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MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production on farms increased seasonally during March, and continued at a record breaking pace. Production for the month totaled 10.1 billion pounds, exceeding last year by 7 percent and the previous March record set in 1945 by 3 percent. Comparatively mild weather in important dairy areas and early green feed from pastures in the South favored a high rate of milk production per cow, and the number of milk cows on farms has been increasing. On a per capita basis, milk production during March averaged 2.05 pounds per person per day, 6 percent higher than last year, but 6 percent below average for the 1942-51 period. In the first quarter of 1953, milk production on farms totaled 27.3 billion pounds which, on a seasonally adjusted basis, would be equivalent to an annual rate of 123 billion pounds.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on April 1 averaged 18.07 pounds per day, compared with 17.29 pounds a year ago, and the average of 15.86 pounds. Production per cow was high generally with regional increases above the 10-year average ranging from 9 percent in the Western States to 19 percent in the South Atlantic area. Output per cow was above April 1 a year ago in all regions except the West. The largest increase was 11 percent in the South Central States. In crop correspondents' herds, 71.0 percent of the milk cows were in production on April 1, the second highest for the date in 29 years of record, having been exceeded only in 1950. In the North Atlantic and East North Central regions the percentage of cows milked set a new high for April 1.

In 29 of the 30 States for which monthly milk production estimates are currently available, March milk production exceeded that of a year ago. New high records for the month were established in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. On the other hand, production during March was below the 10-year average in Illinois, Iowa, the Great Plains States, Washington, and Oregon. In these areas, production per cow was mostly at or near record levels but numbers of milk cows on farms were substantially below those for some earlier years. Wisconsin, with 1,442 million pounds, led all States in March milk production, followed by California with 531 million, and Pennsylvania with 517 million.

GRAINS AND CONCENTRATES FED TO MILK COWS

Crop reporters fed an average of 6.18 pounds of grains and concentrates per milk cow in herds on April 1, the smallest amount for this date in the last 5 years. However, the quantity fed was down less than 2 percent from the 1951 record high for April of 6.28 pounds. March was a mild open month with temperatures above normal over most of the country. Pasture feed supplies were unusually good for this season of the year in the Southern early pasture States. Cows continued on winter rations in the northern sections of the country with grain and concentrate supplies generally adequate and of good quality.

The value of grain and concentrate rations fed milk cows during March dropped moderately from a year earlier but was still the third highest of record. In milk selling areas, concentrate rations fed during March, were worth an average of \$3.68 per hundredweight, and in cream selling areas, \$3.25 per hundredweight. Whole milk and cream prices showed a sharper decline than feed costs and the March milk-feed price ratio was 1.20 as compared to 1.26 a year earlier. The butterfat-feed price ratio for March 1953 was down more sharply, standing at 20.5 as compared with 22.7 for March 1952.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS Washington, D. C.,
CROP REPORT as of CROP REPORTING BOARD

April 1, 1953

April 14, 1953

By regions, grain and concentrate fed per milk cow in the North Atlantic and East North Central regions on April 1 equaled the previous high record. However, in the South Atlantic and Western sections of the country, current feeding rates on the average were down one-half pound from the record high level of a year earlier. In the South Central region, the quantity of grain fed per cow was down slightly from last year, and in the West North Central region equaled the rate of the last 2 years. Quantities fed on April 1 showed about the usual range over the country, varying from 7.6 pounds per cow in the North Atlantic region to 4.6 pounds in the South Central group of States. In 4 States, Maine, New York, Indiana and Missouri April 1 grain feeding reached new highs for the date and in 5 others equaled the previous high. On April 1, 88 percent of the crop reporters were feeding some grain or other concentrates to milk cows on their farms, the same as last April 1 and about average for the date in the 10 years of record.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	March av.: 1942-51	March : 1952	Feb. : 1953	March : 1953	State	March av.: 1942-51	March : 1952	Feb. : 1953	March : 1953
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N.J.	92	99	85	102	N.C.	115	122	117	130
Pa.	448	488	438	517	S.C.	46	46	41	48
Ohio	396	409	369	443	Ky.	152	167	151	172
Ind.	283	274	250	300	Tenn.	161	169	151	183
Ill.	447	400	365	428	Ala.	101	109	98	107
Mich.	434	438	398	466	Miss.	108	105	99	122
Wis.	1,294	1,359	1,181	1,442	Okla.	189	145	132	160
Minn.	807	758	697	813	Tex.	307	263	240	296
Iowa	538	441	407	485	Mont.	49	37	34	38
Mo.	286	287	249	307	Idaho	103	90	80	96
N.Dak.	148	134	114	139	Utah	55	55	52	57
S.Dak.	125	102	92	109	Wash.	146	139	119	143
Nebr.	201	173	151	179	Oreg.	101	93	74	96
Kans.	233	188	172	205	Calif.	496	515	436	531
Va.	128	142	138	157	Other				
W.Va.	59	59	53	60	States	1,562	1,615	1,547	1,769
					U.S.	9,610	9,421	8,533	10,100

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, 1942-51 AVERAGE, 1952 AND 1953

Month	Monthly total			Daily average per capita		
	Average 1942-51	1952	1953	Average 1942-51	1952	1953
	Million pounds			Percent	Pounds	
Jan.	8,298	8,151	8,706	107	1.88	1.69
Feb.	8,130	8,151	8,533	1/ 105	2.02	1.80
Mar.	9,610	9,421	10,100	107	2.17	1.94
Apr.	10,389	10,134			2.42	2.16
May	12,338	12,056			2.78	2.48
June	12,393	11,879			2.88	2.52
July	11,660	11,017			2.62	2.26
Aug.	10,593	10,238			2.38	2.10
Sept.	9,185	9,126			2.13	1.93
Oct.	8,555	8,664			1.92	1.77
Nov.	7,655	7,851			1.77	1.66
Dec.	7,908	8,389			1.76	1.71
Year	116,713	115,117			2.23	2.00

1/ Comparison of 28-day month in 1953 with 29-day month in 1952. On a daily average basis, February 1953 is 108 percent of 1952.

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region	Milk-feed 1/				Butterfat-feed 2/			
	Mar. 1931-50 ave.	Mar. 1952	Feb. 1953	Mar. 1953	Mar. 1931-50 ave.	Mar. 1952	Feb. 1953	Mar. 1953
N. Atl.	1.20	1.16	1.19	1.13	---	---	---	---
E. N. C.	1.24	1.25	1.23	1.16	23.1	21.8	20.2	20.1
W. N. C.	1.48	1.38	1.31	1.24	26.4	24.7	22.8	22.4
S. Atl.	1.57	1.43	1.47	1.43	---	---	---	---
S. Cent.	1.41	1.39	1.35	1.30	18.3	16.9	14.3	14.3
West	1.27	1.29	1.34	1.29	20.7	18.8	17.0	16.8
U. S.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.20	23.8	22.7	20.7	20.5

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.

DAIRY PASTURE

Condition of April 1 pastures in areas where milk cows are normally getting green feed averaged 78 percent of normal -- 1 point above the 10-year average condition of dairy pasture feed for this time of year, and 2 points above April 1 a year ago. Dairy pastures were providing good feed in most of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast States and Coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest, but were short and dry in the Southwest area of the country. Pasture feed prospects were average in the Northeast and Great Lakes area, but well below average in the central and upper Great Plains area and Rocky Mountain States.

Dairy pasture feed in the area extending from the lower Mississippi Valley east to the Atlantic Coast generally made excellent growth during March. Pastures for milk stock were well above average and supplying unusually good grazing for April 1. In the eastern section of Texas and Oklahoma, pastures were also furnishing excellent feed for milk cows on April 1. In the important northern dairy areas from the upper Mississippi Valley eastward, pasture prospects were about average for April 1. In the Northeast, the dairy pasture feed outlook was very good with ample moisture supplies. In the Great Lakes region, the mild winter and open March was favorable for grass development and some early pasture feed was available for milk stock in the southernmost part of these States. However, general spring rains over the area are needed to assure full development of grass for spring feed.

In the central and upper Great Plains States, dairy pasture prospects were much less favorable. Fall pastures were grazed very short in this section, and new grass has been slow in starting. More moisture is needed over the entire area to improve pasture prospects. In the Western region as a whole dairy pasture condition, reported at 78 percent of normal, was about average for April 1. Dairy pastures in the Pacific Northwest made fine growth during March and were in very good condition on April 1. Grass made good early growth in Idaho, but more rain is needed for continued improvement. However, in California and most of the Rocky Mountain States dairy pasture conditions were below average for April 1. California native pasture feed was short and precipitation needed. In the Rocky Mountain States, March was generally mild, but grass made little growth as soil moisture was generally short.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CROP REPORT

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Washington, D. C.,

as of

CROP REPORTING BOARD

April 10, 1953

April 1, 1953

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

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/
 and : Apr. 1 av.: Apr. 1, : Apr. 1, : Apr. 1, : Apr. 1, : Apr. 1,
 Division: 1942-51 : 1952 : 1953 : 1951 : 1952 : 1953
Pounds Pounds

Me.	14.7	15.0	16.1	6.2	6.4	6.6
N.H.	17.0	21.1	21.2	6.0	6.1	5.4
Vt.	17.4	19.1	21.0	6.5	6.4	6.5
Mass.	18.7	19.6	21.0	7.1	6.6	6.1
Conn.	18.8	21.4	19.4	7.2	6.7	6.8
N.Y.	21.0	23.8	24.8	7.6	7.8	7.9
N.J.	21.7	23.3	23.3	8.2	8.6	8.0
Pa.	19.6	21.4	22.3	8.3	8.2	8.1
N.Atl.	19.68	21.88	22.86	7.6	7.6	7.6
Ohio	16.6	18.8	19.6	6.7	7.1	7.1
Ind.	15.4	17.2	18.5	6.3	6.7	7.0
Ill.	17.2	18.0	19.1	7.8	7.3	7.3
Mich.	19.7	21.8	22.2	6.9	7.4	7.4
Wis.	20.4	21.3	22.4	6.9	6.9	7.1
E.N.Cent.	18.68	20.23	21.17	6.9	7.1	7.2
Minn.	20.7	23.2	23.8	7.1	7.2	7.0
Iowa	17.5	17.2	18.5	7.9	7.5	8.1
Mo.	11.3	11.9	13.1	5.3	5.4	5.7
N.Dak.	15.1	17.1	17.6	5.2	5.5	5.4
S.Dak.	13.3	13.9	15.4	5.2	4.8	4.4
Nebr.	15.8	17.0	18.2	6.5	6.6	5.7
Kans.	15.8	16.1	17.3	6.2	6.0	6.1
W.N.Cent.	16.19	17.74	18.42	6.5	6.5	6.5
Md.	16.8	18.2	18.7	8.1	7.7	7.2
Va.	12.6	15.3	16.7	5.9	5.9	5.9
W.Va.	10.5	11.0	11.0	4.1	4.1	3.9
N.C.	12.1	13.0	12.8	5.4	5.8	5.5
S.C.	11.3	12.2	12.4	3.0	4.6	4.2
Ga.	9.4	10.5	10.4	5.5	5.0	4.0
S.Atl.	12.02	13.44	14.25	5.4	5.5	5.0
Ky.	11.2	12.2	12.3	5.5	5.7	5.7
Tenn.	10.9	11.1	12.4	5.2	5.1	4.7
Ala.	9.1	10.3	9.3	5.2	5.4	4.3
Miss.	7.6	7.2	9.1	4.5	3.5	3.8
Ark.	8.0	7.7	8.8	4.5	3.7	3.8
Okla.	10.8	11.1	12.9	5.0	4.4	4.9
Tex.	8.9	9.7	11.5	5.9	5.0	5.3
S.Cent.	9.75	10.08	11.23	5.1	4.7	4.6
Mont.	15.1	14.6	16.3	4.5	4.2	4.5
Idaho	18.7	19.5	20.2	4.3	5.0	4.7
Wyo.	16.0	18.7	18.0	4.9	4.6	4.3
Colo.	16.6	17.9	19.7	5.8	6.3	5.3
Utah	19.0	20.3	20.9	5.0	4.4	4.6
Wash.	18.6	21.6	21.2	6.3	6.6	6.2
Oreg.	16.8	17.7	17.8	5.0	5.2	5.1
Calif.	20.6	23.7	22.4	5.5	6.0	5.0
West.	18.24	20.02	19.95	5.3	5.7	5.1
U.S.	15.86	17.29	18.07	6.28	6.27	6.18

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.