DAIRY PRODUCTION

April 14, 1954

SUMMARY

Milk production on United States farms during March totaled 10,713 million pounds -- 5 percent above last year's previous all-time high for the month. This is the 6th consecutive month of new record high monthly milk production. Output in the first three months of 1954 totaled 28.9 billion pounds -- 1.3 billion pounds above January-March 1953. Production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 18.55 pounds -- 3 percent above last year's previous record high. Production per cow established new highs for April 1 in 25 of the States. Crop reporters were feeding grains and concentrates at the record high April 1 rate of 6.33 pounds per cow in herds. Ample supplies of grain on farms and cool weather and storms in many areas encouraged liberal feeding in all areas. The condition of pastures in regions where milk cows are normally on green feed on April 1 averaged 69 percent of normal -- the lowest condition for the date since 1937, and the third lowest condition of record for April 1. In the southern States east of the Mississippi River and in California, dairy pastures responded to March rains and were making good growth on April 1. In Missouri, parts of Iowa, and in the Ohio Valley, pastures were still showing effects of last year's drought. In the northern part of the country, pasture feed had made little growth with cool weather and some snow cover in parts, but moisture supplies are considered sufficient to start new growth. Grass feed in much of the central and southern Great Plains States and New Mexico was critically short on April 1 due to the continued lack of rain.

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

Month	Monthly total			1954 as percent of 1953	Daily average per capita		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954		Average 1943-52	1953	1954
	Million pounds			Percent	Pounds		
Jan.	8,268	8,800	9,172	104	1.84	1.79	1.83
Feb.	8,130	8,555	8,980	105	1.98	1.93	1.99
Mar.	9,599	10,191	10,713	105	2.13	2.07	2.14
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.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Agricultural Marketing Service
Crop Reporting Board

March milk production showed about the usual seasonal increase over February. Total March output, estimated at 10,713 million pounds, was 5 percent above last year's previous all-time high for the month, and 12 percent above the 1943-52 average. Continued heavy supplemental feeding to the increased number of cows in milking herds contributed to the record outturn. Considered relative to population, March milk production averaged 2.14 pounds per capita per day, the highest since 1947 but otherwise the lowest for the month since 1938. Total U. S. production in the first 3 months of 1954 was 1.3 billion pounds or 4.8 percent above the January-March 1953 output.

Regionally, April 1 output record high except in South

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 was at the record high rate of 18.55 pounds--3 percent above the April 1, 1953 previous record high. By regions, April 1 output per cow in the North Atlantic area exceeded last year's record high by less than 1 percent, and in the East and West North Central regions by 5 and 4 percent, respectively. In the West, April 1 production per cow was 3 percent above the 1952 previous high. In the South Central and South Atlantic regions, the April 1 output was 2 and 3 percent, respectively, below last year's peak, but still the second highest of record. Production per cow in crop reporters herds on April 1 set new record highs for the date in more than half of the States. Crop reporters were milking a record high 72.4 percent of the milk cows in their herds on April 1--2 percent above the April 1, 1950 previous high, and 4 percent above the 1943-52 average for the date.

Of the 31 States for which monthly milk production estimates are currently available, March output was a new high for the month in 17 States and equaled the record high in 2 more. March production was above a year ago in every State except Utah, Oklahoma, and Texas. However, output was below average for the month in the central and southern Great Plains States, Iowa and Oregon where the low level in cow numbers more than offset the high output per cow. Wisconsin produced 1,563 million pounds of milk in March--8 percent above a year earlier--to lead all States in production. Minnesota was next with 854 million pounds, followed by California and Pennsylvania with 602 and 541 million pounds, respectively.

Table 2.-ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	March average 1943-52	March 1953	Feb. 1954	March 1954	State	March average 1943-52	March 1953	Feb. 1954	March 1954
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
N.J.	93	102	89	104	S. C.	46	48	44	50
Pa.	454	524	455	541	Ga.	95	100	93	107
Ohio	398	456	400	492	Ky.	154	175	163	183
Ind.	282	313	275	331	Tenn.	163	183	161	190
Ill.	441	440	393	465	Ala.	102	108	97	112
Mich.	436	463	411	488	Miss.	110	122	106	130
Wis.	1,303	1,442	1,295	1,563	Okla.	183	160	134	160
Minn.	801	841	732	854	Texas	300	292	244	278
Iowa	525	483	415	491	Mont.	47	40	35	42
Mo.	289	311	284	349	Idaho	101	104	99	120
N.Dak.	144	141	118	145	Utah	56	58	53	58
S.Dak.	121	110	96	115	Wash.	144	145	124	147
Nebr.	196	179	162	192	Oreg.	99	96	77	98
Kans.	225	201	180	217	Calif.	502	550	505	602
Va.	131	154	136	155	Other States	1,482	1,660	1,426	1,728
W.Va.	59	60	52	62	U. S.	9,599	10,191	8,980	10,713
N.C.	117	130	126	144					

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

GRAIN AND CONCENTRATES FED TO MILK COWS

Farmers continued to feed grain and other concentrates at a record rate per milk cow as the feeding season passed its late-winter seasonal peak. On April 1, milk cows in herds kept by crop reporters were fed a daily average of 6.33 pounds of concentrate ration per cow, compared with 6.18 pounds a year ago, and the previous high for April 1 of 6.28 pounds in 1951. The amount fed per cow was the same as reported on February 1, this year, in comparison with a usual slight increase between the two dates. Abundant supplies of grain on farms coupled with cool weather and storms in many areas during late March encouraged liberal feeding.

Dairy product-feed price ratios less favorable

The value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows was about 5 percent less than a year ago and the lowest since 1950. In milk selling areas, rations fed in March were worth $3.46 per hundredweight, in cream selling areas, $3.08, and for all commercial areas an average of $3.40. However, with prices of dairy products lower, dairy product-feed price relationships did not appear conducive to heavy feeding of milk cows. The milk-feed price ratio was about 8 percent below the longtime average and the butterfat-feed price ratio some 14 percent below. Both were a little less favorable than a year ago.

Heaviest feeding in North Atlantic and North Central areas

Regionally, the amount of grain fed per milk cow in the East North Central States was the highest recorded for April 1 in 11 years of record. In the North Atlantic and West North Central States, the rate of feeding equaled previous records, and in the Southern regions was substantially above average although lower than in one or two other years. In the Western region, the amount fed per cow was about average. For the country as a whole, eighty-nine percent of the farmers reporting on April 1 this year were feeding some grain or other concentrates to their milking herds compared with 86 to 89 percent for the date over the previous 11-year period.

Table 3.-DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	Mar. 1933-52 av.	Mar. 1953	Feb. 1954	Mar. 1954	Mar. 1933-52 av.	Mar. 1953	Feb. 1954	Mar. 1954
N. Atl.	1.20	1.12	1.18	1.12	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.24	1.17	1.17	1.11	22.8	20.1	19.9	19.2
W.N.C.	1.45	1.24	1.25	1.18	26.2	22.4	23.0	22.0
S. Atl.	1.52	1.42	1.46	1.40	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.38	1.26	1.36	1.26	18.1	14.3	15.8	14.9
West	1.28	1.29	1.26	1.19	20.7	16.8	18.4	17.7
U. S.	1.26	1.20	1.22	1.16	23.7	20.6	21.3	20.4

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 PASTURES

Condition of pastures on April 1 in the areas where milk cows are usually on green feed averaged 69 percent of normal -- the lowest condition for the date since 1937 and the third lowest of record for April 1. The current condition compares with 78 percent a year ago and the 1943-52 average April 1 condition of 77 percent. The national average condition reflected extreme drought in a large section of the lower Great Plains, closely cropped pastures in many other areas that were dry late last year, and cool weather during March that tended to delay early growth in the southern section where dairy stock normally are on pasture by April 1. Outside the southwestern drought areas, soil moisture was mostly ample to start new feed and prospects are for improvement with the coming of warm weather.

March rains improved pastures in Southeast and California

In southern States east of the Mississippi River considerable feed for milk stock was being supplied by winter grazing crops and, with improved moisture conditions growth of new grass was responding to warmer weather. California pastures were growing well as the result of well distributed March rains, while in the northern Pacific Coast States, cool weather held back early growth although moisture appeared adequate, except in portions of Oregon. In the northern States further east, many pastures were still under snow cover, but moisture supplies in most places were sufficient to start new growth when the pasture season arrives. In Missouri, parts of Iowa, the Ohio Valley, and many areas of the South, effects of last year's drought on pastures held over even though some moisture has been received this spring.

Grass feed in much of Texas, New Mexico, western Oklahoma, western Kansas, and eastern Colorado was critically short as the result of less than 50 percent of normal rainfall during the last several months. In many areas this followed drought conditions of much longer duration. Cured pasture feed in these areas was scarce and new growth will be very limited until soaking rains are received. The condition of pastures on April 1 in Texas was the lowest for the date in three decades of record, and in New Mexico and Colorado, the lowest since 1935, and in Kansas and Oklahoma, the lowest since 1940. Wheat pastures provided some feed, but in many sections livestock had to be pulled off to minimize soil blowing.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CROP REPORT as of April 1, 1954 — AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE — CROP REPORTING BOARD — Washington, D. C., April 9, 1954 3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

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

State and Division	Milk produced per milk cow: Apr. 1 av. 1943-52	Milk produced per milk cow: April 1, 1953	Milk produced per milk cow: April 1, 1954	"Grain" fed per milk cow 2/: Apr. 1 av. 1944-53	"Grain" fed per milk cow 2/: April 1, 1953	"Grain" fed per milk cow 2/: April 1, 1954
	Pounds			Pounds		
Maine	14.8	16.1	19.2	6.0	6.6	6.9
N.H.	17.6	21.2	21.4	5.8	5.4	6.6
Vt.	17.7	21.0	21.1	6.2	6.5	6.2
Mass.	18.6	21.0	21.1	6.6	6.1	6.7
Conn.	19.1	19.4	23.4	6.5	6.8	7.3
N.Y.	21.4	24.8	24.2	7.2	7.9	7.8
N.J.	21.9	23.3	23.7	8.3	8.0	8.1
Pa.	19.8	22.3	22.3	8.0	8.1	8.0
N.Atl.	19.93	22.86	22.93	7.2	7.6	7.6
Ohio	16.9	19.6	20.7	6.7	7.1	7.3
Ind.	15.7	18.5	19.0	6.3	7.0	6.9
Ill.	17.4	19.1	20.1	7.4	7.3	7.9
Mich.	20.0	22.2	23.2	6.8	7.4	7.3
Wis.	20.6	22.4	23.3	6.7	7.1	7.1
E.N.Cent.	18.91	21.17	22.16	6.8	7.2	7.3
Minn.	21.1	23.8	23.6	6.5	7.0	7.3
Iowa	17.6	18.5	18.9	7.9	8.1	7.8
Mo.	11.6	13.1	14.6	5.2	5.7	6.4
N.Dak.	15.3	17.6	17.8	5.2	5.4	5.8
S.Dak.	13.4	15.4	16.4	4.8	4.4	5.2
Nebr.	16.0	18.2	19.5	6.1	5.7	5.9
Kans.	15.9	17.3	18.8	5.7	6.1	6.5
W.N.Cent.	16.49	18.42	19.20	6.2	6.5	6.8
Md.	17.0	18.7	19.0	7.5	7.2	7.7
Va.	13.0	16.7	15.5	5.4	5.9	5.6
W.Va.	10.6	11.0	11.8	4.1	3.9	4.4
N.C.	12.3	12.8	14.7	5.4	5.5	6.2
S.C.	11.4	12.4	12.4	4.0	4.2	3.9
Ga.	9.6	10.4	10.5	4.2	4.0	4.4
S.Atl.	12.25	14.25	13.87	5.0	5.0	5.3
Ky.	11.3	12.3	12.2	5.6	5.7	6.0
Tenn.	11.0	12.4	12.1	4.8	4.7	5.6
Ala.	9.3	9.3	9.1	4.6	4.3	5.0
Miss.	7.7	9.1	8.8	3.6	3.8	3.3
Ark.	8.0	8.8	10.1	3.7	3.8	4.7
Okla.	10.9	12.9	12.4	4.5	4.9	4.7
Texas	9.1	11.5	9.5	4.3	5.3	4.9
S.Cent.	9.85	11.23	11.05	4.3	4.6	4.8
Mont.	15.2	16.3	17.4	4.1	4.5	4.7
Idaho	18.9	20.2	21.4	4.4	4.7	4.5
Wyo.	16.6	18.0	18.5	4.1	4.3	4.6
Colo.	16.8	19.7	18.3	5.3	5.3	5.5
Utah	19.3	20.9	20.2	4.4	4.6	4.5
Wash.	19.0	21.2	20.9	6.1	6.2	5.8
Oreg.	17.0	17.8	18.0	4.9	5.1	5.2
Calif.	20.9	22.4	22.8	4.9	5.0	4.5
W.	18.56	19.95	20.58	4.9	5.1	4.9
U.S.	16.10	18.07	18.55	5.91	6.18	6.33

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.