

# DAIRY PRODUCTION

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ROBERT R. MANN

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July 9, 1954

## SUMMARY

AUG 9 1954

Production of milk on United States farms during June totaled 12,740 million pounds -- the second largest output for the month in a quarter century of records. In the first six months of 1954, farm milk production totaled 66.1 billion pounds -- 2.6 billion pounds more milk than last year's previous record for the period. Production per cow in crop reporters' herds showed a near record seasonal drop from June 1 to July 1 and on the latter date averaged 19.78 pounds, slightly above a year earlier, but 1 percent below the 1951 record high for the date. This is the first time in 9 months that output per cow on the first of the month has failed to establish a new high for the date. The proportion of milk cows in production in crop reporters' herds reached an early seasonal peak and dropped to slightly below average. Dairy pasture feed condition on July 1 averaged 82.3 percent of normal, slightly above July 1 a year ago, but 4 points below average for the date. Dairy pastures over most of the northern section of the country and on the Pacific Coast were generally supplying good to excellent feed for dairy stock. However, in the southern section of the country from the Rocky Mountains eastward to the Atlantic Coast, dairy pasture feed deteriorated sharply during June under hot drying winds and continued lack of moisture.

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				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	13,178	104	2.73	2.56	2.62
June	12,327	12,449	12,740	102	2.83	2.60	2.62
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  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Crop Reporting Board

June milk output shows smaller increase over a year ago

Milk production passed its seasonal peak in early June and turned downward more rapidly than usual under influence of hot, dry weather in many areas. June milk output on United States farms totaled 12,740 million pounds, the second largest production for the month in 25 years of records, having been exceeded only in 1945. It was, however, only 2 percent higher than in the same month last year, as compared with increases of 4 or 5 percent recorded in earlier months this year. Milk production in June was equivalent to 2.62 pounds daily for each person in the United States, slightly more than in the same month of either of the past two years, but 7 percent below the 10-year average for June. In the first 6 months of 1954, milk production on farms totaled 66.1 billion pounds, some 2.6 billion pounds higher than in the first half of 1953.

July 1 production per cow shows near record seasonal drop

On July 1, milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 19.78 pounds, a trifle above the 19.73 pounds a year earlier, but 1 percent below the 1953 record for the date. Between June 1 and July 1, production per cow declined 7 percent, equaling the third sharpest drop for the month in 3 decades of record. In all regions, July 1 milk production per cow was above average, with the National average up 5 percent. However, in 4 of the 6 major regions, production per cow was below July 1 a year ago. Cows being milked on July 1 represented 76.0 percent of the total milk cows in crop reporters' herds, a decline of 0.7 percentage points from June 1, the sharpest that has been recorded for the month. Prior to 1950, the percentage of cows milked regularly reached its seasonal peak on July 1 rather than June 1. The percentage of cows milked on July 1 this year was above average only in the North Central region.

Among the 32 States for which monthly milk production estimates are currently available, new high records for June were set this year in 13 States. Included in this group were States in the Great Lakes, Central East Coast, Middle South, and Western areas. On the other hand, production was below the 10-year average in a number of Cornbelt, Great Plains, and Northwestern States, where milk cow numbers are now considerably below the level of a decade ago. In Arkansas, for which monthly milk production estimates appear for the first time in this report, June milk output totaling 152 million pounds was the highest for the month in 9 years. Leading States in June milk production this year were Wisconsin, 1,789 million pounds; Minnesota, 924 million pounds; Iowa, 638 million pounds; and California, 628 million pounds.

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

State	June : average : 1943-52 :	June : 1953 :	May : 1954 :	June : 1954 :	State	June : average : 1943-52 :	June : 1953 :	May : 1954 :	June : 1954 :
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N. J.	98	101	114	102	S. C.	53	55	60	55
Pa.	516	553	611	555	Ga.	106	109	119	111
Ohio	544	573	607	598	Ky.	243	263	273	271
Ind.	376	393	421	401	Tenn.	230	247	262	251
Ill.	546	520	554	538	Ala.	125	133	135	131
Mich.	558	571	573	585	Miss.	146	148	174	161
Wis.	1,688	1,760	1,859	1,789	Ark.	140	131	157	151
Minn.	927	934	949	924	Okla.	237	185	210	181
Iowa	691	640	654	638	Texas	367	293	307	291
Mo.	424	447	489	459	Mont.	72	58	58	61
N. Dak.	240	226	199	222	Idaho	132	137	153	151
S. Dak.	189	163	159	166	Utah	68	68	70	61
Nebr.	274	242	245	245	Wash.	193	179	189	181
Kans.	284	246	271	251	Oreg.	144	133	139	131
Va.	180	196	202	195	Calif.	541	606	662	621
W. Va.	86	83	84	84	Other States	1,767	1,899	2,046	1,951
N. C.	142	157	173	169	U. S.	12,327	12,449	13,178	12,741

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

Pastures good in North, decline in South

The condition of United States dairy pastures on July 1 averaged 82.3 percent of normal -- one percentage point above the July 1, 1953 condition but 4 points below the 10-year average for the date. Pasture feed for milk stock deteriorated sharply during the last half of June across the entire southern half of the country from the Rocky Mountains eastward to the Atlantic Coast. On the other hand, dairy pastures across most of the northern section of the country were in generally good to excellent condition on July 1.

Over most of New England, above normal rainfall during June resulted in lush July 1 green feed for milk stock. In the important dairy states in the upper Great Lakes area, pastures responded sharply to timely June rains and were supplying excellent grazing on July 1. In northern portions of Indiana and Illinois, dairy pastures were furnishing adequate feed but in the southern portions they had deteriorated badly and were in critical need of rain. In the northern Great Plains States and Montana, pasture feed was very favorable for July 1. In the Pacific Northwest, grass feed for dairy stock generally showed much improvement during June. California pasture feed on July 1 was good in nearly all areas of the State.

Atlantic and Gulf areas dry

Pasture feed deteriorated sharply during June in the group of States from New Jersey southward along the Atlantic Coast to Georgia and westward along the Gulf. High temperatures and continued lack of rain during June greatly reduced pasture feed for dairy stock although fair grazing was available in most of these States. Pasture conditions on July 1 were below average in most States in the Southeast ranging down to as much as 29 and 33 points below in Maryland and Delaware. Dairy pastures in the Central Mississippi Valley States also began to deteriorate rapidly in late June under continued high temperatures, with an especially sharp decline in Arkansas.

Continued drought further intensified critically short pasture feed conditions in the Central and Southern Rocky Mountain States area during June. Condition of Colorado pastures on July 1 averaged 36 percent of normal, the lowest for the date in over 70 years of record, 30 points below June 1 and 48 points below average for July 1. Grass feed which showed improvement in early June in the central and southern Great Plains area deteriorated substantially in late June in southern Kansas, Oklahoma, and in most of Texas under hot drying winds and lack of rain.

Table 3.-Dairy Product-Feed Price Ratios, by Regions

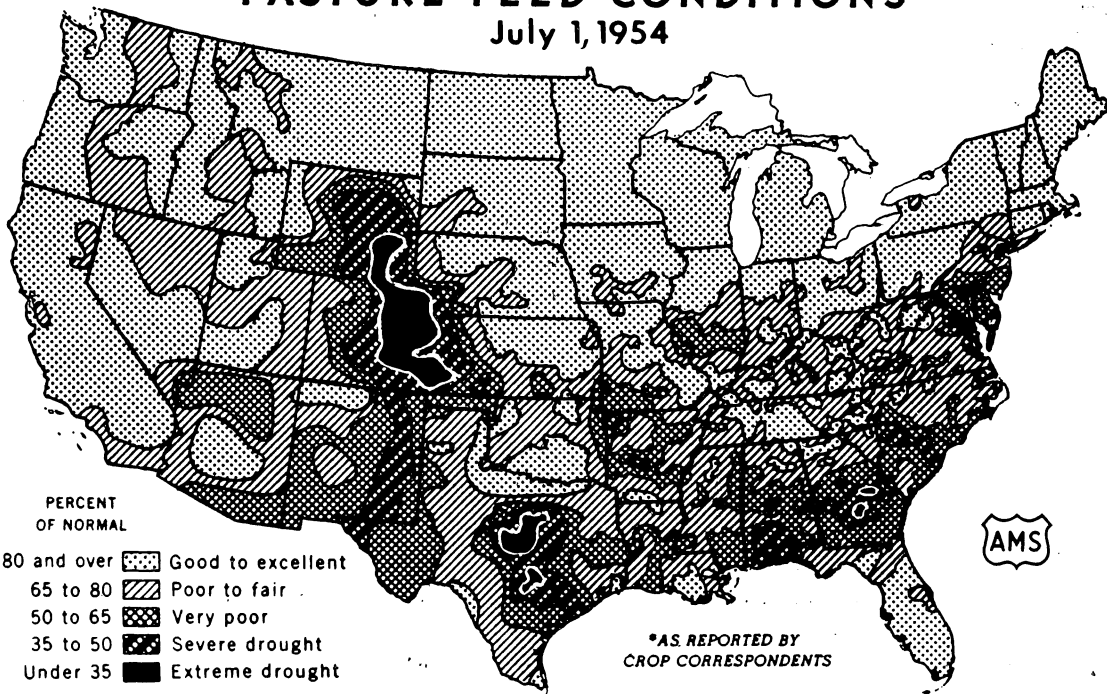
Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	June 1933-:	June	May	June	June 1933-:	June	May	June
	52 av.	1953	1954	1954	52 av.	1953	1954	1954
N. Atl.	1.09	1.05	.94	.96	-	-	-	-
E. N. C.	1.12	1.11	.99	.99	21.0	20.2	17.6	17.4
W. N. C.	1.33	1.22	1.07	1.06	24.3	23.9	20.2	20.4
S. Atl.	1.36	1.30	1.26	1.29	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.23	1.17	1.12	1.14	16.7	14.8	13.7	14.0
West.	1.17	1.15	1.13	1.12	19.4	17.2	16.0	15.9
U. S.	1.14	1.12	1.03	1.04	22.0	21.6	18.7	18.8

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.

# PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS\*

July 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

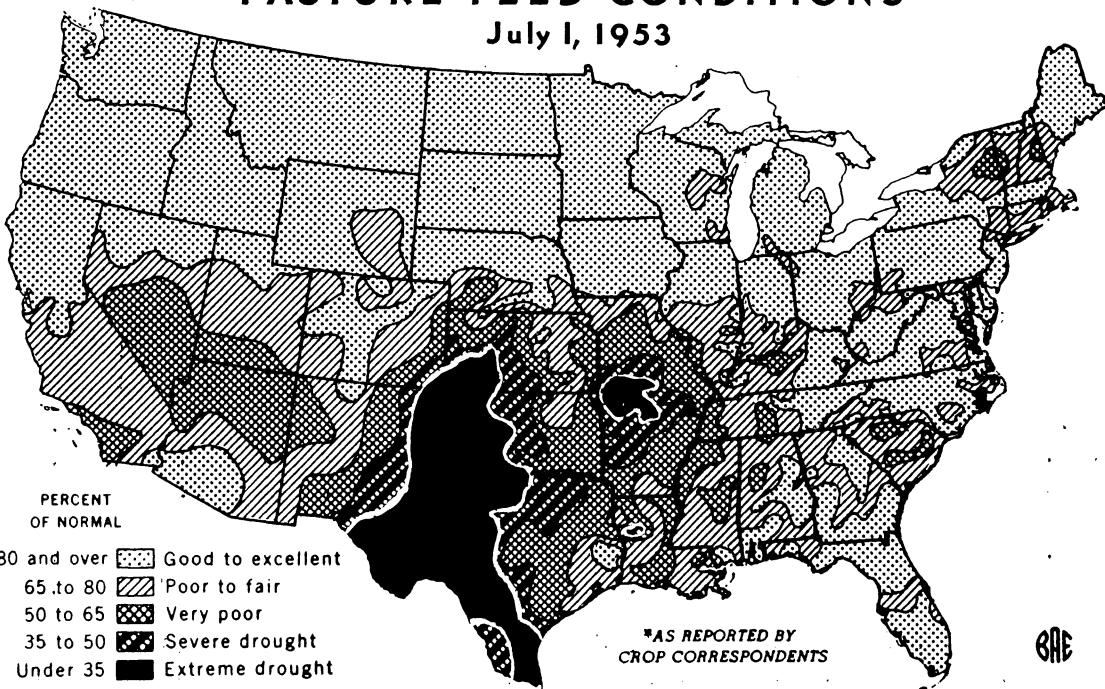
\* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 880-54 (7) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 49270 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

State and Division	Milk produced per cow in herds kept by reporters 1/			Dairy pasture feed condition 2/		
	July 1, 1943-52 av.	July 1, 1953	July 1, 1954	July 1, 1943-52 av.	July 1, 1953	July 1, 1954
	Pounds			Percent of normal		
Me.	20.6	22.7	22.4	89	88	98
N. H.	19.6	22.5	22.0	90	67	98
Vt.	21.3	22.5	21.8	92	71	99
Mass.	21.1	21.0	21.9	87	79	95
Conn.	20.1	21.2	22.5	89	80	85
N. Y.	24.4	25.0	25.0	88	82	90
N. J.	22.8	22.6	22.1	81	83	64
Pa.	21.8	22.4	22.5	87	87	80
N. Atl.	22.46	23.30	23.25	88	82	88
Ohio	20.6	21.9	23.3	90	86	81
Ind.	19.7	20.8	21.4	92	83	79
Ill.	19.9	21.3	21.5	91	80	77
Mich.	23.8	25.2	25.0	89	91	94
Wis.	24.5	25.6	25.0	88	87	92
E. N. C.	22.62	23.91	24.05	90	86	86
Minn.	22.2	24.9	23.9	88	97	93
Iowa	20.7	22.0	21.4	95	90	87
Mo.	15.4	15.7	16.3	89	54	77
N. Dak.	20.1	21.6	20.3	81	98	92
S. Dak.	17.8	19.2	19.3	87	96	93
Nebr.	18.8	21.1	20.1	89	84	82
Kans.	16.8	17.7	18.1	86	57	77
W. N. Cent.	19.05	20.66	20.28	89	84	87
Md.	18.6	19.2	19.0	86	81	57
Va.	15.9	17.9	17.0	86	89	69
W. Va.	15.8	15.2	15.7	89	83	75
N. C.	14.7	15.9	16.5	80	82	71
S. C.	12.4	12.4	12.8	73	66	58
Ga.	10.4	10.6	10.0	76	81	62
S. Atl.	14.59	15.29	15.17	82	82	66
Ky.	15.2	15.1	15.4	86	77	76
Tenn.	13.6	13.2	14.0	80	75	78
Ala.	10.5	10.2	9.0	77	75	65
Miss.	9.2	8.4	9.2	79	68	70
Ark.	10.7	10.2	10.8	82	49	64
Okla.	12.6	11.9	12.6	84	46	73
Tex.	10.0	9.3	9.6	76	43	60
S. Cent.	11.60	11.12	11.76	80	59	69
Mont.	20.6	21.0	21.1	85	97	89
Idaho	22.8	24.4	25.1	92	93	89
Wyo.	20.9	22.5	20.6	90	81	61
Colo.	19.6	20.2	19.9	84	73	36
Utah	21.8	22.4	22.1	86	79	76
Wash.	23.6	25.1	23.9	87	96	89
Oreg.	22.3	22.5	22.8	89	96	89
Calif.	22.4	25.6	24.1	78	81	83
West	21.87	23.43	22.76	83	85	79
U. S.	18.82	19.73	19.78	86.8	81.1	82.3

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.

2/ Indicates current supply of feed for grazing relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions. Regional and U.S. averages differ from those published in Crop Production in that States are combined with dairy rather than all livestock weights.