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MILK PRODUCTION

During April the Nation's farm milking herds produced 10,854 million pounds of milk, a new record for the month which continued the high level of earlier months this year. Production exceeded that of last April by 7 percent, and the 10-year average for the month by 4 percent. Good early pastures in much of the South and well maintained supplemental feeding elsewhere helped to support a high average level of milk flow, even though the seasonal gain from April 1 to May 1 was considerably less than usual for the period. April milk production averaged 2.28 pounds per capita per day, higher than in the last 2 years but 6 percent below average in the 1942-51 decade.

In herds kept by crop correspondents, milk production per cow set a new high May 1 average of 19.13 pounds per day, 3 percent higher than the 18.57 pounds a year ago and 10 percent above the 1942-51 average of 17.35 pounds for May 1. Production per cow gained 6 percent between April 1 and May 1, only about three-fourths as much as the average increase during the month. Regionally, May 1 production per cow was above average in all areas, with the margin ranging from 6 percent in the South Central region to 13 percent in the North Atlantic area. In comparison with May 1 a year ago, however, milk production per cow in reporters' herds in the South Atlantic and Western regions was down slightly. In other regions, production per cow ranged from 3 to 6 percent higher than last year. Of the milk cows in crop reporters' herds, 73.7 percent were reported in production on May 1. This was slightly higher than last year and the 10-year average, but lower than recorded for May 1 from 1948 through 1951.

Among the 30 States for which monthly production estimates are made currently, this year's April production exceeded that a year ago in 28 States and equaled last April in the other two. In 10 States, new high records for April farm milk production were established. These were located chiefly in Eastern, Great Lakes, and Southern areas east of the Mississippi. On the other hand, in Illinois, Iowa, most of the Great Plains, and the Pacific Northwest, milk produced on farms during April this year was below the 1942-51 average as a result of the present lower level of milk cow numbers. Wisconsin, with more than 1½ billion pounds of milk produced during April, led all States in milk production for April. Minnesota, with 0.8 billion pounds, was second, followed by California, Pennsylvania, and Iowa, all with more than one-half billion pounds.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	April : average: 1942-51	April : 1952	March : 1953	April : 1953	State	April : average: 1942-51	April : 1952	March : 1953	April : 1953
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N.J.	93	100	102	102	N.C.	127	136	130	144
Pa.	468	502	517	529	S.C.	49	51	48	51
Ohio	432	440	443	466	Ky.	181	192	172	199
Ind.	299	294	300	312	Tenn.	188	200	183	215
Ill.	467	406	428	431	Ala.	111	116	107	118
Mich.	456	450	466	483	Miss.	127	122	122	146
Wis.	1,399	1,414	1,442	1,533	Okla.	213	160	160	178
Minn.	801	770	813	802	Tex.	346	302	296	329
Iowa	555	460	485	502	Mont.	55	42	38	42
Mo.	337	334	307	366	Idaho	114	101	96	104
N. Dak.	163	151	139	154	Utah	59	57	57	60
S. Dak.	136	110	109	117	Wash.	168	156	143	159
Nebr.	224	185	179	190	Oreg.	125	114	96	119
Kans.	262	210	205	227	Calif.	535	549	531	562
Va.	142	155	157	168	Other				
W. Va.	65	64	60	65	States	1,692	1,791	1,769	1,981
					U.S.	10,389	10,134	10,100	10,854

1/Monthly data for other States not yet available.

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, 1942-51 AVERAGE, 1952 AND 1953									
Monthly total					Daily average per capita				
Month	Average : 1942-51	1952	1953	1953 1952	Average : 1942-51	1952	1953		
	Million pounds			Percent	Pounds				
Jan.	8,298	8,151	8,706	107	1.88	1.69	1.77		
Feb.	8,130	8,151	8,533	1/105	2.02	1.80	1.92		
Mar.	9,610	9,421	10,100	107	2.17	1.94	2.05		
Apr.	10,389	10,134	10,854	107	2.42	2.16	2.28		
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	7,891			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 PASTURE

The condition of dairy pastures on May 1 was reported at 82 percent of normal-about average for the date but 6 points below the unusually well-advanced pastures of a year ago. Although cold weather during April retarded grass growth, dairy pasture conditions over the country were generally favorable on May 1 except for the Great Plains area and parts of the West.

Dairy pastures were in generally good to excellent condition for May 1 in the entire Eastern section of the country. In the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas, where milk stock are on full pasture feed, May 1 pastures were in average or better condition and furnishing excellent feed. In the Northeastern section of the country, pastures for dairy cows were furnishing little feed on May 1 but showed above average prospects. In the Great Lakes and upper Mississippi Valley regions, grass made little progress during April, due to below average temperatures. However, soil moisture conditions are excellent and pastures in this important dairy area show excellent promise with warmer growing weather.

Pasture feed for milk stock in the Central and Northern Great Plains area continued very short and made little growth during April. Grassland in this area continued to show effects of last year's drought and, in addition, made little progress due to continued cold weather. However, pasture prospects are much improved due to general April rains and with the advent of warmer weather, grass should make good growth. Dairy pastures in eastern Texas and Oklahoma were supplying excellent green feed on May 1.

Cool weather and lack of moisture generally held back development of dairy pastures during April in the West. Growth of pasture grass in Washington and Oregon was retarded by continued cool nights through most of the month; however, dairy pasture prospects brightened with late April rains and warmer weather. In California, pastures deteriorated throughout April due to continued lack of moisture, but late April rains in Southern Coastal areas and the northern part of the State resulted in improved prospects. In the Rocky Mountain area, pastures made little growth during April due to continued cold and lack of soil moisture. Sufficient moisture to start grass was available on May 1, but substantial rainfall is needed to greatly improve the pasture feed outlook.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Washington, D. C.,
May 11, 1953
3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

CROP REPORT as of
May 1, 1953

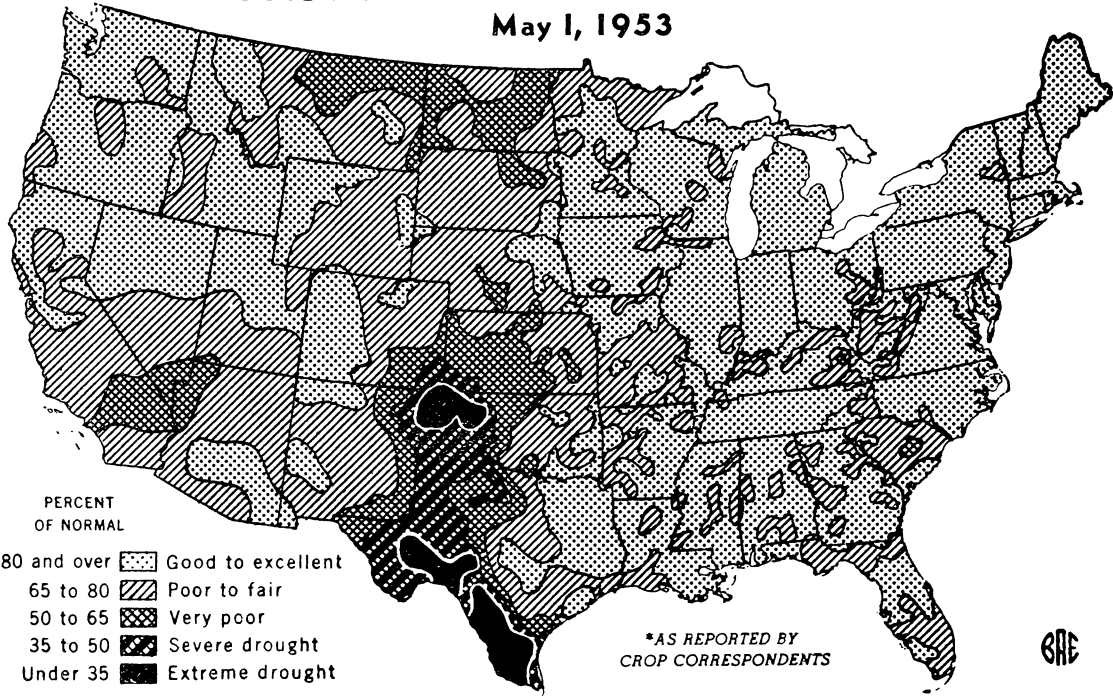
CROP REPORTING BOARD

State and Division	MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/			
	Average 1942 = 51	1951	1952	1953
Pounds				
Me.	16.4	18.3	17.1	16.4
N.H.	16.7	19.5	19.0	20.4
Vt.	18.6	20.0	21.2	21.4
Mass.	19.6	20.8	21.3	22.5
Conn.	19.4	21.5	20.5	21.8
N.Y.	22.5	24.9	24.3	25.6
N.J.	22.8	24.5	24.3	24.5
Pa.	20.8	22.4	22.8	23.0
N. Atl.	20.86	22.93	22.74	23.58
Ohio	18.2	19.8	20.2	21.0
Ind.	17.1	17.6	19.8	19.8
Ill.	18.6	19.6	19.5	19.6
Mich.	21.0	23.3	22.3	23.3
Wis.	22.2	23.5	22.9	23.6
E. N. Cent.	20.28	21.93	21.72	22.32
Minn.	21.0	23.4	23.4	24.4
Iowa	18.4	18.6	18.6	19.7
Mo.	13.5	13.4	13.9	14.4
N. Dak.	16.3	17.8	19.7	18.9
S. Dak.	14.7	15.9	15.0	16.3
Nebr.	17.5	18.1	17.7	18.5
Kans.	17.0	17.6	16.8	18.3
W. N. Cent.	17.36	18.54	18.32	19.49
Md.	18.1	19.7	21.0	20.4
Va.	14.2	16.1	16.6	18.5
W. Va.	12.3	12.9	12.9	12.9
N. C.	13.6	15.4	14.7	15.3
S. C.	11.7	12.0	13.7	12.9
Ga.	10.1	11.1	10.2	10.6
S. Atl.	13.54	14.68	15.26	15.23
Ky.	13.2	13.3	13.6	13.9
Tenn.	12.7	13.6	13.2	13.5
Ala.	10.1	10.0	10.4	10.5
Miss.	8.8	9.5	8.2	10.0
Ark.	10.0	10.3	8.9	10.6
Okla.	12.5	11.8	12.8	14.0
Tex.	9.7	9.0	11.1	10.4
S. Cent.	11.22	11.21	11.59	11.93
Mont.	17.5	17.2	18.0	18.5
Idaho	20.5	22.0	21.7	21.8
Wyo.	17.6	19.4	20.3	20.5
Colo.	17.6	18.5	19.5	18.5
Utah	20.6	23.4	19.5	21.3
Wash.	22.0	22.9	24.2	24.6
Oreg.	21.0	22.5	21.7	21.7
Calif.	22.6	23.0	24.4	24.1
West.	20.73	21.87	22.46	22.17
U.S.	17.35	18.55	18.57	19.13

1/Averages represent daily milk production divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry). Figures for New England States and New Jersey are based on combined returns from crop and special dairy reporters; others represent crop reporters only. Averages for some less important dairy States are not shown separately.

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

May 1, 1953



PERCENT
OF NORMAL

- 80 and over Good to excellent
- 65 to 80 Poor to fair
- 50 to 65 Very poor
- 35 to 50 Severe drought
- Under 35 Extreme drought

*AS REPORTED BY
CROP CORRESPONDENTS

BAC

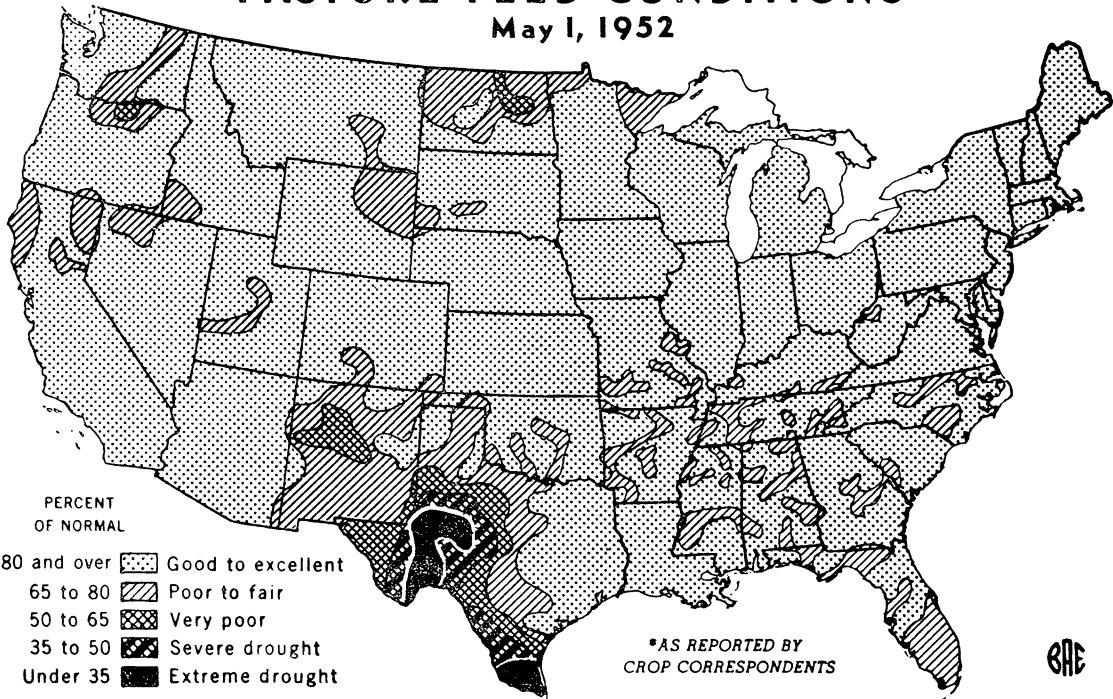
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 49159 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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