

DAIRY PRODUCTION

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SUMMARY

MAY 15 1955

Production of milk on United States farms during April totaled 11,264 million pounds -- just short of last year's record, and 8 percent above average for the month. Output in the first 4 months of 1955 totaled 39.7 billion pounds, 1 percent below last year. Production per cow in crop reporters' herds on May 1 was above a year earlier in all regions. For the country it averaged 20.33 pounds, the 8th consecutive new high in first-of-month output per cow. On May 1, crop reporters were milking a record high 76.2 percent of the milk cows in their herds -- 4 percent above average for the date.

The condition of dairy pastures on May 1 averaged 82 percent of normal, 1 percent below both a year ago and average for the date. East of the Great Plains, dairy pastures made good growth during April with temperatures and moisture conditions generally favorable. In the Pacific Northwest, development of dairy pasture feed was retarded by unseasonably cool weather. In the Southwest, continued lack of rain and high winds during April caused further deterioration of pastures.

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

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average : 1944-53	1954	1955	Percent 1954 1955	Average : 1944-53	1954	1955
	Million pounds			Percent	Pounds		
Jan.	8,305	9,202	9,105	99	1.82	1.84	1.79
Feb.	8,168	9,001	8,884	99	1.96	1.99	1.93
Mar.	9,653	10,683	10,447	98	2.11	2.13	2.05
Apr.	10,408	11,280	11,264	100	2.35	2.32	2.28
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.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Crop Reporting Board

Milk output short of last April

Milk production on farms increased seasonally, and in April was almost up to last year's level. Output during the month totaled 11,264 million pounds, compared with 11,280 million pounds in April last year. Production was 8 percent above the 1944-53 April average of 10,408 million pounds. Warm weather east of the Rockies and rapid growth of green feed in the more important southern and central milk producing sections favored increased milk flow in these areas. National milk output in April was sufficient to provide each person in the United States 2.28 pounds daily, 2 percent less than a year ago, and 3 percent less than average. Milk production during the first 4 months of 1955 totaled 39.7 billion pounds, 1 percent below last year's record.

Milk per cow record high

On May 1, milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 20.33 pounds, the first time that output per cow has ever exceeded 20 pounds on that date. In the southern regions, production per cow was 5 to 6 percent above May 1, last year, and in the other regions, 1 to 2 percent above. As compared with the 10-year average for the date, output per cow was up in all regions, by margins ranging from 7 percent in the West to 18 percent in the West North Central region. The proportion of milk cows in crop reporters' herds in production on May 1 was 76.2 percent, a new high record for the date.

The previous high milk output for April was equaled or exceeded in 13 of the 33 States for which monthly production data are available, and in 7 other States this April's output has been exceeded in only 1 or 2 years. On the other hand, production was below the 10-year average in Iowa, the Great Plains States, and the Pacific Northwest -- all areas where milk cow numbers are considerably reduced from a decade ago. Wisconsin cows produced 1,623 million pounds of milk during April to lead all States, followed by Minnesota with 856 million pounds, California with 633 million pounds, and Pennsylvania with 581 million pounds.

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	Apr. : 1944-53	Apr. : 1954	Mar. : 1955	Apr. : 1955	State	Apr. : 1944-53	Apr. : 1954	Mar. : 1955	Apr. : 1955
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N. J.	95	104	109	107	Ga.	102	114	113	120
Pa.	484	556	570	581	Ky.	187	213	178	216
Ohio	441	507	485	512	Tenn.	195	219	182	216
Ind.	302	326	306	316	Ala.	112	119	107	121
Ill.	457	461	445	460	Miss.	131	153	140	165
Mich.	458	489	469	481	Ark.	116	129	106	128
Wis.	1,426	1,647	1,533	1,623	Okla.	198	178	168	187
Minn.	798	865	849	856	Texas	332	288	264	299
Iowa	532	511	481	497	Mont.	51	45	39	46
Mo.	344	412	335	417	Idaho	112	129	124	137
N. Dak.	155	156	146	163	Wyo.	22	19	16	17
S. Dak.	127	124	110	117	Utah	59	62	61	62
Nebr.	208	201	176	197	Wash.	163	161	148	159
Kans.	243	233	207	225	Oreg.	120	119	101	117
Va.	149	168	157	168	Calif.	549	629	618	633
W. Va.	66	66	63	68	Other				
N. C.	131	147	133	149	States	1,493	1,674	1,455	1,647
S. C.	50	56	53	57	U. S.	10,408	11,280	10,447	11,264

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

Dairy pasture feed about average for May 1

Condition of United States dairy pastures on May 1 was 82 percent of normal -- 1 point below both a year earlier and average for the date. In the eastern half of the country, above normal temperatures and favorable moisture conditions during April resulted in rapid grass growth. However, pasture feed from the Great Plains west made slow progress during April.

Pastures make strong comeback in South

In eastern Texas, Oklahoma and the Southern States to the east which were hard hit by the late March freeze, pastures made excellent recovery during April and were supplying milk cows adequate grazing on May 1. Among these States, pasture feed conditions improved as much as 17 points over April 1, but generally were still below May 1 a year earlier and average for the date. Additional rain is needed in several States for continued improvement. In the Central States east of the Great Plains, green feed for milk stock developed rapidly under favorable April temperatures and rainfall, and in the Northern States prospects were good with the season ahead of normal. In the East North Central States, May 1 condition averaged 93 percent of normal, the highest in 35 years of record, and in the North Atlantic area was a near-record high. In Ohio and Michigan, pasture feed conditions were the most favorable for May 1 since the early twenties and in Wisconsin the highest since 1908.

In the Southwest, lack of rain and high winds caused further deterioration of already short pasture feed during April. Eastern Colorado, southern Kansas, western Oklahoma, and the western half of Texas showed extreme drought on May 1 (see pasture map). In Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada, pastures were also dry and short.

Pastures poor in far West

In the Pacific Northwest, cold weather retarded growth of grass for dairy cattle but, with ample moisture, warm weather should promote good growth of grass. Condition of pastures in these States was the lowest for May 1 since the mid-thirties. California pasture feed was short because of drought and cold weather, but heavy rains in the North have improved feed prospects. In the Northern Great Plains and Northern Rocky Mountain States, development of pastures was retarded by unseasonably cool temperatures. There is generally sufficient moisture available to start grass but more rain will be needed for continued growth.

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

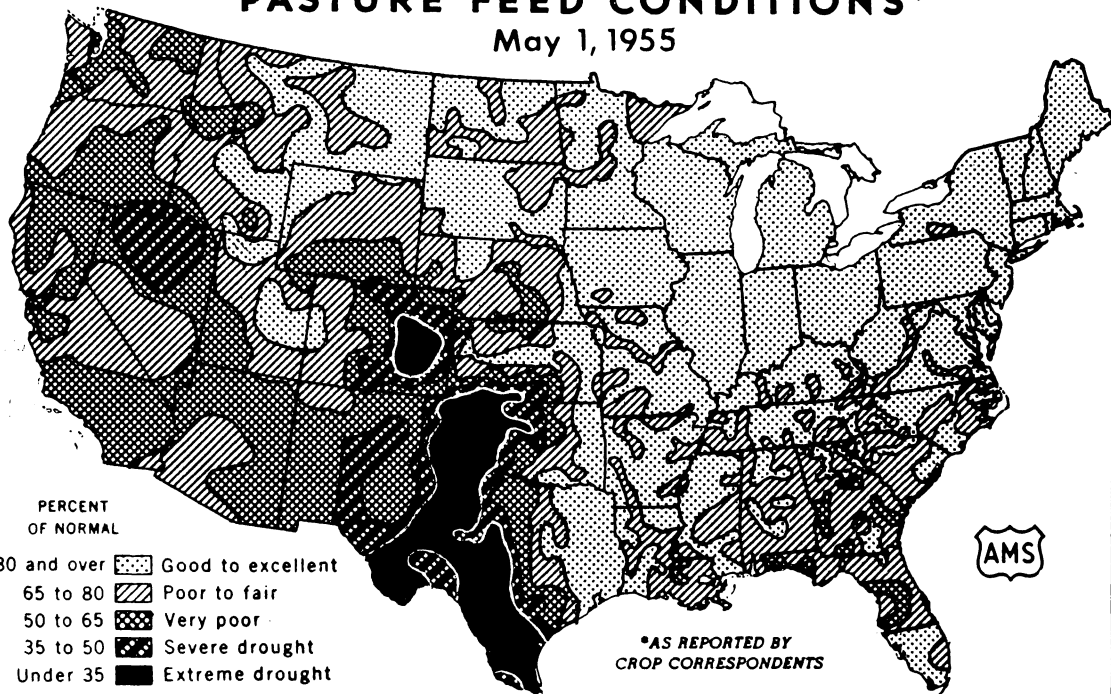
Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	Apr. 1934-53 av.	Apr. 1954	Mar. 1955	Apr. 1955	Apr. 1934-53 av.	Apr. 1954	Mar. 1955	Apr. 1955
N. Atl.	1.14	1.00	1.15	1.08	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.17	1.03	1.14	1.10	22.1	17.5	17.9	18.0
W.N.C.	1.36	1.10	1.23	1.17	25.2	20.2	21.7	21.5
S. Atl.	1.43	1.30	1.40	1.32	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.28	1.15	1.30	1.23	17.6	13.6	14.4	14.4
West	1.21	1.14	1.25	1.21	20.0	16.0	16.9	17.0
S. S.	1.20	1.07	1.19	1.14	22.9	18.7	19.8	19.7

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*

May 1, 1955



- 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

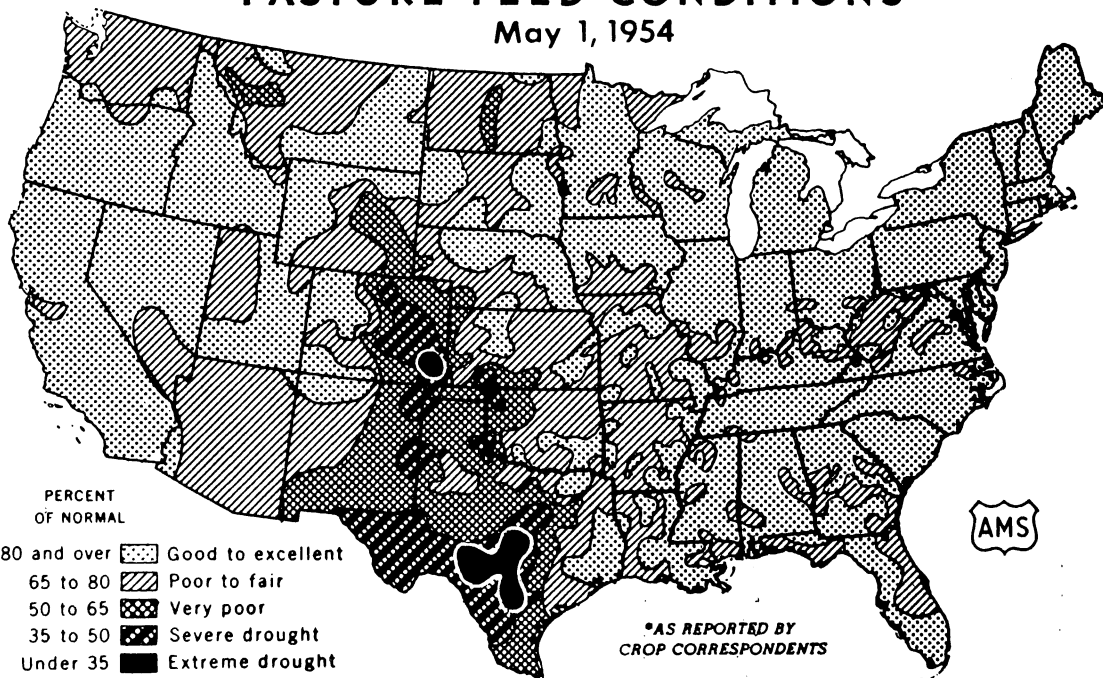
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1623-55 (5) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 666-54 (5) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Milk produced per milk cow
 in herds kept by reporters 1/ Dairy pasture feed condition 2/
 May 1, 1953 av. May 1, 1954 May 1, 1955 May 1, 1953 av. May 1, 1954 May 1, 1955
 Pounds Percent of normal

State and Division	May 1, 1953 av.	May 1, 1954	May 1, 1955	May 1, 1953 av.	May 1, 1954	May 1, 1955
Me.	16.7	20.2	19.0	89	91	92
N. H.	17.6	21.8	21.6	90	96	92
Vt.	19.3	22.3	21.7	90	92	93
Mass.	20.2	22.6	22.9	93	94	92
Conn.	19.8	24.6	23.6	90	90	91
N. Y.	23.1	24.7	25.5	85	92	91
N. J.	23.3	24.2	25.3	85	86	86
Pa.	21.3	23.1	23.6	85	88	89
N. Atl.	21.44	23.63	23.98	86	90	90
Ohio	18.8	22.0	22.5	86	86	93
Ind.	17.8	21.1	21.4	86	89	92
Ill.	19.0	21.2	22.3	85	88	92
Mich.	21.6	23.3	24.0	84	93	94
Wis.	22.6	24.8	24.2	84	87	93
E. N. Cent.	20.86	23.38	23.50	85	88	93
Minn.	21.9	24.6	25.0	81	84	89
Iowa	18.8	20.5	20.8	84	83	92
Mo.	13.8	16.8	17.9	82	77	82
N. Dak.	16.9	18.7	20.5	74	74	79
S. Dak.	14.9	18.5	18.1	81	82	81
Nebr.	17.7	19.9	20.7	81	79	73
Kans.	17.2	20.1	20.0	80	73	71
W. N. Cent.	17.84	20.60	21.02	82	80	83
Md.	19.0	21.0	21.5	85	86	87
Va.	15.3	18.2	19.2	87	84	84
W. Va.	12.8	13.7	15.2	82	77	86
N. C.	14.2	16.2	16.6	85	90	81
S. C.	12.1	13.7	14.0	81	85	76
Ga.	10.4	11.5	11.6	83	83	72
S. Atl.	14.20	15.83	16.66	84	85	81
Ky.	13.6	14.9	15.4	85	80	85
Tenn.	13.1	13.5	14.0	86	86	81
Ala.	10.3	9.9	10.9	84	87	76
Miss.	9.0	9.8	10.0	84	86	79
Ark.	10.0	11.9	13.0	83	77	83
Okla.	12.8	14.5	15.2	77	67	56
Tex.	9.9	10.0	11.2	75	59	54
S. Cent.	11.45	12.55	13.34	81	74	70
Mont.	17.6	18.3	21.1	79	78	82
Idaho	21.0	22.4	24.4	85	87	78
Wyo.	18.4	20.9	17.8	83	74	64
Colo.	17.9	18.9	19.0	81	58	47
Utah	20.8	22.1	22.7	85	81	76
Wash.	22.8	22.6	22.2	84	74	64
Oreg.	21.2	21.0	20.6	87	88	70
Calif.	23.0	26.8	25.8	76	90	66
West	21.30	22.58	22.80	81	83	66
U. S.	17.84	19.93	20.33	83.1	83.2	82.4

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.