9	5.2	5.4	15.1	14.9	15.6	16.4
N.J.	7.6	8.4	7.7	19.0	19.2	19.2	18.9
Pa.	5.6	6.6	6.5	15.8	15.5	16.3	16.2
N. ATL.	5.2	5.6	5.7	15.52	15.40	16.09	16.12
Ohio	5.7	6.4	6.4	14.1	13.6	14.2	14.2
Ind.	5.7	6.5	5.9	12.7	12.3	12.8	12.8
Ill.	5.9	6.6	7.0	13.7	14.1	14.5	14.0
Mich.	4.7	5.4	5.7	15.9	15.3	16.4	16.7
Wis.	3.7	4.7	4.8	15.2	15.3	15.2	15.4
E.N. CENT.	4.9	5.7	5.8	14.55	14.36	14.76	14.78
Minn.	3.3	5.2	5.2	15.8	16.2	17.2	17.2
Iowa	5.9	6.3	7.3	13.3	14.0	14.1	14.4
Mo.	3.8	4.7	5.0	7.9	8.0	8.8	8.6
N. Dak.	2.3	3.6	3.9	10.9	10.5	11.9	12.3
S. Dak.	2.3	3.9	3.1	10.6	9.7	11.5	12.1
Nebr.	3.2	4.2	4.0	12.0	11.5	13.7	12.2
Kans.	3.2	4.8	4.4	12.4	12.9	13.5	12.4
W.N. CENT.	3.9	5.0	5.2	12.16	12.07	13.32	13.03
Md.	5.7	6.3	6.6	15.5	13.3	14.4	15.2
Va.	4.4	4.7	4.8	9.6	9.6	10.6	9.7
W. Va.	3.7	3.7	3.8	8.5	8.1	8.4	8.2
N.C.	4.5	5.1	4.7	9.8	10.4	10.5	10.5
S.C.	3.7	4.0	4.2	9.2	9.4	9.8	8.9
S. ATL.	4.1	4.5	4.7	9.63	9.94	10.34	9.99
Ky.	5.4	5.9	5.8	8.9	9.2	9.7	8.7
Tenn.	4.5	4.7	5.0	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.3
Miss.	3.2	3.6	3.4	6.2	5.6	5.7	5.3
Ark.	3.3	3.4	3.7	6.8	7.1	6.8	6.5
Okla.	2.9	3.8	4.2	9.2	9.9	10.4	8.4
Tex.	3.0	3.8	3.8	8.1	8.7	8.3	7.0
S. CENT.	3.5	4.1	4.2	7.91	8.16	8.28	7.47
Mont.	2.8	3.2	2.7	11.1	12.2	13.4	12.3
Idaho	2.2	2.6	2.3	15.1	15.5	15.4	16.0
Wyo.	2.0	2.2	2.2	10.7	11.8	11.4	11.8
Colo.	2.8	3.0	3.2	12.3	12.5	13.4	13.6
Wash.	4.3	4.6	4.0	15.4	15.5	15.6	14.3
Oreg.	3.4	3.7	3.6	13.5	12.9	13.9	13.6
Calif.	2.7	3.3	3.9	16.1	16.3	16.7	17.3
WEST.	2.9	3.5	3.4	13.65	14.03	14.42	14.30
U. S.	4.15	4.90	5.00	12.29	12.28	12.93	12.65

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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