

April 12, 1951

Milk Production

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Milk production on farms in the United States in March is estimated at 9,690 million pounds, down 3 percent from March 1950, the record high for the month, but 2 percent above the 10-year average for March. Liberal grain feeding of milk cows over the Nation partially offset less favorable production weather to hold production per cow at a relatively high level. The percentage of cows in production during March was also down from a year ago but was well above average for the month. Total production of milk in March was at a low level relative to the Nation's population. Daily milk production per capita was 2.04 pounds, as compared to 2.15 pounds in March 1950, and was the fourth lowest March per capita output since 1930.

Production of milk per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1, 1951, averaged 17.32 pounds, a near record level for that date. It showed about the usual seasonal increase from March 1. The current April 1 output was down 1 percent from that of last year, which was the record high for that date. April 1 production per cow in all regions was below a year ago, except in the South Atlantic and Western groups of States, where the current output was slightly higher. Seasonally, the April 1, 1951 production showed a 6.9 percent increase from March 1, compared with a 10-year average increase of 7.2 percent. All regions showed about the usual seasonal increases, with heavy supplemental feeding helping to overcome the weather conditions which have slowed up grass development and been unfavorable to production as a whole.

The percentage of milk cows in crop reporters' herds in production on April 1 averaged 70.3 percent. This is 1 point down from April 1, 1950 but is almost 1 point above the 10-year average percent of cows in production. From March 1 to April 1, the percent of cows in production showed a 4.6 percent increase, about the same increase as shown a year ago but slightly greater than the 10-year average change from March 1 to April 1. The percentage of cows in production on April 1 was below a year ago in all regions except the South Atlantic where it equalled last year and the West, where it was slightly above and a new April 1 high for that area.

Among the 29 States for which monthly estimates of milk production are available, March 1951 production in Ohio, Michigan, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina established new record highs for the month. In Kentucky and Mississippi, March production equalled the all-time high for the month. In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, Utah and California the current March output has been exceeded in only one or two previous years. Of the 29 States with production estimated currently, all but 12 showed production above the 10-year average for March. On the other hand, Oklahoma and Montana recorded new lows in March milk production for the 20 years or so that records are available. In North Dakota, Idaho and Oregon, production was near previous lows for March. In all 12 States with total milk production below average, milk production per cow was above average but reduced numbers of milk cows on farms kept production down. Milk production per cow in herd set new highs for March in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Virginia, Utah, Washington and Oregon. In the States of North Dakota, South Carolina and California, March milk production per cow equalled previous highs for the month, while in 15 other States it was near record levels. Wisconsin produced an estimated 1,371 million pounds of milk in March, representing almost 14 percent of the Nation's production, to again lead all States. Minnesota with 813 million pounds was second, followed by California with 523 million pounds and Pennsylvania with 500 million pounds.

Milk-feed price ratios in March were about equal to the longtime average, but butterfat-feed price ratios were relatively unfavorable for feeding. The value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows in milk selling areas averaged \$3.54 per hundred pounds, about a half dollar higher than in March a year ago. In cream selling areas, the value of concentrate rations fed was \$3.21 per hundred pounds as compared to \$2.62 in March 1950.

Regionally, in the North Atlantic States the quantity of grain and concentrates fed per milk cow in crop reporters' herds was record high. In this area, milk prices have been appreciably higher relative to ration costs than in the 1930-49 period and lack of quality in last year's hay crop has encouraged supplemental grain feeding to help maintain milk production. In Southern regions, new high record quantities of grain per cow also were fed, since pastures were furnishing milk cows considerably less than usual green feed for this time of the year. In the North Central Regions, the amount of grain and concentrate fed per cow was below that of April 1 in either the last two years, was about the same as the 1947 rate, and was higher than on April 1, 1948 or in the 1944-46 period. In the West, grain fed per cow was the second highest for April 1 in 8 years, being somewhat less than two years ago.

As usual, the heaviest rate of grain and concentrate feeding at this time of the year was in the North Atlantic group of States, where milk cows in crop reporters' herds received an average of 7.6 pounds of grain and other concentrates per head per day. The East North Central group of States was second high with an average of 6.9 pounds per head per day, followed by the West North Central States with 6.5 pounds. In the South and in the West, milk cows on April 1 received an average of a little more than 5 pounds of grain and other concentrates per head.

Dairy Product-Feed Price Ratios, By Regions

Region	Milk-feed ^{1/}				Butterfat-feed ^{2/}			
	Mar, 1930-49 av.	March 1950	Feb. 1951	March 1951	Mar, 1930-49 av.	March 1950	Feb. 1951	March 1951
N. Atl.	1.20	1.18	1.29	1.23	---	---	---	---
E. N. C.	1.24	1.24	1.29	1.26	23.1	22.4	20.8	20.8
W. N. C.	1.48	1.56	1.33	1.29	26.3	26.5	23.9	23.5
S. Atl.	1.57	1.52	1.51	1.47	---	---	---	---
S. Cent.	1.41	1.44	1.43	1.38	18.2	17.6	16.9	16.6
West	1.27	1.25	1.34	1.27	20.7	19.9	20.8	20.3
U. S.	1.26	1.27	1.32	1.27	23.7	23.8	22.0	21.7

^{1/} Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of whole milk sold by farmers to plants and dealers. ^{2/} Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of butterfat in cream sold by farmers.

PASTURES

Farm pasture feed has developed slowly this spring, with winter freezes, spring frosts, and lack of moisture in some areas all helping to delay green feed for livestock. The condition of farm pastures on April 1 averaged 80 percent of normal, about the same as a year ago, but 2 points below the 10-year average for the date. March weather was cold and stormy tending to hold back early growth in Southern and Western areas where livestock are already on pasture, but improving soil moisture conditions in Northern areas for later development of pasture feed. Lack of moisture has been a limiting factor in Central and Southern Plains

and Southwestern areas.

In the South, from the Carolinas and Georgia westward to the Great Plains, April 1 pastures were furnishing the poorest green feed for livestock in 4 years. Freezing temperatures and frequent frosts in mid-March held back summer grasses and limited the late growth of winter grazing crops. In North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, pasture feed condition ranged from 9 to 16 points lower than on April 1 last year, and in Georgia, Kentucky, and Alabama was substantially below the 10-year average. In Texas, pasture and range feed have been held back both by cold weather and severe shortage of moisture and on April 1 average condition of pasture feed was the lowest for the State in the 28 years for which April 1 records are available. Recent rains in the eastern half of the State will be extremely beneficial, but in the western part of the State more moisture is urgently needed.

Further southwest, in Arizona, New Mexico, southern Utah, and southern California, pastures and ranges likewise suffered from lack of moisture. In Arizona and New Mexico irrigation water reserves are short and prospects for irrigated pastures are not good. In eastern and southern Colorado and western parts of Oklahoma and Kansas, pastures and ranges were likewise in need of moisture. In the northern sections of the Great Plains, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast areas, moisture supplies were generally ample, but early growth of new feed was held back by cold weather. Condition of pastures in these States was mostly about average for April 1 and not greatly different from a year ago, except in Montana where substantial improvement was noted. In the Northern States east of the Great Plains moisture supplies were generally ample and, although pastures have been delayed by cold weather, good growth can be expected as warm weather advances. Pastures were reported greening as far north as Pennsylvania and Indiana, but new feed was not yet available in substantial amounts to livestock in most North Central and North-eastern areas.

CROP REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Washington, D. C.,

as of

CROP REPORTING BOARD

April 10, 1951

3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

April 1, 1951

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

State	Milk produced per milk cow		"Grain" fed per milk cow 2/			
	Apr. 1 av.	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,
Division:	1940-49	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951
	Pounds			Pounds		
Me.	14.3	15.1	16.1	6.0	5.8	6.2
N.H.	16.3	17.4	19.7	5.7	5.9	6.0
Vt.	16.6	19.7	19.4	6.4	6.5	6.5
Mass.	18.5	20.1	20.1	6.5	6.6	7.1
Conn.	18.2	20.4	20.8	6.6	7.0	7.2
N.Y.	20.2	23.4	23.2	7.3	7.4	7.6
N.J.	21.1	23.8	23.6	8.3	8.3	8.2
Pa.	18.8	22.1	21.7	8.2	8.5	8.3
N. Atl.	18.91	22.02	21.92	7.3	7.5	7.6
Ohio	16.1	17.9	18.0	7.0	6.8	6.7
Ind.	15.1	15.6	16.0	6.1	6.4	6.3
Ill.	16.6	18.6	18.9	7.9	8.1	7.8
Mich.	19.1	21.6	21.2	7.3	7.4	6.9
Wis.	19.8	21.9	21.9	7.0	7.3	6.9
E. N. Cent.	18.08	20.32	20.20	7.1	7.2	6.9
Minn.	19.8	24.0	23.2	7.1	7.3	7.1
Iowa	17.0	18.6	18.4	8.6	8.3	7.9
Mo.	10.8	12.6	12.2	5.4	5.5	5.3
N. Dak.	14.8	16.4	16.1	5.2	5.6	5.2
S. Dak.	13.0	14.1	14.6	5.2	5.2	5.2
Nebr.	15.1	17.7	17.6	7.5	6.3	6.5
Kans.	15.4	16.9	16.5	6.0	5.9	6.2
W. N. Cent.	15.62	18.02	17.80	6.8	6.7	6.5
Md.	16.3	18.8	17.5	8.1	7.6	8.1
Va.	11.7	14.4	15.4	5.4	5.9	5.9
W. Va.	10.0	11.2	11.2	4.5	4.4	4.1
N. C.	11.7	13.4	12.9	5.6	5.3	5.4
S. C.	10.7	12.4	12.6	4.0	4.4	3.0
Ga.	8.9	10.2	11.3	4.5	4.3	5.5
S. Atl.	11.41	13.41	13.60	5.2	5.2	5.4
Ky.	11.0	11.4	11.5	6.1	5.6	5.5
Tenn.	10.4	11.4	11.2	5.1	4.9	5.2
Ala.	8.7	10.0	9.4	4.8	5.0	5.2
Miss.	7.2	8.7	8.6	4.0	3.3	4.5
Ark.	7.8	9.5	8.8	3.9	4.0	4.5
Okla.	10.8	10.7	11.0	4.6	4.1	5.0
Tex.	8.7	9.8	10.1	4.0	4.6	5.9
S. Cent.	9.47	10.46	10.21	4.5	4.4	5.1
Mont.	15.0	15.3	15.8	4.3	4.3	4.5
Idaho	18.4	20.3	20.1	4.8	4.6	4.3
Wyo.	15.0	16.7	19.9	4.9	4.7	4.9
Colo.	16.0	16.9	20.0	5.4	6.1	5.8
Utah	18.3	21.3	19.7	5.1	5.0	5.0
Wash.	18.3	19.6	20.0	6.3	5.8	6.3
Oreg.	16.8	17.7	17.7	5.1	5.2	5.0
Calif.	20.4	21.2	22.0	5.6	5.0	5.5
West.	17.82	19.53	19.86	5.4	5.1	5.3
U.S.	15.31	17.47	17.32	6.22	6.24	6.28

1/ Figures for New England States and New Jersey represent combined crop and special dairy reports other States, regions, and U.S., crop reporters only. Regional figures include less important dairy States not shown separately. 2/ Includes grain, millfeeds and other concentrates.