

DAIRY PRODUCTION

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Milk production on United States farms during April was 4 percent above a year ago and for the seventh consecutive month set a new high record for that time of year. In the first four months of 1954, output totaled 40.2 billion pounds, 1 3/4 billion pounds above the same period last year. On May 1, production per cow in crop reporters' herds exceeded last year's previous high for the date, with production at a high level in all regions. Crop reporters were milking a record high 75.5 percent of the milk cows in their herds on May 1. Dairy pasture feed condition improved rapidly during April and on May 1 averaged 83 percent of normal, about average for the date and slightly more favorable than a year ago. Dairy pastures were generally in good to excellent condition from the Mississippi River eastward. Grass feed improved sharply during April in most South Atlantic and Mississippi Valley States and was furnishing ample feed for dairy stock on May 1. Rains greatly improved pasture feed in much of Texas and eastern parts of Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. In the north from the Great Lakes States eastward prospects were for lush pasture feed with the advent of warm weather. In the Pacific Northwest, pastures were retarded during April by cold weather but in California grass feed was plentiful.

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

Month	Monthly total			Percent	Daily average per capita		
	Average	1953	1954		Average	1953	1954
	1943-52			1954	1943-52		
	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	11,345	104	2.38	2.28	2.34
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.

Milk Production Continues Record High

Milk production on United States farms during April totaled 11,345 million pounds, exceeding the previous record for the month set a year ago by 4 percent. Milk production per cow increased only a little less than seasonally from April 1 to May 1, and continued at a record high level. The high output per cow was aided by mild April weather and by new green feed by the end of the month in all but the more northern sections of the country. The number of milk cows on farms was the largest since 1947, though still more than one-tenth below the 1944 peak. Milk production per capita for April averaged 2.34 pounds per day, the highest for the month in 5 years, but 2 percent below the April average for 1943-52. In the first four months of 1954, milk production totaled 40.2 billion pounds, some 4½ percent above last year's previous record for the period.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters on May 1 averaged 19.93 pounds. This was 14 percent above the 10-year average for the date and continued the record high level of recent months. In all regions, production per cow exceeded the record high level of recent months. In all regions, production per cow exceeded average, ranging from 7 percent above in the West to 18 percent in the West North Central area. Output per cow was above a year ago in all major regions, although up only slightly in the North Atlantic States. The proportion of milk cows in crop reporters herds being milked on May 1, at 75.5 percent, was record high for the date. The percentage milked was the highest recorded for May 1 in the North Central and North Atlantic groups of States, and was substantially above average in all regions.

April production below average in Plains and Northwest

In 18 of the 31 States for which monthly milk production estimates are currently available, April output this year set a new high for the month. Milk production equaled or exceeded that in April last year in all States except those in the southern Great Plains. Increases over April 1953 were 4 percent or more in all the East North Central States, Missouri, the central Great Plains States, most of the South Atlantic States, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Idaho, and California. However, production was below the April 10-year average in Iowa, the Great Plains States, Montana, Washington and Oregon--all States where milk cow numbers are substantially below the average of the past decade. Wisconsin herds produced 1,647 million pounds of milk in April to lead all States in output. Minnesota was second with 861 million pounds, followed by California with 626 million, Pennsylvania with 550 million and Ohio with 519 million pounds.

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

State	April : average : 1943-52 :	April : 1953 :	March : 1954 :	April : 1954 :	State	April : average : 1943-52 :	April : 1953 :	March : 1954 :	April : 1954 :
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N.J.	94	102	104	104	S.C.	49	51	50	51
Pa.	473	537	541	550	Ga.	101	107	107	111
Ohio	433	482	492	519	Ky.	183	203	183	211
Ind.	298	321	331	336	Tenn.	191	218	190	221
Ill.	459	444	465	465	Ala.	112	118	112	121
Mich.	456	480	488	497	Miss.	128	145	130	151
Wis.	1,404	1,533	1,563	1,647	Okla.	205	178	160	171
Minn.	796	843	854	861	Texas	338	323	278	281
Iowa	542	502	491	515	Mont.	53	45	42	41
Mo.	339	370	349	419	Idaho	112	117	120	131
N.Dak.	159	155	145	157	Utah	59	61	58	61
S.Dak.	131	118	115	124	Wash.	165	159	147	161
Nebr.	216	194	192	206	Oreg.	122	116	98	111
Kans.	252	223	217	232	Calif.	540	586	602	621
Va.	145	167	155	168	Other				
W.Va.	65	65	62	69	States	1,604	1,803	1,728	1,801
N.C.	129	144	144	161	U.S.	10,353	10,910	10,713	11,345

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

DAIRY PASTURES

Pasture feed conditions improved sharply during April from the Great Plains States eastward to the Coast. Condition of United States dairy pastures on May 1 averaged 83 percent of normal, 1 percentage point above a year ago, and equal to the 1943-52 average for the date. Pastures improved 1 1/2 points from the low condition on April 1 as compared to a usual increase of 6 points in this period.

Rain and warmer weather boost pasture prospects in East

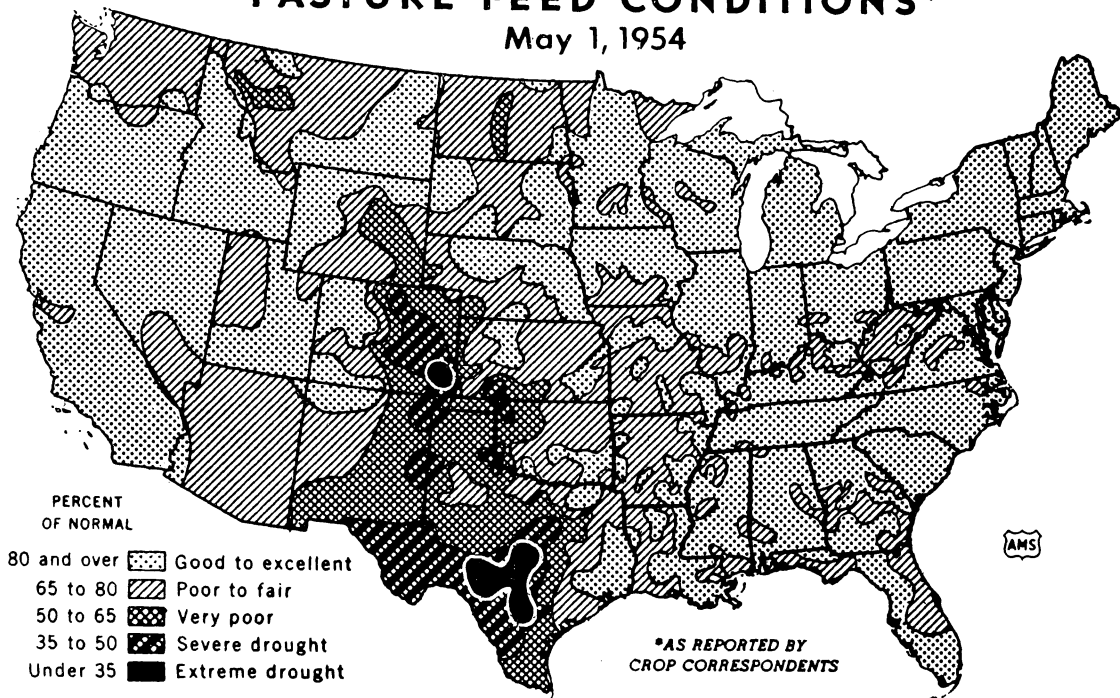
Dairy pastures on May 1 were in good to excellent condition from the Mississippi River eastward. In the southeastern States, where dairy stock were on full grass feed by the first of May, pastures were in above average condition, except in the Virginias and showed substantial improvement over April 1 in all States. Pastures in the Central and Lower Mississippi Valley States got off to a slow start in early spring, but made vigorous growth in response to April rains and by May 1 were supplying excellent feed for milk cows. In the entire northern section of the country from the Great Lakes States eastward excellent feed for milk stock is in prospect as the result of generous rainfall and above average temperatures over this area in April.

Cool weather held back pastures in Northwest

Substantial rainfall over much of the Central and Lower Great Plains States in April and early May relieved the critical drought in the more important dairy sections of the area, and green feed condition and prospects were greatly improved. In the northern Great Plains States, soil moisture was generally favorable, with good feed for dairy stock in prospect when the weather warms up. In the northern Rocky Mountain States and Pacific Northwest, pasture development was limited by below normal temperatures for April with some shortage of moisture in parts of these States. In California favorable moisture conditions and warm temperatures have resulted in very good early May pasture feed.

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

May 1, 1954



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

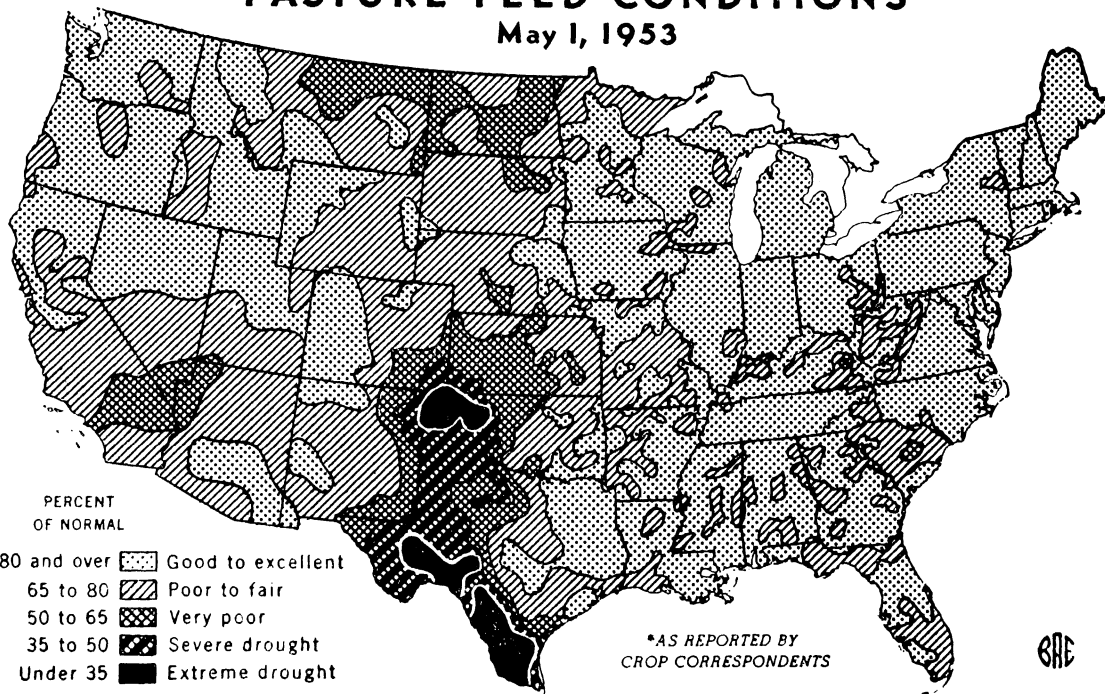
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 49159 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CROP REPORT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Washington, D. C.,

as of

CROP REPORTING BOARD

May 10, 1954

May 1, 1954

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

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

State and Division	Average 1943-52	1952	1953	1954
Pounds				
Maine	16.5	17.1	16.4	20.2
N.H.	17.1	19.0	20.4	21.8
Vt.	18.9	21.2	21.4	22.3
Mass.	19.8	21.3	22.5	22.6
Conn.	19.5	20.5	21.8	24.6
N.Y.	22.6	24.3	25.6	24.7
N.J.	23.0	24.3	24.5	24.2
Pa.	21.0	22.8	23.0	23.1
N. Atl.	21.06	22.74	23.58	23.63
Ohio	18.4	20.2	21.0	22.0
Ind.	17.4	19.8	19.8	21.1
Ill.	18.7	19.5	19.6	21.2
Mich.	21.2	22.3	23.3	23.3
Wis.	22.3	22.2	23.6	24.8
E. N. Cent.	20.50	21.72	22.32	23.38
Minn.	21.4	23.4	24.4	24.6
Iowa	18.5	18.6	19.7	20.5
Mo.	13.6	13.9	14.4	16.8
N. Dak.	16.7	19.7	18.9	18.7
S. Dak.	14.7	15.0	16.3	18.5
Nebr.	17.5	17.7	18.5	19.9
Kans.	17.0	16.8	18.3	20.1
W. N. Cent.	17.51	18.32	19.49	20.60
Md.	18.5	21.0	20.4	21.0
Va.	14.7	16.6	18.5	18.2
W. Va.	12.5	12.9	12.9	13.7
N. C.	13.8	14.7	15.3	16.2
S. C.	11.9	13.7	12.9	13.7
Ga.	10.3	10.9	10.6	11.5
S. Atl.	13.87	15.26	15.23	15.83
Ky.	13.4	13.6	13.9	14.9
Tenn.	12.9	13.2	13.5	13.5
Ala.	10.2	10.4	10.5	9.9
Miss.	8.8	8.2	10.0	9.8
Ark.	9.9	8.9	10.6	11.9
Okla.	12.6	12.8	14.0	14.5
Texas	9.8	11.1	10.4	10.0
S. Cent.	11.32	11.59	11.93	12.35
Mont.	17.6	18.0	18.5	18.3
Idaho	20.8	21.7	21.8	22.4
Wyo.	18.1	20.3	20.5	20.9
Colo.	17.9	19.5	18.5	18.9
Utah	20.6	19.5	21.3	22.1
Wash.	22.3	24.2	24.6	22.6
Oreg.	21.0	21.7	21.7	21.0
Calif.	22.8	24.4	24.1	26.8
West.	21.02	22.46	22.17	22.58
U.S.	17.54	18.57	19.13	19.93

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.