

DAIRY PRODUCTION

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September 13, 1954
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SUMMARY

Milk production on farms during August totaled 10,494 million pounds -- 1 percent below a year ago and fractionally below average for the month. Total output in the first 8 months of 1954 is estimated at 88.2 billion pounds -- as compared with 85.8 billion pounds in the same period a year ago. Production per cow in crop reporters' herds on September 1 averaged 16.34 pounds, slightly below a year earlier and the lowest for the date in 6 years. Production per cow was above a year ago in the West North Central, South Atlantic and the West, but below in all other regions. Crop reporters were milking 69.8 percent of the milk cows in their herds on September 1, the lowest for the date since 1925. Condition of dairy pasture feed on September 1 averaged 68.7 percent of normal, 3 points above a year ago, but 8 points below average for the date. Dairy pastures were providing unusually good feed in the New England and Pacific Coast areas, fairly good grazing in the upper Great Lake and northern Plains States, and were much improved by August rains in the Middle Atlantic, Ohio Valley, and northern Corn Belt regions. However, pasture feed in the large southern area extending from the Rocky Mountains east to the Atlantic Coast, already critically short on August 1, was further reduced by continued hot dry weather through August.

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

Month	Monthly total			1954 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	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	12,663	102	2.83	2.60	2.60
July	11,577	11,603	11,625	100	2.56	2.34	2.31
Aug.	10,529	10,624	10,494	99	2.33	2.14	2.08
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

Milk output falls below a year earlier

Milk production on farms during August totaled 10,494 million pounds, about 1 percent lower than in August 1953, but close to the August 10-year average. Hot, dry weather in the South Central part of the country held down production in this area, but conditions in late August were becoming more favorable in many northern sections where pasture feed responded to August rainfall. For the first 8 months of 1954, farm milk output totaled 88.2 billion pounds compared with 85.8 billion pounds a year ago, and a previous high for the period of 86.1 billion pounds in 1945. Milk production during August was equivalent to 2.08 pounds per person per day, the lowest per capita output for the month in 25 years of record.

Production per cow low in South Central States

On September 1, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 16.34 pounds, the lowest for the date since 1948, but only a trifle below last year. The seasonal decrease during August was considerably less than average. Regionally, milk production per cow in the South Central States was below average, in the North Atlantic States was slightly above average, and in all other regions considerably above average. Production per cow was higher than a year ago in the West North Central, South Atlantic, and Western regions, but in the North Atlantic States was slightly lower and in the East North Central and South Central regions moderately lower. Cows milked in crop reporters' herds on September 1 averaged 69.8 percent of their total milk cows, the lowest for the date since 1925.

Among the 33 States for which monthly milk production estimates are made, new high records for August were established in Michigan, North Carolina, Idaho, and California, and previous highs were equaled in Georgia and Tennessee. Milk output was above a year ago also in the other South Atlantic and Pacific Coast States, and in Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, and Wyoming. On the other hand, August production was the lowest in 25 years of records in Oklahoma and was more than 3 percent below a year ago in New Jersey, Iowa, and South Dakota.

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

State	:August : :average: :1943-52:	August : 1953	July : 1954	August : 1954	State	:August : :average: :1943-52:	August : 1953	July : 1954	August : 1954
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N. J.	92	96	91	92	:Ga.	107	109	110	113
Pa.	468	494	515	493	:Ky.	244	261	266	256
Ohio	484	523	554	511	:Tenn.	235	255	265	255
Ind.	347	347	376	357	:Ala.	123	126	128	125
Ill.	478	451	470	440	:Miss.	137	145	156	144
Mich.	486	510	537	512	:Ark.	133	123	141	129
Wis.	1,260	1,331	1,554	1,321	:Okla.	209	173	171	158
Minn.	634	597	751	591	:Texas	327	280	291	276
Iowa	579	539	578	519	:Mont.	60	50	56	50
Mo.	404	403	437	412	:Idaho	116	128	143	133
N. Dak.	192	173	205	171	:Wyo.	25	20	23	21
S. Dak.	143	126	150	120	:Utah	56	59	65	58
Nebr.	224	197	222	198	:Wash.	166	157	171	167
Kans.	248	222	226	217	:Oreg.	120	112	134	111
Va.	182	189	194	197	:Calif.	510	587	622	608
W. Va.	80	74	81	76	:Other				
N. C.	146	162	174	165	: States	1,460	1,550	1,710	1,444
S. C.	54	55	58	56	: U. S.	10,529	10,624	11,625	10,494

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

Dairy pastures well below average

Condition of the Nation's dairy pastures averaged 68.7 percent of normal on September 1 -- 3 points above a year ago, but otherwise the lowest for the date since 1944. Dairy pastures in many central and northern sections of the country showed much improvement with timely August rains and below normal temperatures. However, the September dairy grazing picture was seriously affected by the critically short pasture feed conditions prevailing in the drought stricken southern area extending from the Rocky Mountains east to the Atlantic Coast. While the strong comeback in pastures in the important dairy areas resulted in a 4 percent contraseasonal increase in the U.S. pasture condition, pastures for milk stock on September 1 were still 8 points below average for the date.

Dairy pasture feed conditions were most favorable in the New England States where ample August rainfall and favorable temperatures provided unusually good feed for dairy stock on September 1. In the mid-Atlantic States, dairy pasture feed, while short and below average for September 1, made an excellent comeback in response to substantial August rainfall. New Jersey pasture condition jumped from a low of 25 percent on August 1 to 60 percent on September 1. In the important dairy States in the upper Great Lakes area, pastures were furnishing average feed for milk cows. In the Ohio Valley States and northern Corn Belt, pasture feed prospects were greatly improved by rain during August. Grass growth was renewed but green feed was still short in many places on September 1. In the northern Great Plains States, dairy pastures were improved by August precipitation and were providing fairly good grazing on September 1. Pasture feed for milk stock in the Pacific Coast States was generally in good to excellent condition. Wyoming and Colorado pastures continued very short and well below average but showed some improvement during August.

On the adverse side, continued high temperatures and lack of rain during August resulted in extreme drought conditions on September 1 in an area covering central and eastern Texas, most of Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, southern Missouri, most of Arkansas and northern Louisiana. Dairy pasture feed was also critically short and dry in a much larger adjacent area extending to the east across the southern States to the Atlantic, and to the west from New Mexico up into the Central Rocky Mountains and across Utah and Nevada. Among the individual States, Alabama's pasture condition on September 1 averaged 37 percent of normal -- the lowest in 40 years of record; Mississippi, 41 percent of normal -- equaling the lowest of record; and Arkansas, 44 percent of normal, the lowest condition for the date since 1936. In Oklahoma and Texas, pasture feed conditions were the lowest since the mid-thirties; in Tennessee and Louisiana, the lowest since 1930; and in South Carolina and Georgia, the poorest since 1925.

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

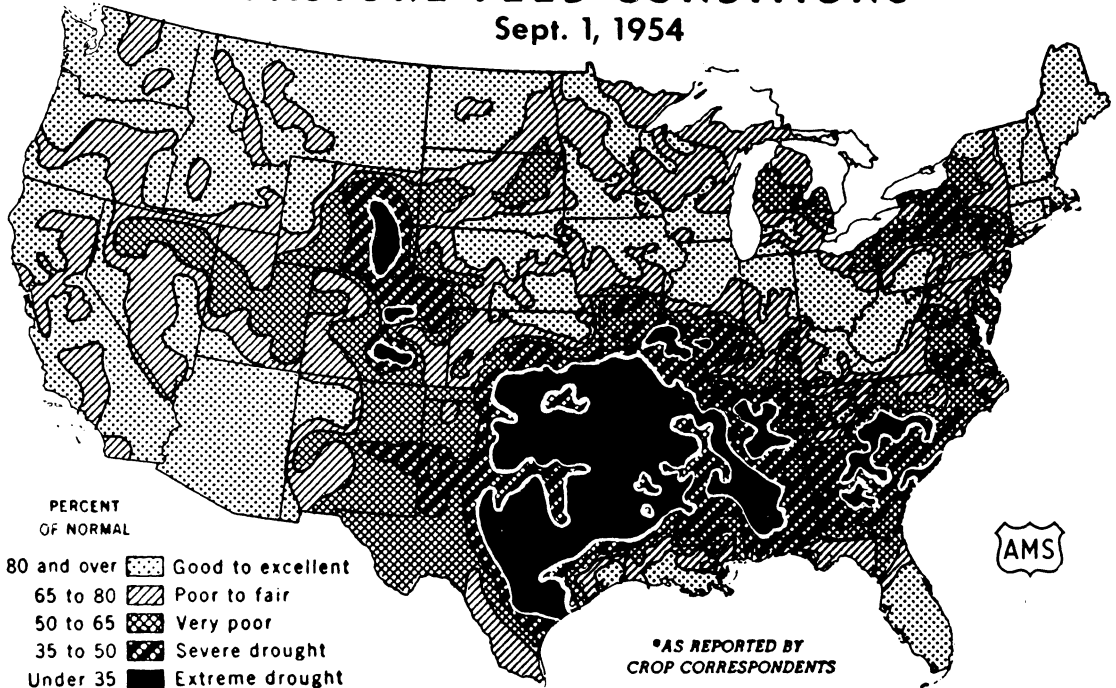
Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	Aug. 1933-52 av.	August 1953	July 1954	August 1954	Aug. 1933-52 av.	August 1953	July 1954	August 1954
Atl.	1.21	1.22	1.11	1.18	-	-	-	-
N.C.	1.19	1.18	1.06	1.09	21.6	20.1	17.3	17.1
N.C.	1.42	1.24	1.15	1.20	25.1	23.0	20.9	20.7
Atl.	1.40	1.38	1.38	1.38	-	-	-	-
Cent.	1.30	1.27	1.16	1.21	16.9	14.8	13.8	13.5
West	1.23	1.21	1.14	1.18	20.0	17.4	16.1	16.4
S.	1.23	1.21	1.11	1.16	22.5	21.1	19.1	18.9

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*

Sept. 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

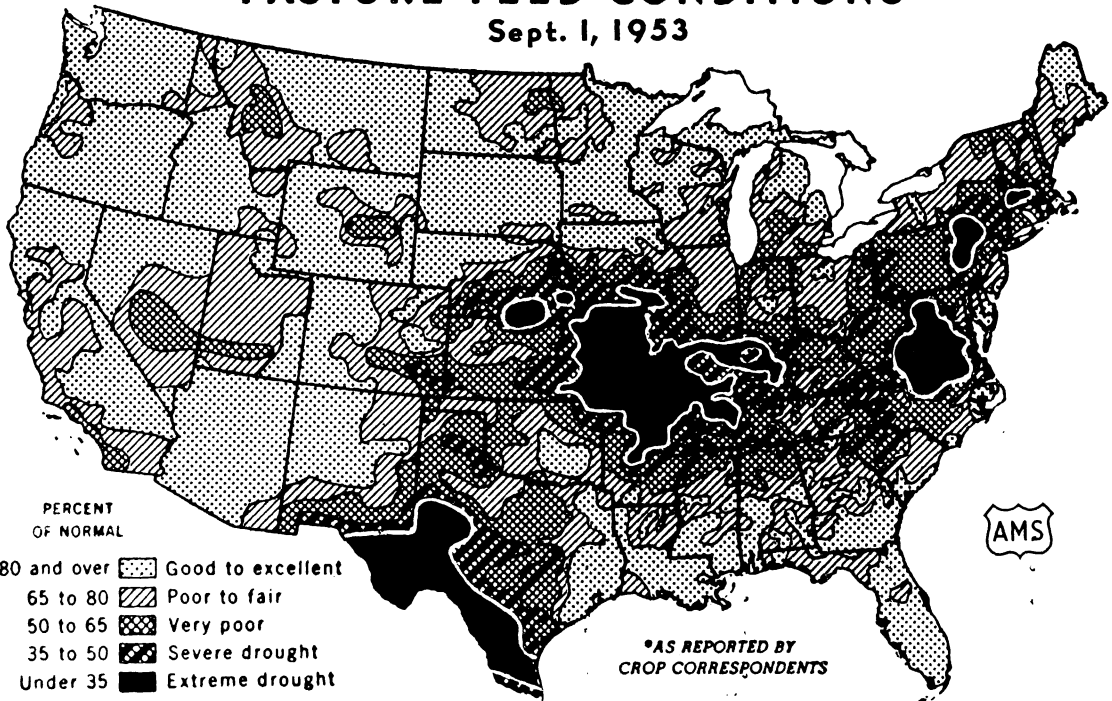
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1084-54 (9)

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1085-54 (9)

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

State	Milk produced per cow in			Dairy pasture feed condition		
	September 1, 1943-52 av.	September 1, 1953	September 1, 1954	September 1, 1943-52 av.	September 1, 1953	September 1, 1954
	Pounds			Percent of normal		
Me.	17.5	21.8	20.9	71	73	93
N. Hc	17.4	18.7	21.1	73	63	90
Vt.	16.0	18.0	16.4	78	67	90
Mass.	19.1	20.3	21.0	73	48	87
Conn.	18.8	21.7	21.9	77	63	85
N. Y.	19.3	18.2	18.5	76	61	60
N. J.	21.4	21.8	21.4	72	66	60
Pa.	19.0	19.2	19.2	75	45	63
N. Atl.	19.07	19.37	19.27	75	58	69
Ohio	17.9	20.6	19.9	75	67	83
Ind.	17.2	18.1	19.2	78	60	82
Ill.	17.1	17.8	18.6	80	53	70
Mich.	19.8	22.5	21.2	73	74	69
Wis.	17.6	18.9	17.6	74	78	78
E. N. C.	17.90	19.37	18.72	75	69	77
Minn.	14.8	14.9	15.1	77	83	80
Iowa	16.2	17.2	17.0	85	62	79
Mo.	14.4	13.1	14.6	82	18	38
N. Dak.	14.9	14.5	14.8	77	78	81
S. Dak.	13.1	13.5	13.4	78	86	71
Nebr.	15.3	15.7	17.0	82	65	78
Kans.	14.2	15.2	15.8	81	47	53
W. N. Cent.	14.79	15.01	15.47	81	64	71
Md.	17.5	19.0	18.7	76	61	69
Va.	15.4	16.1	17.0	81	37	67
W. Va.	14.9	13.6	14.7	80	48	90
N. C.	14.4	15.2	14.8	83	56	60
S. C.	12.0	12.0	12.2	76	56	35
La.	10.0	11.0	11.0	75	76	45
S. Atl.	14.09	14.64	14.90	79	57	62
W. Tenn.	14.3	14.2	13.9	76	50	69
Ala.	9.6	9.0	8.7	75	52	47
Miss.	8.3	8.4	7.5	74	68	37
Ark.	9.8	9.0	8.9	70	72	41
Okl.	10.8	11.5	11.2	71	46	24
Tex.	8.7	9.0	9.1	61	67	30
W. Cent.	10.69	10.78	10.58	70	59	37
Mont.	17.0	17.4	19.5	80	60	42
Idaho	19.6	21.0	22.1	85	85	85
Wyo.	18.4	18.8	20.7	83	85	87
Colo.	16.0	18.0	19.2	79	80	53
Utah	19.2	21.1	20.0	82	74	52
Wash.	20.7	22.6	21.5	74	77	65
Oreg.	18.4	19.6	19.3	76	89	92
Calif.	20.4	22.7	23.6	76	84	86
West	18.87	20.89	21.09	78	79	81
S.	15.64	16.37	16.34	76.5	65.4	68.7

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. 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.