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

December 16, 1940

MILK PRODUCTION - DECEMBER 1, 1940

Despite the third sharpest November decline on record, milk production per cow in the United States on December 1 was still record high for the date, it was reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Total production of milk on farms, including allowances for changes in the number of milk cows, appears to have exceeded that on December 1 a year ago by about 2 percent. Production of milk per capita on December 1, taking into consideration the increase in population, was higher than on the same date in any of the past half dozen years, but was somewhat lower than for December 1 in the 1931-33 period when unusually heavy fall freshening bolstered winter milk production. Looking ahead from December 1, which is usually about the low point of the seasonal milk production curve, the abundant supply of feeds on farms and the larger than usual fall increases in milk and butterfat prices appear likely to encourage farmers to maintain milk production at above average levels.

In most major geographic areas milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was well above average, but in the South Central group of States mid-November freezes nipped late grazing crops and cold, rainy weather reacted unfavorably on the numerous milk cows still on pasture or not well sheltered. In the central dairy regions further northward, where dairy farmers are better equipped for the early fall storms and where barn feeding is usual at this time of the year, the cold weather and snow of this November appear to have affected production only temporarily and in the North Central group of States production per cow on December 1 was record high for the date and showed only about the usual decline from that a month earlier.

In Atlantic Coast areas where November temperatures were above average, production per cow was maintained at close to record levels with somewhat less than the usual November decline. In the West some effects of the cold weather were apparent especially in the central Rocky Mountain States, but December 1 production per cow in the Western group as a whole was exceeded in the 16 years of record only by that a year ago.

For the country as a whole December 1 milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 12.17 pounds compared with 12.09 pounds on December 1 last year and a 1929-38 average for the date of 11.47 pounds. In these herds 68.1 percent of the milk cows were reported milked. This was less than on the same date in any of the past 3 years but was about 1 percent above the 10-year average for December 1.

Grain and Concentrates Fed Per Milk Cow: In the early part of the 1940-41 winter feeding season farmers appear to have been feeding their milk cows more liberally on grains and concentrates than at that time in any of the past 7 years for which records are available. Reports from crop correspondents on December 1 show that they were feeding an average of 4.44 pounds of grain per milk cow compared with 4.19 pounds on that date last year, 4.18 pounds on December 1, 1938 and a 1934-38 average of 3.69 pounds for the date. The 6 percent increase over the rate of feeding in 1938 and 1939 appears significant for it is shared by nearly all parts of the country. Cold weather and the early freezing of pastures in the South may account for part of the increase in some areas, but the major factors appear to be the largest supply of grain and mill feeds in relation to livestock in 15 years and the encouraging prices for dairy products.

In New England, New York, Wisconsin, in most of the western two-thirds of the Corn Belt, and in nearly all of the Great Plains States the quantity fed per cow on December 1 exceeded that reported for the date in any of the past 7 years. In these areas the quantity fed ranged from less than 15 percent above the 1934-38 average in New England and New York up to more than 50 percent above average in some of the Plains States where feed shortage accompanying severe droughts materially reduced the quantity fed in some of the recent years included in the average. In other areas the rate of feeding was mostly above the 5-year average and in many States close to record levels for the period for which data are available.

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

December 16, 1940

"GRAIN" FED AND MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/								
	"Grain" Fed per Milk Cow 2/			Milk Produced per Milk Cow 3/				
	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	Dec. 1
	1934-38	1939	1940	1929-38	1936	1939	1940	
	Pounds			Pounds				
Me.	4.3	4.2	4.6	12.2	11.6	11.8	12.9	
N.H.	4.2	4.0	4.5	14.5	12.5	13.4	14.0	
Vt.	4.1	4.2	4.3	12.6	12.0	12.1	12.6	
Mass.	6.1	5.8	6.5	16.8	16.1	17.6	17.5	
Conn.	5.4	6.2	5.7	15.8	15.8	17.0	16.8	
N.Y.	4.8	5.0	5.4	14.6	15.3	15.3	15.0	
N.J.	6.9	7.3	7.1	17.8	18.2	18.7	18.1	
Pa.	5.8	6.1	5.9	14.9	15.1	14.9	15.4	
N. ATL.	5.1	5.2	5.4	14.78	15.17	15.17	15.33	
Ohio	5.2	5.8	5.7	13.1	13.3	13.7	13.2	
Ind.	4.8	5.3	5.5	12.0	12.2	13.0	12.8	
Ill.	4.7	5.5	5.9	12.5	12.6	13.3	13.7	
Mich.	4.4	5.3	5.1	14.5	14.9	16.0	15.4	
Wis.	3.4	3.9	4.4	12.9	12.7	13.5	13.8	
S. N. CENT.	4.3	4.9	5.2	12.97	13.00	13.74	13.83	
Minn.	3.3	4.2	4.7	12.8	13.1	13.6	14.4	
Iowa	4.6	5.6	5.8	11.8	12.8	13.0	13.0	
Mo.	3.1	3.7	3.9	8.5	8.6	8.3	8.8	
N. Dak.	2.3	3.1	3.5	8.8	8.8	9.4	10.7	
S. Dak.	2.1	2.4	3.4	8.9	9.9	9.7	9.8	
Nebr.	2.9	3.7	3.8	11.0	11.9	11.8	11.8	
Kans.	2.9	4.0	4.1	11.9	12.3	12.1	12.2	
W. N. CENT.	3.3	4.1	4.5	10.81	11.33	11.44	11.79	
Md.	5.6	5.9	6.0	13.4	14.6	14.6	15.2	
Va.	3.8	3.9	4.5	9.9	10.3	10.0	11.1	
W. Va.	3.2	3.7	3.6	9.5	9.9	9.6	10.1	
N. C.	4.0	4.6	4.8	10.2	10.7	11.0	11.2	
S. C.	3.2	3.5	3.1	9.4	9.3	10.6	9.5	
Ga.	2.9	3.1	3.6	8.2	8.8	9.0	9.0	
S. ATL.	3.7	4.2	4.2	9.87	10.61	10.52	10.98	
Ky.	4.8	5.4	5.4	9.7	10.2	9.9	10.0	
Tenn.	3.7	4.2	4.2	8.4	8.5	8.9	8.8	
Miss.	2.1	2.0	1.6	6.5	6.3	5.7	5.6	
Ark.	2.7	3.0	3.1	7.1	7.3	7.6	7.1	
Okla.	2.5	3.3	3.6	9.0	9.8	8.9	8.4	
Tex.	2.9	2.9	3.6	8.0	8.2	8.3	7.2	
S. CENT.	3.1	3.3	3.5	8.13	8.25	8.12	7.83	
Mont.	2.1	2.4	2.8	11.0	13.3	13.7	13.5	
Idaho	2.0	2.6	2.3	15.1	15.4	16.5	15.7	
Wyo.	1.7	1.7	1.8	10.5	10.8	11.4	11.0	
Colo.	2.3	3.4	3.7	11.5	13.1	14.5	13.3	
Wash.	3.9	3.8	3.9	14.7	15.1	15.3	15.9	
Oreg.	3.4	3.4	3.1	13.6	13.8	14.2	13.5	
Calif.	2.9	2.6	2.8	16.1	16.3	18.4	17.1	
WEST.	2.7	2.9	3.1	13.33	14.10	15.08	14.69	
U. S.	3.69	4.19	4.44	11.47	11.83	12.09	12.17	

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 and Florida; South Central, Alabama and 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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EGG PRODUCTION PER HEN DECEMBER 1

The December 1 rate of lay in farm flocks, for the country as a whole, failed to maintain the record high level in relation to seasonal that characterized the previous three months. Owing to unusually cold weather and heavy snow storms in the Rocky Mountain and Middle Western areas, the December 1 rate was 20.2 eggs per 100 layers compared with 21.5 eggs a year ago and the 10-year (1929-38) average of 15.8 eggs.

The aggregate of the 12 first-of-the-month layings in 1940 is about 1 percent smaller than the aggregate layings in 1939, and less than 2 percent below the record high figure in 1938, but it is about 8 percent above the 10-year average aggregate.

Production per layer reached new high records for December 1 in the North and South Atlantic States. It was second highest of record in all other areas, with the exception of the West North Central States, where unusually cold weather and storms during November reduced December 1 production per layer to the lowest level since 1937. Compared with a year ago increases were 7 percent in the North Atlantic, 3 percent in the South Central, and 1 percent in the South Atlantic States, while decreases were 2 percent in the East North Central, 7 percent in the West and 23 percent in the West North Central States.

The 10-year (1929-38) December 1 average rate of lay was exceeded in all geographic areas. Increases over the 10-year average were 47 percent in the East North Central, 39 percent in the North Atlantic, 28 percent in the South Atlantic, 21 percent in the West North Central and 17 percent in the South Central and Western areas.

During the last 16 years the December 1 rate of lay per hen has more than doubled in the North Atlantic and East North Central areas. The rate in the South Atlantic has increased 64 percent, in the West North Central 55 percent and in the South Central 34 percent. In the Far Western States where commercial production was already intensively practiced 16 years ago, the increase in rate of lay has been only about 13 percent.

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EGGS PRODUCED PER 100 LAYERS, DECEMBER 1 1/

State	: Av. 1929-1938	: 1938	: 1939	: 1940
	Number			
Me.	29.9	37.7	38.2	38.6
N. H.	30.4	37.2	34.8	39.0
Vt.	22.9	30.3	28.5	32.3
Mass.	31.8	35.7	35.8	34.5
R. I.	25.4	32.9	33.0	32.4
Conn.	28.2	27.6	34.6	37.0
<u>N. Eng.</u>	<u>29.0</u>	<u>33.1</u>	<u>34.6</u>	<u>36.1</u>
N. Y.	20.4	28.2	28.8	30.7
N. J.	20.0	24.0	24.7	30.4
Pa.	19.7	25.3	25.6	26.9
<u>N. Atl. 2/</u>	<u>21.7</u>	<u>27.5</u>	<u>28.2</u>	<u>30.2</u>
Ohio	17.6	22.7	26.6	26.2
Ind.	15.3	21.6	23.9	22.8
Ill.	12.9	17.7	18.7	18.2
Mich.	17.0	23.0	25.3	27.1
Wis.	19.6	25.7	28.5	27.2
<u>E. N. Cent.</u>	<u>16.1</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>24.0</u>	<u>23.6</u>
Minn.	11.8	17.5	21.8	17.0
Iowa	11.1	14.8	18.2	12.5
Mo.	12.8	16.0	16.3	14.8
N. Dak.	5.7	8.1	10.9	8.2
S. Dak.	7.5	10.2	13.4	7.4
Nebr.	11.5	16.5	18.4	13.6
<u>Kans.</u>	<u>13.7</u>	<u>17.1</u>	<u>19.4</u>	<u>16.4</u>
<u>W. N. Cent.</u>	<u>11.4</u>	<u>15.4</u>	<u>17.9</u>	<u>13.8</u>
Del.	18.9	25.7	27.3	24.0
Md.	17.5	21.7	22.1	21.2
Va.	17.4	21.3	21.4	24.1
W. Va.	16.4	22.4	23.0	23.0
N. C.	21.3	27.9	27.9	29.0
S. C.	18.6	22.6	24.5	22.2
Ga.	18.7	21.1	21.6	21.0
<u>Fla.</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>26.2</u>	<u>27.2</u>	<u>27.9</u>
<u>S. Atl.</u>	<u>18.8</u>	<u>23.3</u>	<u>23.8</u>	<u>24.1</u>
Ky.	14.8	19.2	18.6	20.3
Tenn.	13.8	16.8	15.1	16.7
Ala.	20.8	26.9	25.3	24.5
Miss.	20.7	24.9	22.6	22.7
Ark.	17.7	20.4	18.5	20.9
La.	18.8	20.4	21.5	20.8
Okla.	13.8	15.4	16.9	16.6
<u>Tex.</u>	<u>16.0</u>	<u>18.6</u>	<u>17.8</u>	<u>17.9</u>
<u>S. Cent.</u>	<u>16.2</u>	<u>19.2</u>	<u>18.5</u>	<u>19.0</u>
Mont.	12.2	16.3	17.6	13.5
Idaho	18.0	17.7	25.0	22.0
Wyo.	13.6	14.8	17.3	14.5
Colo.	11.3	15.4	13.6	13.8
N. Mex.	13.1	16.8	19.2	13.1
Ariz.	22.2	28.0	25.0	28.2
Utah	20.6	21.5	21.3	25.0
Nev.	19.3	24.8	24.0	22.5
Wash.	24.5	24.1	29.4	29.0
Oreg.	22.1	20.5	28.6	22.7
<u>Calif.</u>	<u>20.4</u>	<u>22.6</u>	<u>25.8</u>	<u>23.6</u>
<u>West.</u>	<u>19.2</u>	<u>21.1</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>22.4</u>
U. S.	15.8	19.9	21.5	20.2

1/ As reported for farm flocks of less than 400 layers.

2/ Including New England.