

# DAIRY PRODUCTION

June 13, 1955

## SUMMARY

As milk flow approached its seasonal peak for 1955, production on United States farms established a new high of 13.1 billion pounds for the month of May. Output was 6 percent above average for May, and rose above a year earlier for the first time in 6 months. Milk production per cow in Crop Reporters' herds continued to set new high records for the season, averaging 21.93 pounds on June 1. In more than a dozen States, May milk output set a new high record this year, but in a number of others, where numbers of milk cows have been reduced, milk production was not much above the lowest levels recorded for the month in a quarter century. Pasture feed for milk animals was the poorest for June 1 since 1941, but is responding rapidly to late May rains and has generally become adequate for current needs. June 1 pastures were quite short in much of the Great Plains and Southwest, and had only fair feed in the central and southern Atlantic Coast, eastern Gulf, and far Western areas. Farmers were feeding liberal quantities of grain and concentrates to their milking herds. The amount fed per cow on June 1 set a new high National record for the date, and was particularly high in areas where pasture feed was short. May dairy product-feed price ratios were above a year ago, but below longtime averages for the month.

### 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	1955 1954	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	13,088	101	2.69	2.59	2.57
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.

HD  
9275  
4600  
A2

Milk production above last May

Production of milk on United States farms during May totaled 13,088 million pounds -- the first time in a quarter century of record that milk production in any month has exceeded 13 billion pounds. Output was 1 percent above May last year and 6 percent above the 10-year (1944-53) average for the month. Production conditions were generally favorable with temperatures moderate and pastures providing ample green feed over most of the more important dairy areas. Milk output in May was sufficient to provide each person in the United States 2.57 pounds daily, 4 percent less than average. In the first 5 months of 1955, United States milk production totaled 52.8 billion pounds, 1 percent below the 1954 January-May record output of 53.2 billion pounds.

Production per cow in crop reporters' herds on June 1 averaged 21.93 pounds, 3 percent above last year's previous record June 1 output, and 10 percent above average for the date. This is the ninth consecutive month in which first-of-the-month output set a new record. In all regions except the West, output per cow on June 1 was above a year ago. Increases were 1 percent in the West North Central, 3 percent in the North Atlantic and South Central regions, and 5 percent in the East North Central and South Atlantic areas. Production per cow set new highs for June 1 in 17 States and was exceeded in only 1 or 2 previous years in 14 others. On June 1, crop reporters were milking a record high 77.6 percent of the cows in their herds -- 1 percent above a year ago and 2 percent above average for the date.

Wisconsin leads States

Among the 33 States with monthly estimates available, May milk production was a record high for the month in 13, equaled the record in 1 and was near record in 4 others. On the other hand, production was

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES <sup>1/</sup>

State	May : average: 1944-53	May : 1954	Apr. : 1955	May : 1955	State	May : average: 1944-53	May : 1954	Apr. : 1955	May : 1955
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N. J.	107	114	107	115	Ga.	109	119	120	119
Pa.	549	620	581	648	Ky.	239	268	216	270
Ohio	546	596	512	607	Tenn.	235	256	216	252
Ind.	379	400	316	400	Ala.	126	132	121	133
Ill.	552	543	460	537	Miss.	154	170	165	173
Mich.	541	563	481	565	Ark.	138	149	128	146
Wis.	1,679	1,859	1,623	1,899	Okla.	239	209	187	214
Minn.	907	917	856	952	Texas	362	303	299	312
Iowa	678	646	497	626	Mont.	65	55	46	56
Mo.	434	483	417	496	Idaho	132	150	137	163
N. Dak.	203	199	163	207	Wyo.	25	22	17	20
S. Dak.	166	158	117	149	Utah	67	71	62	68
Nebr.	254	239	197	237	Wash.	197	188	159	188
Kans.	288	272	225	257	Oreg.	144	141	116	138
Va.	180	198	168	202	Calif.	582	662	633	664
W. Va.	82	81	68	88	Other				
N. C.	146	163	149	162	States	1,760	1,993	1,648	1,964
S. C.	53	60	57	61	U. S.	12,318	12,929	11,264	13,088

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

close to a quarter century low for May in the central and southern Great Plains States, Iowa, Montana, and Wyoming. Output per cow in most of these States continued high, but lower levels in cow numbers held down total output. Wisconsin as usual led in total milk production with 1,899 million pounds in May, followed by Minnesota with 952 million, California with 664 million pounds, and Pennsylvania with 648 million.

Grain and concentrates fed to milk cows

Farmers over most of the country continued to feed liberal quantities of grain and other concentrates to their milking herds. On June 1, crop reporters fed an average of 4.58 pounds of grains and other concentrates per milk cow -- a new record high for the date -- 2 percent above a year earlier and 14 percent above average for the date. Seasonally, the quantity of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows showed slightly less than the usual decline from April 1 to June 1.

Regionally, grain and concentrate feeding rates set new 12-year record highs for June 1 in the South Atlantic and South Central regions, equaled the high in the North Atlantic region and was just below record level in the West North Central region. In the East North Central and the West, the quantity of grain fed was just under a year ago, but down rather sharply from the record highs. Among the regions, feeding rates were highest in the North Atlantic area averaging 5.8 pounds per milk cow in herd and lowest in the South Central with 3.5 pounds. In other areas, June 1 averages were 4.9 pounds per cow in the East North Central, 4.6 pounds in the South Atlantic, 4.4 pounds in the West North Central, and 4.3 pounds in the West. The proportion of crop reporters feeding some grain or other concentrates to cows in their milking herds on June 1 averaged 77.2 percent, slightly below last year's previous record high of 78.3 percent, but about 5 percent above the 10-year average for the date.

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

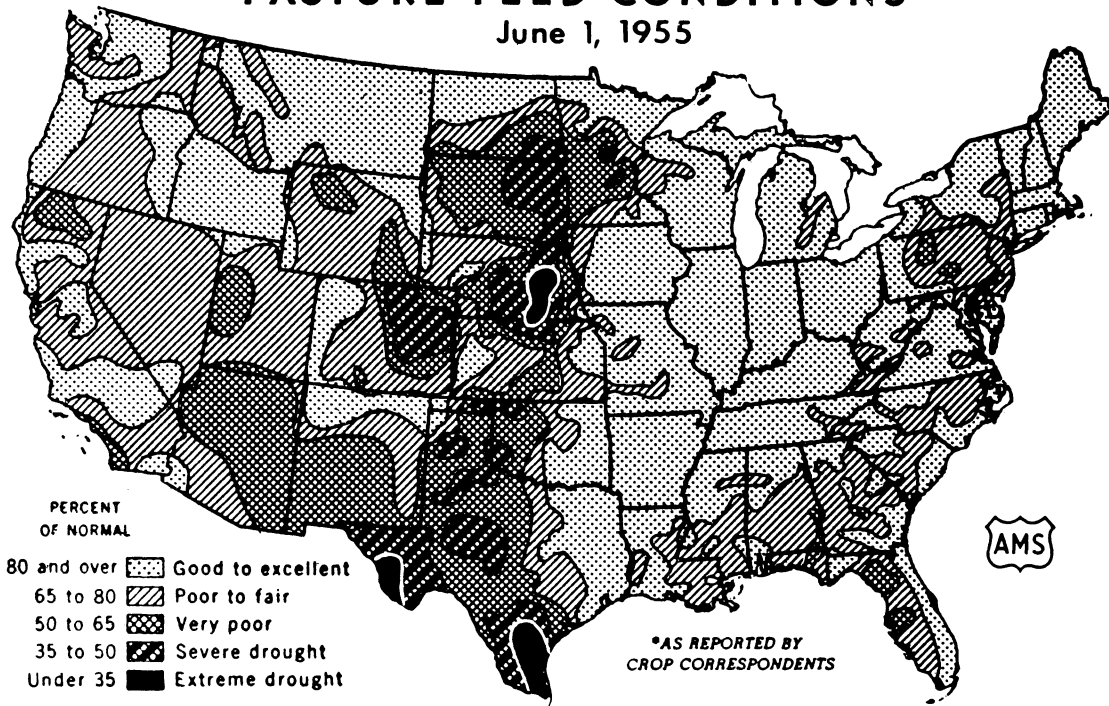
Region	Milk-Feed <u>1/</u>				Butterfat-Feed <u>2/</u>			
	May 1934-53 av.	May 1954	Apr. 1955	May 1955	May 1934-53 av.	May 1954	Apr. 1955	May 1955
N. Atl.	1.09	.94	1.09	1.04	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.12	.99	1.10	1.08	21.1	17.6	18.0	18.0
W.N.C.	1.31	1.07	1.19	1.18	24.4	20.2	21.8	21.8
S. Atl.	1.35	1.26	1.34	1.29	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.23	1.12	1.25	1.22	16.7	13.7	14.5	14.6
West	1.18	1.13	1.21	1.17	19.4	16.0	17.0	16.8
U. S.	1.14	1.03	1.15	1.12	22.1	18.7	19.9	19.9

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\*

June 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

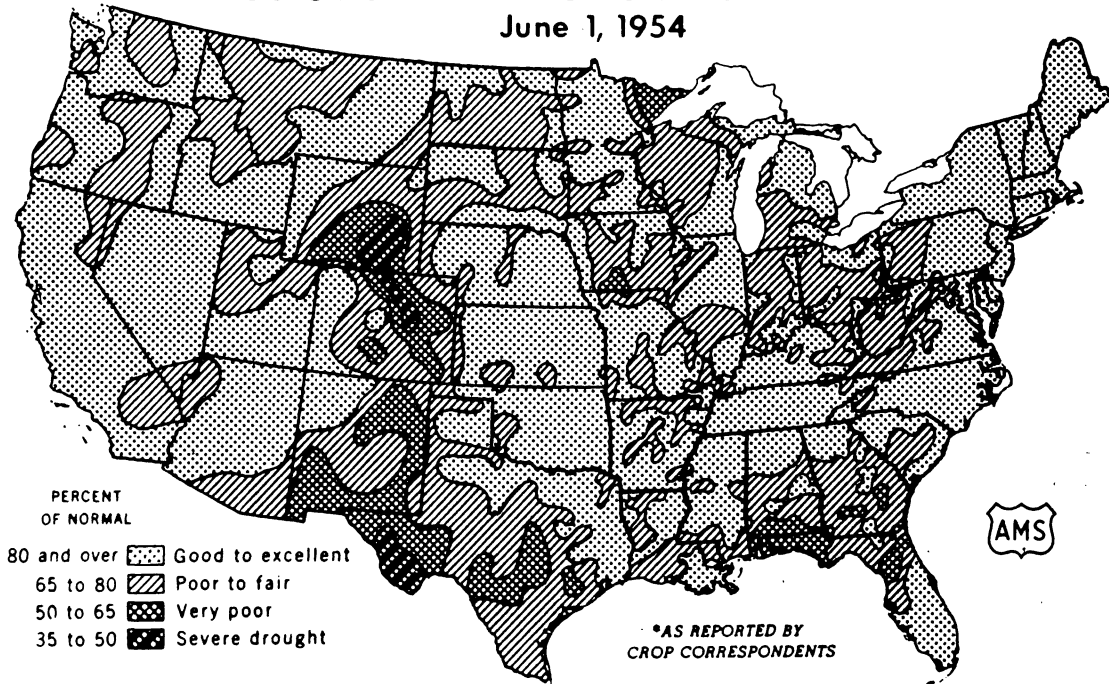
\*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS

\* 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. 1687 - 55 (6)      AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

# PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS\*

June 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

\*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. 828 - 54 (6)      AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

### Milk-feed price ratio above last year

The value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows by the Nation's dairymen in May averaged \$3.19 per hundredweight -- 5 percent below a year earlier and the lowest for the month since 1950. In milk-selling areas, the value of grains and concentrates being fed to milk cows in May was \$3.24 per hundredweight and in cream-selling areas was \$2.85. In May, dairy product-feed price relationships were much improved over a year ago, but still below average. The milk-feed price ratio was 9 percent above a year ago, but 2 percent below the longtime average while the butterfat-feed price ratio was 6 percent above a year earlier but 10 percent below average.

### Dairy pastures poor but improving

On June 1 this year, condition of dairy pasture feed was a little below a year ago and the poorest for the date in 14 years. The average of 80.7 percent of normal compared with 81.4 percent a year ago, and the 1944-53 average of 86.7 percent. However, growth of grass is already responding to substantial late May and early June rains over most of the more important dairy areas, and grazing for milk cows should be much improved in coming weeks. Green feed on June 1 was short over much of the Great Plains and Southwest, and was only fair in the Southeast and the central Atlantic Coast States. On the other hand, pasture feed was plentiful in the Cornbelt and Mississippi Valley, and was improved in the Northwest.

In the Great Plains and Southwest, pasture feed ranged from fair to extremely short. (See pasture map). During the first 3 weeks of May, pastures in the dairy sections of the northern Great Plains deteriorated from dry weather. Green feed was extremely short in southeastern North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, the eastern half of Nebraska and north central Kansas. In eastern Colorado, and much of the southern Great Plains, there were large sections where pasture feed was comparatively short despite considerable improvement from May rains. Over practically the whole Great Plains area, late May rains replenished surface moisture and revived green feed, but in many areas additional rain will be needed to assure continued grazing.

### Good green feed in central sections

In the important central dairy area between the eastern edge of the Great Plains and the Appalachian Mountains, pasture feed on June 1 was generally good to excellent, supplying current needs for milk cows and accumulating reserves of feed for later use during the summer. Over considerable areas of the eastern Gulf and lower and central Atlantic Coast States, pastures were in only fair condition on June 1, but recent rainfall had already revived pasture growth, and green feed for milk cows was mostly adequate and improving. In Montana, the Pacific Northwest, and California, pastures improved rapidly during May and, with moisture supplies generally good, prospects appear excellent.

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

State : Milk produced per milk cow : "Grain" fed per milk cow 2/  
 and : June 1, av. : June 1, : June 1, : June 1, av. : June 1, : June 1,  
 division : 1944-53 : 1954 : 1955 : 1944-53 : 1954 : 1955  
 - Pounds - - Pounds -

Me.	19.5	22.9	23.7	5.2	5.8	5.4
N. H.	20.6	25.2	25.0	4.6	4.5	4.6
Vt.	22.6	24.8	25.6	4.7	4.3	4.5
Mass.	22.6	24.4	26.7	5.4	5.3	5.5
Conn.	22.0	25.9	25.1	5.2	6.2	5.8
N. Y.	27.2	28.5	28.6	5.3	5.3	5.7
N. J.	25.5	25.8	26.8	6.3	6.2	7.0
Pa.	24.0	25.2	26.3	6.2	6.2	6.4
N. Atl.	24.62	26.17	26.92	5.4	5.6	5.8
Ohio	22.2	24.2	25.7	4.6	4.9	5.4
Ind.	20.6	22.5	24.6	4.4	5.0	5.2
Ill.	21.4	23.6	24.2	4.6	5.0	5.3
Mich.	24.8	26.7	27.6	4.8	4.8	5.1
Wis.	26.0	27.1	28.7	4.4	5.1	4.4
E. N. Cent.	23.94	25.74	27.11	4.6	5.0	4.9
Minn.	24.1	25.8	26.4	3.9	4.6	4.1
Iowa	21.7	23.5	23.6	4.5	5.5	5.0
Mo.	16.3	16.6	17.3	3.4	3.7	4.3
N. Dak.	20.0	21.4	22.3	3.6	4.2	4.4
S. Dak.	18.2	19.6	19.3	2.5	3.0	3.6
Nebr.	20.1	22.7	22.5	3.6	3.6	4.7
Kans.	18.4	21.0	20.2	3.8	4.6	4.7
W. N. Cent.	20.19	22.06	22.33	3.8	4.4	4.4
Md.	20.6	21.0	21.5	5.5	6.0	5.6
Va.	16.4	17.4	18.9	3.5	4.0	4.7
W. Va.	15.5	15.9	17.1	2.5	3.0	2.9
N. C.	15.1	15.9	16.0	3.9	4.6	5.0
S. C.	12.5	13.9	14.6	3.4	3.7	4.2
Ga.	10.8	11.4	11.2	3.3	4.2	4.4
S. Atl.	15.40	15.60	16.44	3.6	4.2	4.6
Ky.	15.4	15.7	16.4	2.8	3.4	3.5
Tenn.	13.9	13.7	14.1	3.0	3.3	3.8
Ala.	10.7	10.0	10.3	3.2	3.2	3.8
Miss.	9.4	9.7	9.4	2.1	2.9	2.8
Ark.	10.9	12.0	11.8	2.2	3.2	3.4
Okla.	13.4	13.8	14.6	2.8	2.9	4.2
Tex.	10.3	9.6	9.8	3.3	3.7	3.8
S. Cent.	12.10	12.54	12.95	2.8	3.2	3.5
Mont.	20.4	21.6	22.1	3.0	3.3	3.6
Idaho	23.4	24.8	25.4	3.5	3.9	4.0
Wyo.	20.1	21.6	20.4	2.9	4.0	4.2
Colo.	20.0	21.2	20.1	4.6	4.9	5.5
Utah	22.6	24.3	22.9	3.6	3.3	4.8
Wash.	25.3	25.7	25.1	4.2	3.8	4.1
Oreg.	23.0	23.5	22.0	4.3	4.1	4.4
Calif.	24.1	24.8	24.9	4.4	5.0	4.0
West	22.89	23.93	23.56	4.1	4.4	4.3
U. S.	19.99	21.33	21.93	4.02	4.47	4.58

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.

DAIRY PASTURE FIELD CONDITION 1/

State and division	June 1, 1944-53 av.	June 1, 1953	June 1, 1954	June 1, 1955
	Percent of normal			
Me.	88	94	95	97
N. H.	90	96	92	91
Vt.	92	99	93	92
Mass.	91	97	94	85
R. I.	92	100	91	92
Conn.	91	99	92	84
N. Y.	90	97	88	82
N. J.	91	94	88	71
Pa.	91	97	83	77
N. Atl.	91	97	88	82
Ohio	91	95	78	92
Ind.	92	94	77	93
Ill.	91	89	80	94
Mich.	88	94	79	84
Wis.	86	86	78	86
E. N. Cent.	88	90	78	89
Minn.	82	87	81	69
Iowa	91	90	76	92
Mo.	89	87	80	87
N. Dak.	75	83	77	72
S. Dak.	84	82	78	48
Nebr.	86	81	84	56
Kans.	86	71	86	69
W. N. Cent.	85	84	80	74
Del.	92	95	85	77
Md.	90	95	84	82
Va.	91	93	80	83
W. Va.	88	91	72	86
N. C.	83	83	87	81
S. C.	77	74	82	79
Ga.	80	85	77	76
Fla.	74	74	69	69
S. Atl.	85	87	80	80
Ky.	91	93	82	93
Tenn.	88	93	85	89
Ala.	82	87	79	77
Miss.	83	90	84	82
Ark.	87	90	82	89
La.	82	85	80	77
Okla.	84	69	86	70
Tex.	79	69	76	66
S. Cent.	84	82	81	79
Mont.	81	86	81	91
Idaho	89	84	88	85
Wyo.	85	79	70	73
Colo.	84	78	66	55
N. Mex.	65	50	66	70
Ariz.	79	75	78	57
Utah	86	76	83	74
Nev.	82	67	91	73
Wash.	88	93	81	80
Oreg.	89	94	83	85
Calif.	78	79	88	77
West	83	82	82	77
U. S.	86.7	87.8	81.4	80.7

1/ 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.