

# DAIRY : PRODUCTION

HERBERT R. MANN  
LIBRARY  
March 11, 1954

AUG 9 1954

Milk production on United States farms continued at a high rate during February, according to estimates just released by the Crop Reporting Board. Output for the month totaling 8,980 million pounds, was 5 percent above last year and a new high record for February.

Remarkably mild and comparatively dry weather over practically the entire country during February favored heavy milk production. Supplemental feeding of milking herds was generally liberal. Milk production per cow continued its seasonal upswing at a record high level for this time of the year. The number of milk cows on farms continued to increase, but close culling was reported from local areas where the price-cost squeeze is being felt and where producers are being placed on maximum delivery quotas with the flush season approaching.

On a per capita basis, milk production during February averaged 1.99 pounds per day, the highest for the month in 7 years, but only a little above the 10-year average and some 8 percent below the February peak reached in 1942.

## Milk per cow high in all areas

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on March 1 averaged 17.57 pounds, 4 percent above last year's previous March 1 high and 17 percent above the 10-year average. The seasonal increase from February 1 to March 1 was about normal. The high level of milk production per cow was general over the country. In several major regions, production per cow ranged from 2 to 5 percent above a year ago and from 12 to 19 percent above average.

Table 1.--MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, 1943-52 AV., 1953 AND 1954

Month	Monthly total				Daily averages per capita		
	Average	1953	1954	1954	Average	1953	1954
	1943-52	1953	1954	1953	1943-52	1953	1954
	Million pounds			Percent	Pounds		
Jan.	8,268	8,800	9,172	107	1.84	1.79	1.83
Feb.	8,100	8,555	8,980	105	1.98	1.93	1.99
Mar.	9,599	10,191			2.13	2.07	
Apr.	10,353	10,910			2.38	2.28	
May	12,286	12,637			2.73	2.56	
June	12,327	12,449			2.83	2.60	
July	11,577	11,603			2.56	2.34	
Aug.	10,529	10,624			2.33	2.14	
Sept.	9,156	9,306			2.09	1.93	
Oct.	8,558	8,878			1.89	1.78	
Nov.	7,665	8,359			1.74	1.73	
Dec.	7,931	8,907			1.74	1.78	
Year	116,379	121,219			2.19	2.08	

This report includes milk production and related information released in CROP PRODUCTION, together with selected special summaries brought together for those interested primarily in dairy statistics.

Table 2: ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES <sup>1/</sup>

State	: Feb. : :Average: :1943-52:	: Feb. : 1953 : :	: Jan. : 1954 : :	: Feb. : 1954 : :	: State : :	: Feb. : :Average : :1943-52:	: Feb. : 1953 : :	: Jan. : 1954 : :	: Feb. : 1954 : :
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
N.J.	81	88	96	89	S.C.	40	41	45	44
Pa.	386	441	485	455	Ga.	82	84	97	93
Ohio	334	384	424	400	Ky.	134	153	163	163
Ind.	249	259	270	275	Tenn.	137	151	171	161
Ill.	386	372	398	393	Ala.	89	98	96	97
Mich.	378	397	427	411	Miss.	90	100	105	106
Wis.	1,069	1,181	1,292	1,295	Okla.	155	132	138	134
Minn.	684	722	751	732	Texas	253	238	235	244
Iowa	445	406	440	415	Mont.	41	35	34	35
Mo.	244	253	284	284	Idaho	86	86	100	99
N.Dak.	121	117	110	118	Utah	50	52	57	53
S.Dak.	102	93	93	96	Wash.	121	120	131	124
Nebr.	170	151	155	162	Oreg.	77	74	80	77
Kans.	198	168	188	180	Calif.	415	458	506	495
Va.	114	133	146	136	Other				
W.Va.	51	53	58	52	States	1,245	1,398	1,463	1,436
N.C.	103	117	134	126	U.S.	8,130	8,555	9,172	8,980

<sup>1/</sup>Monthly data for other States not yet available.

The proportion of milk cows in crop correspondents' herds reported in production on March 1 was 69.9 percent, the highest of record for the date. The previous high for March 1 was 68.5 percent reported in 1950. In all major regions, the percentage of cows milked was substantially above a year ago and the 10-year average for March 1.

#### Wisconsin leads in milk output

In 15 of the 31 States for which current estimates are available, February milk production was at a new high for the month. Production was above a year ago by 8 percent or more in Wisconsin, Missouri, North Carolina, Georgia, Idaho, and California, and by more than 5 percent in Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. However, this year's February farm milk output was below the 10-year average in Iowa, Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas -- all States where the number of milk cows is well below that of a decade ago. Wisconsin, as usual, produced more milk than any other State with a total of 1,295 million pounds in February. Minnesota was second with 732 million pounds followed by California with 495 million, Pennsylvania with 455 million, and Iowa with 415 million.

#### NUMBER OF FARMS ENGAGED IN DAIRYING

In appraising the size and character of the Nation's farm dairy industry, one of several possible measures is the number of farms engaged in its various phases. In the accompanying tables are shown the total number of farms in the United States and the number engaged in the production and sale of farm dairy products by size of herd. These data are drawn from the compilations of the 1950 Census of Agriculture taken by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and are the most recent data available on number of farms.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/

State and Division	Average 1943-52	March 1 1953	March 1 1954	State and Division	Average 1943-52	March 1 1953	March 1 1954
Pounds				Pounds			
Maine	13.7	16.0	16.6	Md.	16.3	18.7	19.0
N.H.	16.3	18.4	19.4	Va.	12.2	15.5	15.3
Vt.	15.4	17.7	19.7	W.Va.	10.1	11.0	11.1
Mass.	17.6	18.4	20.9	N.C.	11.8	13.1	14.0
Conn.	18.2	19.0	22.9	S.C.	10.5	11.7	12.0
N.Y.	19.4	22.7	22.7	Ga.	9.0	9.4	10.2
N.J.	21.1	23.2	22.9	S.Atl.	11.68	13.49	13.92
Pa.	18.2	21.0	21.1	Ky.	10.5	11.5	12.2
Del.	18.43	21.19	21.61	Tenn.	10.0	11.0	11.2
Ohio	15.8	18.3	19.1	Ala.	8.4	8.8	8.6
Ind.	14.8	17.5	18.2	Miss.	6.8	7.5	8.2
Ill.	16.4	18.6	19.7	Ark.	7.4	8.3	8.6
Mich.	18.7	20.9	21.2	Okla.	10.3	11.3	11.5
Wis.	19.0	20.7	22.1	Texas	8.3	8.9	10.0
N.Cent.	17.52	19.81	20.83	S.Cent.	9.08	10.03	10.45
Winn.	20.2	22.9	22.6	Mont.	14.4	16.2	16.2
Iowa	16.8	17.8	18.3	Idaho	17.6	19.2	20.0
Mo.	10.6	11.2	12.9	Wyo.	16.1	16.8	17.2
N.Dak.	14.4	16.5	16.5	Colo.	15.8	16.9	18.3
S.Dak.	12.7	14.1	14.9	Utah	18.3	20.0	20.2
Nebr.	15.3	17.5	18.7	Wash.	17.6	20.6	19.6
Kans.	15.0	15.9	18.3	Oreg.	14.3	15.7	15.3
N.Cent.	15.73	17.57	18.29	Calif.	19.4	20.5	22.3
				West.	17.14	18.76	19.12
				U.S.	15.03	16.89	17.57

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.

NUMBER OF FARMS WITH MILK COWS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS BY SIZE OF HERD, UNITED STATES, 1950 1/

Size of herd (Milk Cows)	All farms	Farms with milk cows 2/	Farms where butter was churned 4/		Farms from which dairy products were sold in 1949			
			Whole milk	Other products	Whole milk	Cream	Other products	Any dairy product 6/
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	1,059	1,059	539	61	88	47	180	
	646	646	339	71	125	34	215	
	604	604	264	135	200	23	341	
	717	717	207	314	283	12	589	
	317	317	49	209	100	2	304	
	156	156	15	124	31	1	152	
	119	119	9	106	14	1	118	
	47	47	3	45	2	-	47	
10 and over	17	17	1	17	1	-	17	
Total	5,379	3,682	1,426	1,116	876	126	2,021	

1/Data from 1950 Census of Agriculture, U. S. Department of Commerce. Data are those based on reports for a sample of farms and may differ slightly from enumerated totals not available by size of herd. 2/Farms with no milk cows on the farm about April 1950. A few had produced milk and sold dairy products the previous year. 3/Reporting milk cows on place at time of census enumeration, about April 1950. 4/Reporting butter churned the previous week. 5/Mainly farm-churned butter. 6/Reporting 1 or more dairy products sold. Net total of previous 3 columns excluding duplications.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Milk cows were kept on 3.6 million farms or about two-thirds of the 5.4 million in the United States in April 1950. Some 2.0 million farms sold dairy products in 1949 while 1.6 million produced milk only for use by the residents of the farm. The 2.0 million farms which sold dairy products included 1.1 million selling whole milk, 0.9 million selling cream, and 0.1 million selling other dairy products, chiefly farm-churned butter. These data indicate that there were about 0.1 million farms selling more than one dairy product. Home-made butter was churned on 1.4 million farms, during the week prior to the Census enumeration in April 1950.

Distribution of farms according to size of milk cow herds showed 1,704 thousand farms with only 1 or 2 milk cows. These farms kept milk cows principally to supply the farm family with dairy products, although nearly one-fourth sold a small quantity of milk, cream, or butter. There were 1,321 thousand herds of 3 to 9 milk cows, which represent mainly side-line milking enterprises on diversified general farms. Herds of 10 to 19 milk cows totaled 473 thousand. These might be considered as small to moderate sized dairy operations. More specialized herds of 20 milk cows or more numbered 183 thousand, including 17 thousand with 50 or more milk cows.

Four-fifths of the 1,426 thousand farms churning home-made butter had less than 5 milk cows. On 539 thousand farms making butter, there was only one milk cow, on 339 thousand, 2 milk cows, and on 264 thousand 3 or 4 milk cows. The 876 thousand farms selling farm-skimmed cream was concentrated in the smaller intermediate size of-herd groups with 325 thousand having 2 to 4 milk cows; 283 thousand, 5 to 9 milk cows; and only 148 thousand, 10 milk cows or more. The 1,116 thousand farms selling whole milk were graduated toward the larger sized herds, with 314 thousand in the 5 to 9 cow group, 333 thousand in the 10 to 19 cow group, and 168 thousand with 20 or more milk cows.