

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

April 15, 1940

MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS

Milk production on farms in March 1940, estimated at 9.01 billion pounds, was 1.22 billion pounds larger than in February and exceeded production in March a year ago by about 2 percent, the Agricultural Marketing Service states. About 1 percent more milk cows were on farms than a year earlier and milk production per cow continued at a relatively high level. In the main northern dairy States, where pastures are unimportant at this season, production was maintained by liberal feeding of grain and concentrates. And in the Far West, partly because of excellent pastures, production was relatively high. But in the South production was comparatively low because cows did not get the usual quantity of feed from pastures.

On a per capita basis, milk production in March was about 1 percent higher than in the same month last year and appears to have established a record per capita production for the month. Production per capita was about 6 percent above the average for March during the 1934-38 period which included several drought years.

Milk production in April this year, while depending somewhat on how rapidly spring pastures improve with the advance of the season, is expected to exceed the 9.35 billion pounds produced in April last year by 1 or 2 percent.

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES
 1934-38 Average, 1939 and 1940

	<u>MONTHLY TOTAL</u>			<u>DAILY AVERAGE PER CAPITA</u>		
	<u>1934-38</u> Average	1939	1940	<u>1934-38</u> Average	1939	1940
	(Million pounds)			(Pounds)		
January	7,422	7,935	7,961	1.870	1.957	1,949
February	7,044	7,534	7,731	1.950	2.056	2.038
March	8,221	8,369	9,006	2.069	2.185	2.202
April	8,809	9,347		2.290	2.379	
May	10,537	11,084		2.649	2.728	
June	10,996	11,464		2.855	2.914	
July	10,266	10,371		2.578	2.623	
August	9,194	9,672		2.307	2.376	
September	8,262	8,533		2.141	2.165	
October	7,942	8,077		1.990	1.981	
November	7,327	7,556		1.870	1.914	
December	7,383	7,316		1.847	1.915	

Milk Production per Cow, April 1, 1940

After about the usual increase during March, milk production per cow on April 1 averaged slightly less than on the same date a year ago but substantially higher than the 10-year average for April 1. The effects of cold weather and the late start of pastures were apparent in the South where milk production showed less than the usual rise for this time of the year. On the other hand March increases were larger than usual in the West where weather has been mild and in

scattered other States, particularly in Wisconsin, New York, and parts of New England. In the Northern and Northeastern parts of the country, where pastures are not yet furnishing much green feed, farmers have fed their milk cows more than the usual quantity of grain and concentrates per head.

Compared with the 1929-38 average for April 1, milk production per cow this year showed some sharp regional contrasts. In all the States in the area extending from the Gulf of Mexico northward into Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and South Carolina, milk production per cow ranged from well below average to barely average. In contrast, practically every State elsewhere showed a production per cow above the 10-year average for April 1, with New York, Maryland, Iowa, the Dakotas, Oregon, and most of the Mountain States 10 percent or more above average.

In the North Atlantic, West North Central, and Western groups of States the proportions of milk cows reported in production on April 1 were the highest for the date in their respective regions in the 16 years of record. For the country as a whole the proportion milked was the highest of record for April 1 except last year, averaging 70.3 percent compared with 70.8 percent on April 1 last year and a range from 64.5 percent to 69.8 percent in previous years.

In the United States as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on April 1 averaged 14.45 pounds per cow compared with 14.51 pounds on the same date a year ago and a 1929-38 average of 13.52 pounds for April 1.

Dairy Pastures, April 1, 1940

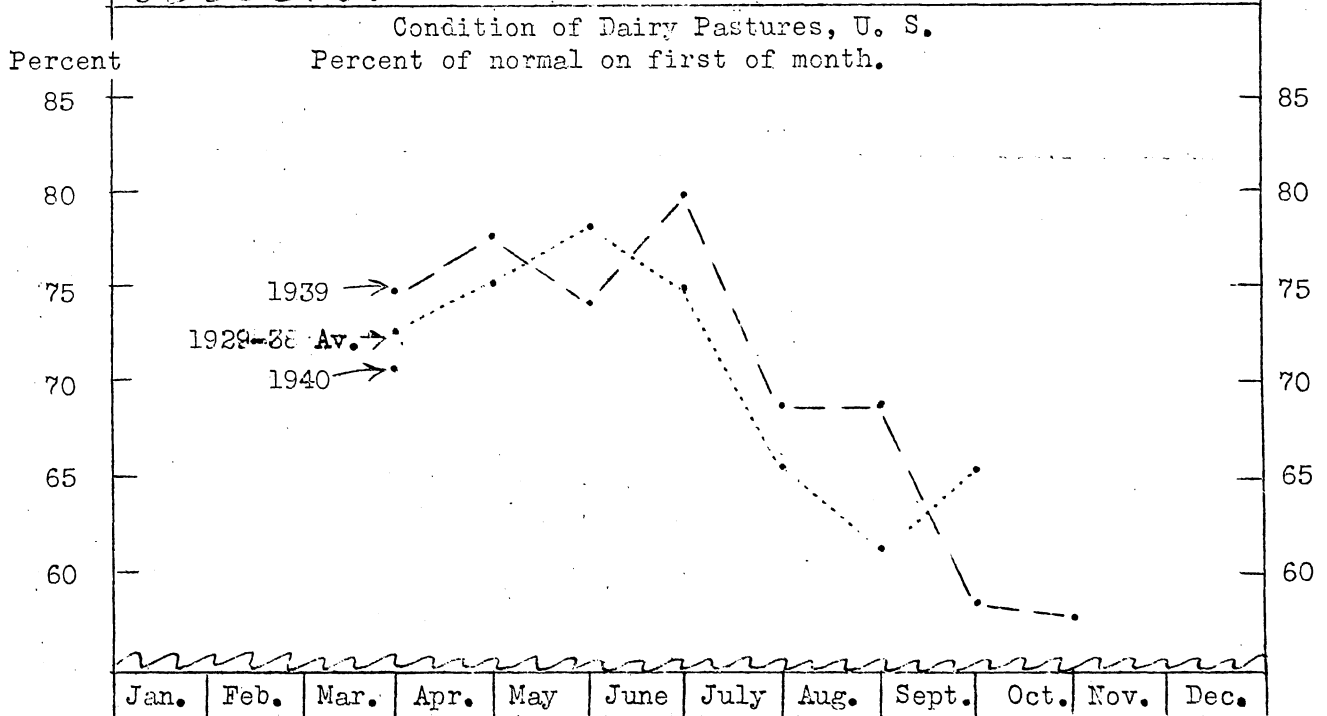
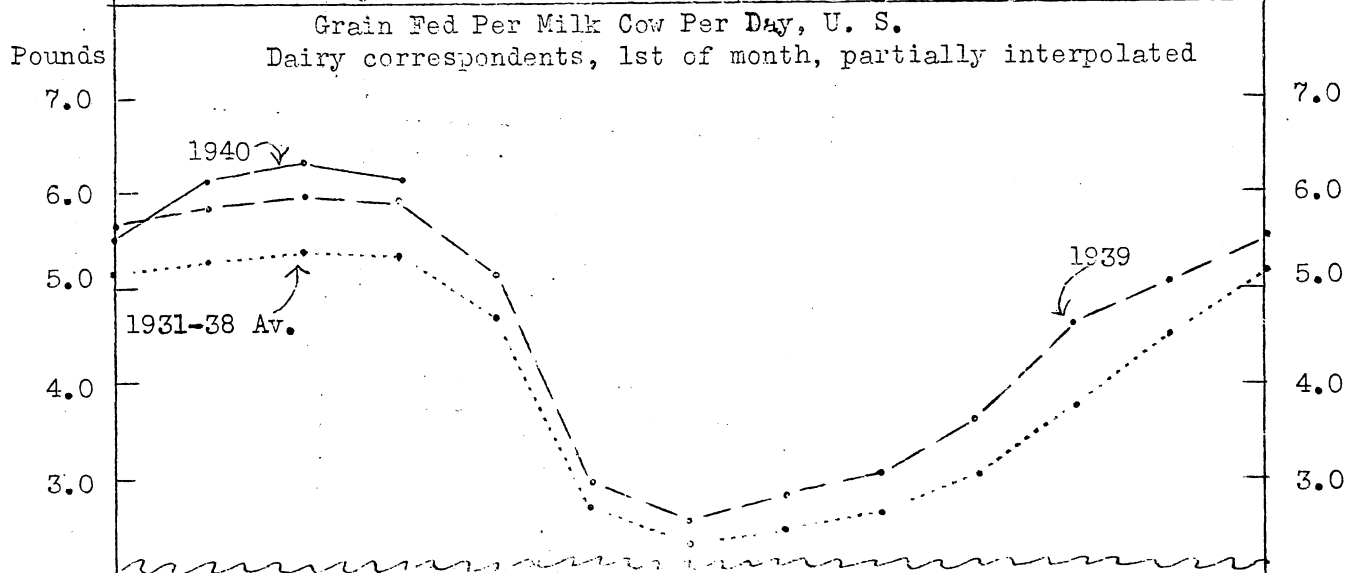
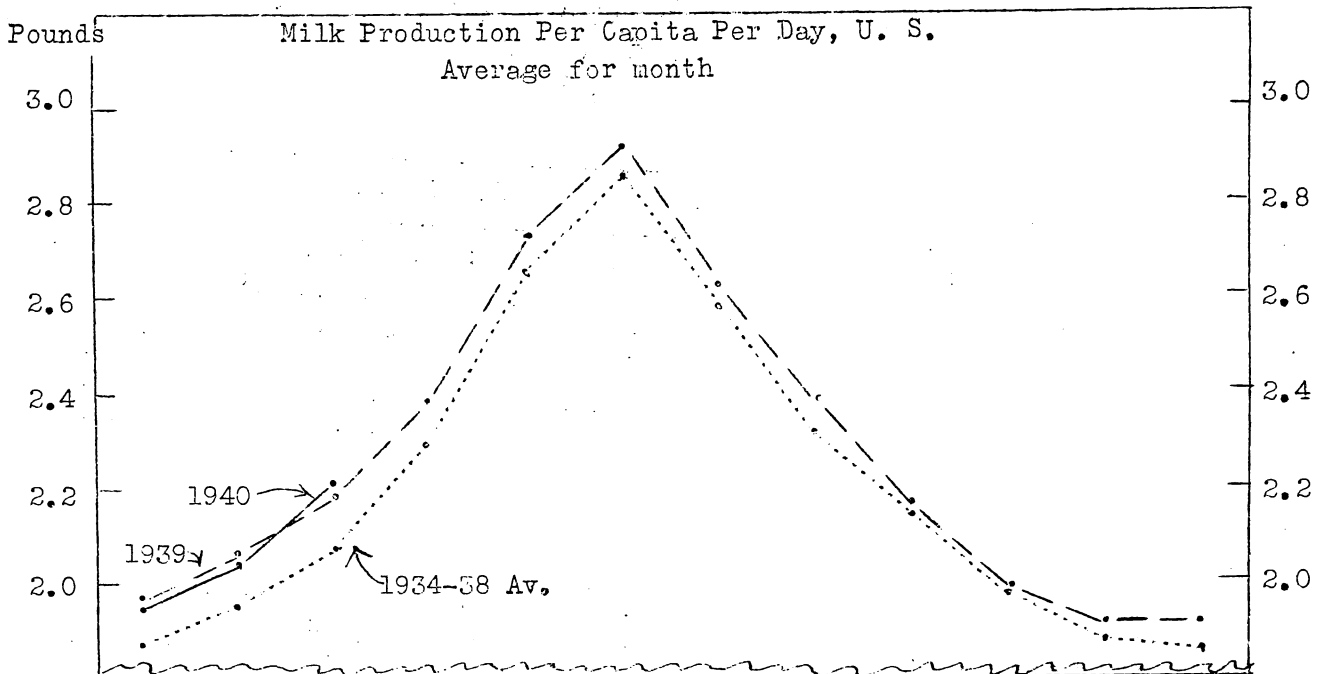
Pastures are off to a slow start this season with cold weather delaying the growth of grass over most of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. In the South, where milk cows at this time of year normally get considerable feed from pastures, unseasonably cold weather injured winter grazing plants and delayed development of early grass. In the more important dairy sections of the Mid-west and Northeast, pastures will be late in starting, but moisture supplies are generally ample. In the Far West pastures in the dairy sections have developed rapidly under the influence of moderate temperatures and ample moisture.

In the South, late winter and early spring this year have been marked with subnormal temperatures, snows, and late freezes, and pasture grasses on April 1 were much behind their usual stage of development. In the Southern States east of the Mississippi and in Louisiana moisture supplies on April 1 were generally sufficient and, with warmer weather, rapid development may be expected.

In the Pacific Coast States, pasture conditions and prospects improved materially during the winter and the reported condition on April 1 was more than 20 points above that on November 1 last year. In the Great Plains, wheat and rye pastures this year are furnishing much less feed for milk cows than usual.

In the North Central States east of the Great Plains and in the Northeastern States, where reports on pastures at this season reflect prospects for pastures rather than feed being secured, the grass this year, where started, appears to be from 10 days to 2 weeks behind schedule. In the more northern States frost was still in the ground on April 1, and much pasture was either covered with snow or only recently exposed. In most parts of this area that were dry last fall, snows and winter rainfall have improved moisture conditions and, while pastures may be later than usual, they should soon be supplying

Continued on Page 5.



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

April 10, 1940

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS ^{1/}

State	April 1 (Avg.) 1929-38	April 1 1938	April 1 1939	April 1 1940
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	13.2	13.3	13.4	13.6
N. H.	15.1	15.6	14.6	15.9
Vt.	14.6	14.1	14.9	15.1
Mass.	18.0	17.4	17.3	18.5
Conn.	17.2	18.1	17.6	17.9
N. Y.	17.2	17.6	18.2	19.3
N. J.	19.2	20.3	19.6	19.5
Pa.	17.0	17.3	17.7	17.8
N. Atl.	16.89	17.44	17.76	18.07
Ohio	15.0	15.0	15.4	15.4
Ind.	13.5	14.1	14.5	13.8
Ill.	14.5	15.0	15.9	15.8
Mich.	17.3	17.4	18.6	18.3
Wis.	17.2	17.5	17.8	18.4
E. N. Cent.	15.88	16.33	15.75	17.02
Minn.	17.4	18.4	18.5	18.7
Iowa	14.4	15.4	15.2	15.9
Mo.	9.3	9.6	10.2	9.2
N. Dak.	12.1	11.7	13.8	14.5
S. Dak.	11.4	11.0	12.7	12.5
Nebr.	13.5	13.1	14.8	14.4
Kans.	14.4	15.5	15.5	14.0
W. N. Cent.	13.54	14.06	14.88	14.75
Md.	13.6	14.2	15.4	15.7
Va.	9.8	10.7	10.3	10.5
W. Va.	9.4	9.1	9.3	9.2
N. C.	10.2	10.8	11.1	10.7
S. C.	9.7	10.6	10.1	9.6
S. Atl.	9.93	10.62	11.02	10.22
Ky.	9.7	10.5	10.2	9.8
Tenn.	8.8	9.8	9.8	8.6
Miss.	7.0	7.3	7.5	6.4
Ark.	8.0	9.1	8.6	7.7
Okla.	10.3	12.2	11.7	10.6
Tex.	9.4	10.7	9.6	8.8
S. Cent.	8.97	9.93	9.62	8.74
Mont.	12.2	12.3	14.9	14.6
Idaho	16.4	16.3	16.8	18.7
Wyo.	11.4	12.7	12.7	13.2
Colo.	13.5	14.7	15.1	15.0
Wash.	16.8	17.2	17.6	18.0
Oreg.	15.8	15.4	16.7	17.4
Calif.	19.9	20.1	19.7	21.0
West.	15.12	15.74	16.42	17.53
U. S.	13.52	14.12	14.51	14.45

^{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 and Nevada.

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sufficient feed.

The United States average condition of dairy pastures on April 1, reflecting conditions in those States in which milk cows are normally on pasture at this season, was 71 percent of normal compared with 75 percent a year ago and a 1929-38 average of 72.8 percent for April 1.