

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production increased seasonally during March. March production on all farms is estimated at 9,679 million pounds, almost the same as a year ago, but lower than for the same month in 7 of the past 10 years. This was equivalent to an average of 2.0 pounds of milk per day per person, the lowest for the month since 1935 when feed shortages severely curtailed production.

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds climbed about seasonally during March, and on April 1 averaged 17.27 pounds per cow. This was slightly lower than on the same date in either of the past two years, but higher than on any April 1 prior to 1950. In all regions, production per cow was rather close to the last year's level, but substantially above the 10-year average for the date. Increase over average ranged from 5 percent in the South Central States to 15 percent in the South Atlantic area. Milk cows reported in production on April 1 averaged 70.2 percent of the total number of milk cows in herd, the lowest for the date since 1948, though only a trifle below the percentage milked a year ago. In the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Western regions, the percentage of cows milked approached the highest level of recent years. In the North Central States, it was above average, but in the South Central area, it was substantially below average, and the lowest since 1946.

The ranking milk production States in March were Wisconsin with 1,348 million pounds, Minnesota with 771 million pounds, and California with 522 million pounds. In Wisconsin, Minnesota, and a majority of other Northern States for which data are available, milk production was less than for March a year ago. On the other hand, in South Central States other than Mississippi and Texas production this March exceeded that a year ago. In comparison with the average March production during the 1941-50 period, milk output this year was higher in most Northeastern, Great Lake, and South-eastern States, but smaller in the main Cornbelt, Great Plains, and Northern Rocky Mountain States.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

March				March					
State	Average	March	Feb.	March	State	Average	March	Feb.	March
	1941-50	1951	1952	1952		1941-50	1951	1952	1952
<u>Million pounds</u>					<u>Million pounds</u>				
N. J.	91	102	92	100	S. C.	48	53	46	52
Pa.	447	500	455	497	Ky.	147	156	144	165
Ohio	396	434	384	444	Tenn.	158	165	146	167
Ind.	277	277	262	286	Ala.	102	111	101	118
Ill.	451	432	367	415	Miss.	103	116	87	98
Mich.	444	476	421	474	Okla.	197	168	152	170
Wis.	1,288	1,371	1,150	1,348	Texas	334	330	273	318
Minn.	812	813	667	771	Mont.	51	42	34	37
Iowa	540	488	372	434	Idaho	104	96	82	93
Mo.	287	314	261	293	Utah	55	57	54	58
N. Dak.	158	132	122	136	Wash.	162	158	139	164
S. Dak.	128	111	90	106	Oreg.	106	97	75	96
Nebr.	203	180	153	174	Calif.	491	523	446	522
Kans.	239	223	187	205	U. S.	9,649	9,690	8,700	9,679
Va.	129	164	143	161					
N. C.	118	135	129	135					

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

GRAIN AND OTHER CONCENTRATES FED TO MILK COWS: On April 1, the quantity of grain and other concentrates fed per milk cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 6.27 pounds per day, the second highest for the date in 9 years of record. This rate of feeding compares with 6.28 pounds on April 1 a year ago, and a range from 5.45 pounds to 6.24 pounds for the date in the preceding 7 years. Stormy March weather in many sections encouraged continuation of heavy concentrate feeding. In a few areas the low quality of available concentrates appears to have resulted in increased feeding rates. In some places, feed supplies are reported tight but milk cows have been fed rather liberally.

The cost of concentrate rations fed to milk cows in March was the second highest on record for the month, having been exceeded only in 1948. In milk-selling areas, the concentrate rations fed to milk cows were valued at \$3.87 per hundred pounds and in cream-selling areas \$3.45 per hundred pounds. These were 9 percent and 7 percent, respectively, above the March 1951 value. The relationship between dairy product prices and concentrate ration costs in March this year were not particularly favorable. The milk-feed price ratio, at 1.27, was unchanged from the previous two years and practically the same as the 20-year average for March. The butterfat-feed price ratio, at 22.6 was slightly more favorable than the 21.7 a year ago, but about 5 percent below the 20-year average for March.

Regionally, the April 1 quantity of grain fed per milk cow reached new highs in the Western States, where cold, stormy weather prevailed in late March, and in the South Atlantic States. In the North Atlantic region, the previous high rate of feeding during the 9-year period was equalled this year. The grain feeding rate in the North Central States was only a little below the previous record high for the date. In the South Central States, the amount fed per cow on April 1 was down slightly from that of February 1 and appreciably less than a year ago, although still higher than in other years. As usual, April 1 rates of feeding were highest in the North Atlantic region where milk cows received a daily average of 7.6 pounds of grain and other concentrates per cow.

#### DAIRY PASTURES

Development of dairy pastures over the country was somewhat delayed by below-average temperatures in March, but with soil moisture conditions generally favorable, prospects for spring pasture are excellent. The condition of dairy pastures on April 1 was 76 percent of normal, 4 points above April 1 a year ago, but 1 point below the 10-year average for the date. In areas with dairy pasture feed available, conditions were generally above a year ago and average or better in all regions excepting the South Central.

In the lower Atlantic Seaboard States pasture feed was much improved over a year ago, especially Georgia, and above average for April 1. Mild open weather with ample moisture has promoted abundant grass growth in these States. In the Eastern and Central Gulf Coast States, pastures were about average for April 1, but in Alabama and Louisiana much better than a year ago. However, in Texas dairy pasture condition was only 1 point above last year's very low April 1 figure and 18 points below the 10-year average for that date. Light rains have brought relief in some areas but subsoil moisture is short and frequent additional rains are needed. In the West Coast States, grass growth has been slowed by cold weather, but favorable moisture conditions offer excellent prospects for feed with the advent of warm weather.

Dairy pasture made little progress during March in the Northern Section of the country from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast, with some areas still snow-covered. Though pastures in Southern portions of the area were greening, they were furnishing little feed as yet, except for limited wheat and rye pasture. Continued freezing and thawing has caused heaving and some damage to new pasture seedings in the Northern States. However, with moisture supplies generally ample, prospects for pasture feed with the coming of warmer weather are generally good.

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	Mar. 1930-49 Av.	Mar. 1951	Feb. 1952	Mar. 1952	Mar. 1930-49 Av.	Mar. 1951	Feb. 1952	Mar. 1952
N. Atl.	1.20	1.22	1.23	1.17	---	---	---	---
E. N. C.	1.24	1.27	1.29	1.26	23.1	20.8	23.0	21.8
W. N. C.	1.48	1.30	1.43	1.37	26.3	23.5	26.5	24.7
S. Atl.	1.57	1.46	1.46	1.45	---	---	---	---
S. Cent.	1.41	1.36	1.44	1.41	18.2	16.6	17.3	16.9
West.	1.27	1.28	1.31	1.29	20.7	20.3	19.8	18.9
U. S.	1.26	1.27	1.31	1.27	23.7	21.7	23.9	22.6

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS Washington, D. C.,  
**CROP REPORT** CROP REPORTING BOARD  
as of April 15, 1952  
April 1, 1952

MILK PRODUCTION AND "GRAIN" FED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/						
State	Milk produced per milk cow			"Grain" fed per milk cow 2/		
and	Apr. 1 av.	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,	Apr. 1,
Division:	1941-50	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952
	Pounds			Pounds		
Me.	14.5	16.1	15.0	5.8	6.2	6.4
N.H.	16.4	19.7	21.1	5.9	6.0	6.1
Vt.	17.0	19.4	19.1	6.5	6.5	6.4
Mass.	18.6	20.1	19.6	6.6	7.1	6.6
Conn.	18.5	20.8	21.4	7.0	7.2	6.7
N.Y.	20.7	23.2	23.8	7.4	7.6	7.8
N.J.	21.4	23.6	23.3	8.3	8.4	8.6
Pa.	19.2	21.7	21.4	8.5	8.3	8.2
N. Atl.	19.31	21.92	21.88	7.5	7.6	7.6
Ohio	16.3	18.0	18.8	6.8	6.7	7.1
Ind.	15.3	16.0	17.2	6.4	6.3	6.7
Ill.	16.9	18.9	18.0	8.1	7.8	7.3
Mich.	19.4	21.2	21.8	7.4	6.9	7.4
Wis.	20.1	21.9	21.3	7.3	6.9	6.9
E. N. Cent.	18.40	20.20	20.23	7.2	6.9	7.1
Minn.	20.4	23.2	23.2	7.3	7.1	7.2
Iowa	17.3	18.4	17.2	8.3	7.9	7.5
Mo.	11.1	12.2	11.9	5.5	5.3	5.4
N. Dak.	15.0	16.1	17.1	5.6	5.2	5.5
S. Dak.	13.2	14.6	13.9	5.2	5.2	4.8
Nebr.	15.5	17.6	17.0	6.3	6.5	6.6
Kans.	15.2	16.5	16.1	5.9	6.2	6.0
W. N. Cent.	15.95	17.80	17.74	6.7	6.5	6.5
Md.	16.6	17.5	18.2	7.6	8.1	7.7
Va.	12.1	15.4	15.3	5.9	5.9	5.9
W. Va.	10.2	11.2	11.0	4.4	4.1	4.1
N. C.	11.9	12.9	13.0	5.3	5.4	5.8
S. C.	11.0	12.6	12.2	4.4	3.0	4.6
Ga.	9.1	11.3	10.5	4.3	5.5	5.0
S. Atl.	11.23	13.60	13.44	5.2	5.4	5.5
Ky.	11.1	11.5	12.2	5.6	5.5	5.7
Tenn.	10.7	11.2	11.1	4.9	5.2	5.1
Ala.	9.0	9.4	10.3	5.0	5.2	5.4
Miss.	7.4	8.6	7.2	3.3	4.5	3.5
Ark.	8.0	8.8	7.7	4.0	4.5	3.7
Okla.	10.8	11.0	11.1	4.1	5.0	4.4
Tex.	8.8	10.1	9.7	4.6	5.9	5.0
S. Cent.	9.64	10.21	10.08	4.4	5.1	4.2
Mont.	15.0	15.8	14.6	4.3	4.5	4.2
Idaho	18.6	20.1	19.5	4.6	4.3	5.0
Wyo.	15.4	19.9	18.7	4.7	4.9	4.6
Colo.	16.2	20.0	17.0	6.1	5.8	6.3
Utah	18.7	19.7	20.3	5.0	5.0	4.4
Wash.	18.5	20.0	21.6	5.8	6.3	6.6
Oreg.	16.8	17.7	17.7	5.2	5.0	5.2
Calif.	20.4	22.0	23.7	5.0	5.5	6.0
West.	18.02	19.86	19.84	5.1	5.3	5.7
U.S.	15.62	17.32	17.27	6.24	6.28	6.27

1/ Figures for New England States and New Jersey represent combined crop and special dairy reporters; 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.