

# DAIRY PRODUCTION

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Production of milk on United States farms during January is estimated at 9.1 billion pounds, 1 percent below last year's record, but 10 percent above the 1944-53 January average. Seasonally, January production was up only 3 percent from December as compared with the usual 5 percent gain. Temperatures during the first half of January were above average over much of the country, but turned colder and below average the last half. Grain and concentrate feeding continued at record or near record mid-winter levels in most areas. In the winter pasture areas, only limited green feed was available from small grains and pastures, as cold and earlier drought retarded growth. In relation to population, January production averaged 1.79 pounds per person, per day, equaling the fourth lowest of record for the month and below any January in the period 1930-47.

Production per cow in crop reporters' herds on February 1 was the highest for the date in 3 decades of record -- making the fifth straight month of record level first-of-the-month output. Output per cow averaged 17.12 pounds -- 3 percent above the previous high on February 1, 1954 and 18 percent above average for the date. In all regions, production per cow on February 1 established new highs for the date, with increases over the previous highs ranging from 1 to 6 percent. Seasonally, February 1 output was up 4 percent over January 1, somewhat less than the usual 6 percent

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES,  
1944-53 AVERAGE, 1954 AND 1955

Month	Monthly total			Percent	Daily average per capita		
	Average	1954	1955		Average	1954	1955
	1944-53				1944-53		
	Million pounds				Pounds		
Jan.	8,305	9,202	9,105	99	1.82	1.84	1.79
Feb.	8,168	9,001			1.96	1.99	
Mar.	9,653	10,683			2.11	2.13	
Apr.	10,408	11,280			2.35	2.32	
May	12,318	12,999			2.69	2.59	
June	12,306	12,600			2.78	2.59	
July	11,552	11,558			2.52	2.29	
Aug.	10,529	10,474			2.29	2.08	
Sept.	9,174	9,369			2.06	1.91	
Oct.	8,601	9,021			1.87	1.78	
Nov.	7,743	8,474			1.73	1.73	
Dec.	8,035	8,841			1.74	1.74	
Year	116,792	123,502			2.16	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.

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Agricultural Marketing Service  
Crop Reporting Board

increase in this period. In almost half the States, production per cow was a record high for February 1. Crop reporters were milking 68.6 percent of the milk cows in their herds on February 1 -- the highest for the date in over 3 decades of record, 1 percent above a year earlier, and 5 percent above the 10-year average. Regionally, the proportion of milk cows being milked ranged from 76.4 percent in the North Atlantic to 57.3 percent in the South Central.

Among the 33 States with monthly milk production estimates currently available, January output was a record high in 8 States, equaled the record high in 3, and was just short of the record high in 8 more. On the other hand, January output was a quarter century record low in Wyoming, a near record low in South Dakota and below average in 5 more States. Wisconsin led all States in production in January with 1,287 million pounds, followed by Minnesota with 745 million; California, 554 million; Pennsylvania, 503 million; and Ohio, 445 million.

Mid-winter grain and concentrate feeding record high

On February 1, crop reporters fed an average of 6.43 pounds of grains and concentrates per cow in herd -- 2 percent above last year's previous high, and 10 percent above the 1944-53 average for the date. Seasonally, grain feeding rates on February 1 were up about one-sixth from December 1, slightly more than the usual seasonal upturn. Temperatures over most of the country were unusually low around the first of February. Cows were on full supplemental feed with grain feed supplies considered ample over most of the country. Small grain and winter pastures were providing only limited grazing resulting in the feeding of unusually heavy grain rations in winter grazing areas.

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MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	Jan. average : 1944-53	Jan. : 1954	Dec. : 1954	Jan. : 1955	State	Jan. average : 1944-53	Jan. : 1954	Dec. : 1954	Jan. : 1955
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N. J.	87	98	99	103	Ga.	85	97	91	97
Pa.	411	487	482	503	Ky.	140	162	159	162
Ohio	361	425	426	445	Tenn.	145	170	166	168
Ind.	257	261	251	258	Ala.	94	96	95	98
Ill.	389	400	382	390	Miss.	91	104	107	109
Mich.	388	422	399	412	Ark.	82	93	95	92
Wis.	1,059	1,274	1,149	1,287	Okla.	144	138	132	136
Minn.	680	769	683	745	Texas	245	235	236	235
Iowa	449	439	408	436	Mont.	39	35	35	35
Mo.	253	283	294	278	Idaho	87	105	106	107
N. Dak.	108	110	114	116	Wyo.	18	16	15	15
S. Dak.	96	92	82	87	Utah	52	57	51	55
Nebr.	161	155	143	153	Wash.	125	131	128	135
Kans.	190	190	186	194	Oreg.	77	81	83	79
Va.	124	147	146	143	Calif.	431	531	550	554
W. Va.	55	56	56	56	Other				
N. C.	111	128	130	132	States	1,229	1,370	1,316	1,244
E. C.	42	45	46	46	U. S.	8,305	9,202	8,841	9,105

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

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

State and Division	Milk produced per milk cow			"Grain" fed per milk cow 2/		
	Feb. 1, 1944-53	Feb. 1, 1954	Feb. 1, 1955	Feb. 1, 1944-53	Feb. 1, 1954	Feb. 1, 1955
	P o u n d s			P o u n d s		
Mo.	13.9	17.3	18.0	5.9	6.6	6.8
N. H.	16.4	19.2	19.2	5.6	6.2	6.1
Vt.	15.3	17.9	18.9	5.8	5.8	6.1
Mass.	17.9	21.2	21.4	6.5	6.4	6.5
Conn.	17.9	21.9	22.6	6.6	6.9	7.0
N. Y.	19.1	21.0	21.3	6.8	7.1	7.0
N. J.	20.7	22.2	23.7	8.2	8.0	8.2
Pa.	17.9	20.2	21.0	7.6	7.8	7.9
N. Atl.	18.21	20.66	21.16	6.8	7.1	7.2
Ohio	15.9	18.6	20.1	6.8	6.8	7.2
Ind.	14.4	17.2	18.0	6.3	7.1	7.1
Ill.	16.3	18.2	19.2	7.3	7.2	7.9
Mich.	18.2	20.6	20.8	6.5	6.9	7.1
Wis.	17.9	20.8	20.4	6.1	6.7	6.8
E. N. Cent.	17.04	19.79	20.05	6.5	6.9	7.1
Minn.	19.3	21.5	21.8	6.3	6.8	7.0
Iowa	16.1	17.3	17.9	7.6	7.9	7.7
Mo.	10.1	12.3	11.8	5.1	6.2	5.8
N. Dak.	13.5	14.9	15.9	5.1	5.8	5.4
S. Dak.	12.0	14.3	14.0	4.7	5.3	4.7
Nebr.	14.4	17.5	17.4	6.0	6.4	5.8
Kans.	14.0	16.8	18.0	5.8	6.2	6.7
W. N. Cent.	14.91	17.16	17.68	6.1	6.7	6.5
Md.	16.4	18.0	19.0	7.9	7.3	8.6
Va.	12.7	15.3	15.6	5.4	6.0	6.1
W. Va.	10.3	10.6	11.3	4.0	4.2	4.5
N. C.	11.8	13.1	14.6	5.4	5.9	6.4
S. C.	10.8	11.9	12.2	4.1	5.0	4.7
Ga.	9.0	9.9	9.9	4.5	5.3	5.6
S. Atl.	12.07	13.46	14.28	5.2	5.6	6.0
Ky.	10.1	11.3	11.2	5.8	6.3	5.9
Tenn.	9.3	10.9	10.7	5.0	5.8	6.0
Ala.	8.4	7.8	8.4	5.3	6.1	6.2
Miss.	6.6	6.9	7.9	4.3	5.0	5.3
Ark.	6.9	8.5	9.2	3.9	5.4	5.5
Okla.	9.8	11.4	11.2	4.5	4.3	5.2
Texas	8.1	9.8	9.9	5.0	6.2	6.4
S. Cent.	8.70	9.86	10.17	4.8	5.5	5.7
Mont.	14.0	13.9	15.5	4.3	4.0	4.4
Idaho	17.2	19.3	19.7	4.2	4.8	4.1
Wyo.	15.5	17.4	15.9	3.7	4.5	4.3
Colo.	14.9	16.6	18.6	4.8	5.5	5.1
Utah	18.2	19.5	20.0	4.4	4.7	4.2
Wash.	16.9	18.7	18.1	5.7	5.9	5.4
Oreg.	13.4	15.2	14.8	4.6	5.0	4.4
Calif.	18.5	21.9	22.5	4.9	5.5	5.5
West	16.28	18.46	18.86	4.8	5.3	5.0
U. S.	14.56	16.65	17.12	5.84	6.33	6.43

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.

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Grain and concentrate feeding was at record high levels for February 1 in the East North Central, South Atlantic, and South Central region, and was just below record levels in the North Atlantic and West North Central areas. The average grain ration fed on February 1 ranged from 7.2 and 7.1 pounds per cow in the North Atlantic and East North Central regions, respectively, to 5.0 pounds per cow in the West. In other regions, feeding rates averaged 6.5 pounds in the West North Central, 6.0 pounds in the South Atlantic, and 5.7 pounds in the South Central area. Among States, grain and concentrate feeding on February 1 was a new high for the date in 9 States, and equaled the record high in 2 more. The proportion of crop reporters feeding grain and concentrates to cows in their milking herds on February 1 averaged 89.3 percent, 1 percent below a year ago, but about average for the date. Regionally, the percent feeding grain ranged from 98.2 percent in the North Atlantic area to 84.6 percent in the West.

The value per 100 pounds of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows in mid-January was the lowest for the month in the last 5 years, averaging \$3.30 in milk-selling areas and \$2.90 in cream-selling areas. The January milk-feed price ratio was the most unfavorable for dairymen for the month since 1948, 2 percent below the previous year, and 5 percent below average. The butterfat-feed price ratio was also very unfavorable, being the lowest for the month since 1937 -- 9 percent below January 1954, and 17 percent below the longtime average.

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/					
	Jan. 1934	53 av.	Jan. 1954	Dec. 1954	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1934	53 av.	Jan. 1954	Dec. 1954	Jan. 1955
N. Atl.	1.30		1.26	1.32	1.26	-		-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.30		1.24	1.25	1.19	22.9		20.5	18.3	17.9
W.N.C.	1.49		1.31	1.34	1.28	26.3		23.6	22.1	21.6
S. Atl.	1.54		1.51	1.53	1.48	-		-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.50		1.47	1.49	1.44	18.6		16.1	14.3	14.1
West	1.36		1.34	1.34	1.32	20.9		18.7	17.4	17.3
U. S.	1.34		1.30	1.32	1.27	23.8		21.7	20.2	19.8

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.