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# DAIRY PRODUCTION

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January 11, 1955

JAN 17 1955

Production of milk on United States farms in December 1954 totaled 8,833 million pounds, 1 percent below the 1953 record December outturn, but the second highest for the month in 31 years of record. Mild, open weather during December over most of the important dairy areas, liberal supplemental feeding, and heavy fall freshenings contributed to the high level of milk production. Relative to population, December 1954 production was at the rate of 1.74 pounds per capita per day, down slightly from a year earlier, but equal to the 1943-52 average per capita for the month.

The sum of the 12 monthly milk production estimates made currently in 1954 was 123.8 billion pounds, 2 percent more than the previous high of 121.2 billion pounds in 1953. This total for 1954 is tentative pending a more detailed analysis of the number of milk cows and production per cow by States, the results of which will be published February 14.

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

Month	Monthly total			Percent	Daily average per capita		
	Average : 1943-52	1953	1954		Average : 1943-52	1953	1954
	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	12,663	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	9,391	101	2.09	1.93	1.92
Oct.	8,558	8,878	9,002	101	1.89	1.78	1.78
Nov.	7,665	8,359	8,400	100	1.74	1.73	1.71
Dec.	7,931	8,907	8,833	99	1.74	1.78	1.74
Year	116,379	121,219	123,796	102	2.19	2.08	2.09

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

Record January 1 milk per cow all regions

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on January 1, 1955 averaged 16.47 pounds, 2 percent above the January 1, 1954 previous high, and 20 percent above average for the date. Seasonally, output per cow on January 1 showed slightly more than the usual increase from December 1. Milk flow was at record high levels for January 1 in all regions, exceeding previous regional record highs by as much as 5 percent in the West. Compared with average, the current January 1 output per cow ranged from 16 percent above in the South Central region to 23 percent above in the West North Central. Crop reporters were milking a record high 67.9 percent of the cows in their herds, only fractionally above the proportion being milked a year ago, but 4 percent above the average for the date.

Among the 33 States making monthly milk production estimates, production was above December a year earlier in more than half and above average for the month in all but 7. December 1954 output was a new record high for the month in 10 States, equaled the 1953 record high in 2, and fell just short of the record in 5 others. Wisconsin, as usual, topped all States in total production with 1,149 million pounds. Minnesota was second highest with 655 million, followed by California, 550 million; Pennsylvania, 475 million; and Ohio, 430 million pounds. Of these 5 States, accounting for over one-third of the Nation's milk production, Minnesota was the only State failing to set a new high in December production.

Fall freshenings increase

Increased fall freshenings appear to be a factor in the heavy winter milk flow again this year. Data on the proportion of milk cows freshening each month in 3 important dairy States show a distinct shift from spring to fall freshening over the period from 1945 to date. In the 5-year period, 1945-1949,

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ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	Dec. average : 1943-52	Dec. : 1953	Nov. : 1954	Dec. : 1954	State	Dec. average : 1943-52	Dec. : 1953	Nov. : 1954	Dec. : 1954
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
N. J.	84	94	95	100	Ga.	85	96	88	91
Pa.	397	470	457	475	Ky.	140	156	175	166
Ohio	351	420	426	430	Tenn.	146	170	184	177
Ind.	250	260	269	262	Ala.	95	98	99	96
Ill.	374	402	362	385	Miss.	90	104	108	104
Mich.	369	414	401	412	Ark.	86	98	103	99
Wis.	960	1,140	1,010	1,149	Okla.	132	129	131	132
Minn.	609	685	509	655	Texas	243	233	240	242
Iowa	425	413	390	412	Mont.	39	36	37	36
Mo.	257	290	303	289	Idaho	85	98	98	97
N. Dak.	103	110	103	114	Wyo.	18	15	16	16
S. Dak.	88	87	82	86	Utah	49	54	50	52
Nebr.	150	143	138	145	Wash.	121	122	126	127
Kans.	187	190	186	192	Oreg.	80	83	84	82
Va.	128	149	150	149	Calif.	424	504	540	550
W. Va.	55	57	60	57	Other				
N. C.	112	135	141	141	States	1,157	1,407	1,194	1,267
S. C.	42	45	45	46	U. S.	7,931	8,907	8,400	8,833

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

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

State and Division: 1944-53:				January 1				State and Division: 1944-53:				January 1			
Average:				1953	1954	1955	Average:				1953	1954	1955		
				Pounds								Pounds			
Me.	13.8	15.6	17.4	17.7	Id.	15.2	16.8	17.2	18.0	Id.	15.2	16.8	17.2	18.0	
N. H.	16.4	18.4	19.1	19.0	Va.	12.6	15.0	15.4	15.3	Va.	12.6	15.0	15.4	15.3	
Vt.	14.9	17.1	17.5	18.0	W. Va.	10.4	11.0	11.3	10.7	W. Va.	10.4	11.0	11.3	10.7	
Mass.	16.8	18.0	20.4	21.0	M. C.	11.6	12.6	13.9	14.1	M. C.	11.6	12.6	13.9	14.1	
Conn.	17.2	17.3	21.3	21.6	S. C.	10.6	10.8	10.7	11.5	S. C.	10.6	10.8	10.7	11.5	
N. Y.	18.1	21.2	20.3	21.0	Ga.	8.6	9.0	9.5	9.3	Ga.	8.6	9.0	9.5	9.3	
N. J.	19.9	21.6	22.1	22.9	S. Atl.	11.68	12.80	13.49	13.66	S. Atl.	11.68	12.80	13.49	13.66	
Pa.	17.0	19.8	19.9	19.8	Ky.	10.0	10.2	10.9	11.6	Ky.	10.0	10.2	10.9	11.6	
N. Atl.	17.44	19.90	20.07	20.52	Tenn.	9.4	10.3	10.4	10.2	Tenn.	9.4	10.3	10.4	10.2	
Ohio	15.3	17.8	17.8	19.4	Ala.	8.5	8.4	7.7	7.9	Ala.	8.5	8.4	7.7	7.9	
Ind.	13.9	15.8	16.2	16.9	Miss.	6.7	7.7	7.5	7.2	Miss.	6.7	7.7	7.5	7.2	
Ill.	15.1	17.2	18.1	18.3	Ark.	6.9	7.0	8.1	8.3	Ark.	6.9	7.0	8.1	8.3	
Mich.	17.4	20.2	20.7	20.0	Okla.	9.2	9.4	11.3	11.4	Okla.	9.2	9.4	11.3	11.4	
Wis.	16.3	18.3	19.7	19.2	Tex.	7.8	8.5	8.3	8.5	Tex.	7.8	8.5	8.3	8.5	
E. N. Cent.	15.93	18.20	18.96	19.02	S. Cent.	8.46	9.00	9.54	9.82	S. Cent.	8.46	9.00	9.54	9.82	
Minn.	17.2	19.8	20.2	20.1	Mont.	12.9	13.7	14.2	15.0	Mont.	12.9	13.7	14.2	15.0	
Iowa	14.9	16.2	16.5	18.2	Idaho	16.7	17.6	17.9	18.7	Idaho	16.7	17.6	17.9	18.7	
Mo.	9.8	10.6	11.5	11.4	Wyo.	14.6	16.0	16.4	16.0	Wyo.	14.6	16.0	16.4	16.0	
N. Dak.	11.6	13.8	13.9	15.1	Colo.	14.4	15.9	15.9	17.3	Colo.	14.4	15.9	15.9	17.3	
S. Dak.	10.8	11.9	12.6	12.7	Utah	17.9	20.5	20.3	19.3	Utah	17.9	20.5	20.3	19.3	
Nebr.	13.5	14.8	15.3	16.8	Wash.	16.9	19.2	19.2	20.2	Wash.	16.9	19.2	19.2	20.2	
Kans.	13.3	14.5	16.4	17.0	Oreg.	13.4	14.1	16.6	14.8	Oreg.	13.4	14.1	16.6	14.8	
W. W. Cent.	13.64	15.56	16.23	16.79	Calif.	17.9	19.8	21.3	22.6	Calif.	17.9	19.8	21.3	22.6	
					West	15.96	17.62	18.39	19.22	West	15.96	17.62	18.39	19.22	
					U. S.	13.76	15.48	16.08	16.47	U. S.	13.76	15.48	16.08	16.47	

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.

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region	Milk-Feed 17				Butterfat-Feed 27			
	Dec. 1933-52 av.	Dec. 1953	Nov. 1954	Dec. 1954	Dec. 1933-52 av.	Dec. 1953	Nov. 1954	Dec. 1954
N. Atl.	1.36	1.34	1.39	1.32	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.36	1.31	1.30	1.25	23.9	21.2	18.5	18.3
W.M.C.	1.56	1.37	1.37	1.32	27.5	24.0	21.9	22.1
S. Atl.	1.57	1.58	1.56	1.53	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.55	1.54	1.50	1.48	19.1	16.4	14.6	14.3
West	1.39	1.40	1.34	1.34	21.7	18.5	17.2	17.4
U. S.	1.39	1.37	1.36	1.32	24.9	22.2	20.1	20.2

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.

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about 27 percent of the total annual freshenings took place in the months of September, October, and November. In 1953, the percentage of fall fresh cows was about 31 percent, and data for 1954 indicate that freshenings in these months are likely to be about 33 percent of the annual number. In contrast, freshenings during February, March, and April dropped from about 33 percent of the total annual freshenings in the 1945-1949 period to 29 percent in 1953 and to about 28 percent in 1954.

MILK COWS FRESHENING DURING MONTH AS PERCENT OF NUMBER  
ON HAND, REPORTERS' HERDS, 3 STATES, 1945-54 1/

Month	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Jan.	8.7	9.4	9.2	8.8	9.2	9.5	9.4	9.1	9.1	8.7
Feb.	10.2	10.0	10.4	9.6	9.3	10.3	9.7	9.5	9.8	9.4
Mar.	12.1	13.0	12.4	12.4	12.2	11.6	11.1	10.5	11.1	10.4
Apr.	9.6	9.7	9.4	9.6	9.0	8.0	8.8	8.9	8.2	7.6
May	7.1	6.5	6.7	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.6
June	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.3
July	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.5
Aug.	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	6.5
Sept.	7.6	6.9	7.5	7.4	8.4	9.3	8.8	9.1	10.0	10.4
Oct.	8.0	9.0	9.4	9.3	9.8	10.2	10.4	9.5	10.7	11.0
Nov.	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.3	10.1	10.2	11.2
Dec.	9.0	9.7	9.6	8.9	9.8	9.1	9.7	9.5	9.3	

1/ Average of dairy reporters' herds in Wisconsin, crop reporters' herds in Michigan, and combined herds in New York. Data are believed to be reasonably representative of herds producing milk for sale, but probably show more fall freshening and less spring freshening than would be typical of a true cross section of all milking herds. Monthly percentages do not add to 100 since not all cows freshen each year.