

DAIRY PRODUCTION

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DIRECTOR

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HD
9275
U600

SUMMARY

Production of milk on farms during June totaled 12,665 million pounds, slightly above a year earlier, and 3 percent above average for the month. In the first 6 months of 1955, output totaled 65.5 billion pounds, about one-third billion pounds short of last year's record for the period. On July 1, production per milk cow in crop reporters' herds, averaging 20.33 pounds, was record high for the date. However, it was down 7 percent from June 1, as sharp a seasonal decline as has taken place since the early thirties. The proportion of crop reporters' milk cows being milked on July 1 was 75.8 percent, slightly below average for the date, as compared to record highs in several previous months. Condition of dairy pastures on July 1 averaged 84 percent of normal, above the last 3 years but a little below average for the date. Pasture feed for milk cows was generally good to excellent over most of the northern and central parts of the country. In the Middle Atlantic States, pasture condition on July 1 remained below average, and in the Southeast declined to about average. Rains in June broke the drought over much of the Great Plains, but parts of the Southwest were still dry on July 1.

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

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average	1954	1955	1955	Average	1954	1955
	1944-53			1954	1944-53		
	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	12,665	101	2.78	2.59	2.56
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 high, peak early

Milk production on farms in June continued slightly above a year earlier. Output for the month totaled 12,665 million pounds compared with 12,600 million pounds in June 1954, and the record for the month of 12,907 million pounds set in 1945. Paced by an extremely early spring in the important northern dairy States, milk production reached its seasonal high point close to the beginning of June, one of the earliest peaks of recent years. During June, production was at a daily rate per capita of 2.56 pounds, about 8 percent below the 1944-53 average for the month. In the first half of 1955, production of milk totaled 65.5 billion pounds, about one-third billion pounds short of last year's record for the period.

Production per cow shows sharp seasonal drop

On July 1, milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 20.33 pounds, continuing at record high levels for corresponding dates. Heavy milk flow during June was supported by excellent green feed in pastures and below normal temperatures during most of the month. In the 6 major geographic areas, production per cow ranged from 2 to 4 percent above July 1 a year ago, and from 4 to 8 percent above the average for the date. The decline of 7.3 percent in National milk production per cow from June 1 to July 1, however, was as sharp as in any year since the early 1930's. The percentage of milk cows being milked, which in recent months has been setting new highs, dropped sharply to a below average level of 75.8 percent on July 1. The sharp down-turn in percentage of milk cows being milked was shared by all regions except the West.

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES ^{1/}

State	June average 1944-53	June 1954	May 1955	June 1955	State	June average 1944-53	June 1954	May 1955	June 1955
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N. J.	99	102	115	103	Ga.	106	110	118	112
Pa.	522	562	648	586	Ky.	246	269	270	268
Ohio	550	576	607	582	Tenn.	232	251	252	242
Ind.	380	379	400	398	Ala.	126	126	133	129
Ill.	544	526	537	504	Miss.	147	162	173	161
Mich.	560	574	573	584	Ark.	138	142	146	144
Wis.	1,695	1,768	1,899	1,880	Okla.	225	187	214	196
Minn.	920	926	952	925	Texas	352	288	309	286
Iowa	678	628	626	614	Mont.	69	59	56	59
Mo.	429	451	496	461	Idaho	131	146	163	160
N. Dak.	234	220	207	224	Wyo.	28	23	20	23
S. Dak.	182	163	152	158	Utah	68	70	68	69
Nebr.	262	238	237	237	Wash.	189	183	189	187
Kans.	274	251	257	239	Oreg.	141	137	138	134
Va.	183	193	202	198	Calif.	554	628	664	648
W. Va.	86	82	88	89	Other				
N. C.	144	157	162	152	States	1,759	1,965	1,956	1,855
S. C.	53	58	61	58	U. S.	12,306	12,600	13,088	12,665

^{1/} Monthly data for other States not yet available.

Among the 33 States for which monthly milk production estimates are available, new highs for June were established in 9 States, and the previous high equaled in 3. States where production was 3 percent or more above a year ago included Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, Virginia, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Idaho, and California. On the other hand, States where June output was below a year ago by 3 percent or more included Illinois, South Dakota, Kansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Milk cows in Wisconsin produced 1,880 million pounds of milk during June, to lead all States. Minnesota with 925 million pounds was second, followed by California with 648 million, and Iowa with 614 million.

Dairy pasture feed about average

Condition of dairy pastures, nationally, averaged 84 percent of normal on July 1 -- 2 to 3 percentage points above the last 3 years, but 2 percent below the 10-year average for the date. Seasonally, condition of dairy pastures increased 3 points as compared to a usual slight decline from June 1 to July 1. Drought over most of the Great Plains and Central Rocky Mountain States area was broken during June, and grass made a good recovery. Pasture feed was still short and dry over much of the Southwest, and showed some deterioration during June in the Southeast. In other areas of the country, pastures were generally in good to excellent condition on July 1 and supplying ample feed for dairy stock.

In the important dairy areas of New England and the East North Central group of States, pastures were generally furnishing excellent feed. In the section of the country from the central Mississippi Valley States east to the Coast, pastures were also supplying ample feed. In Montana and Idaho, pastures were generally providing excellent feed for dairy stock on July 1. In Washington, pastures showed some improvement during June and were furnishing about average feed for July 1, while in Oregon pasture feed continued good in most of the important dairy areas. In California, irrigated pastures were good and all pastures about average for the date.

Green feed deteriorates in Southeast

Pasture feed condition declined from a month earlier in most of the southeastern Coastal States. Pastures were dry and short in portions of the Gulf Coast States, the Carolinas, and Georgia, but good in other parts, resulting

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DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

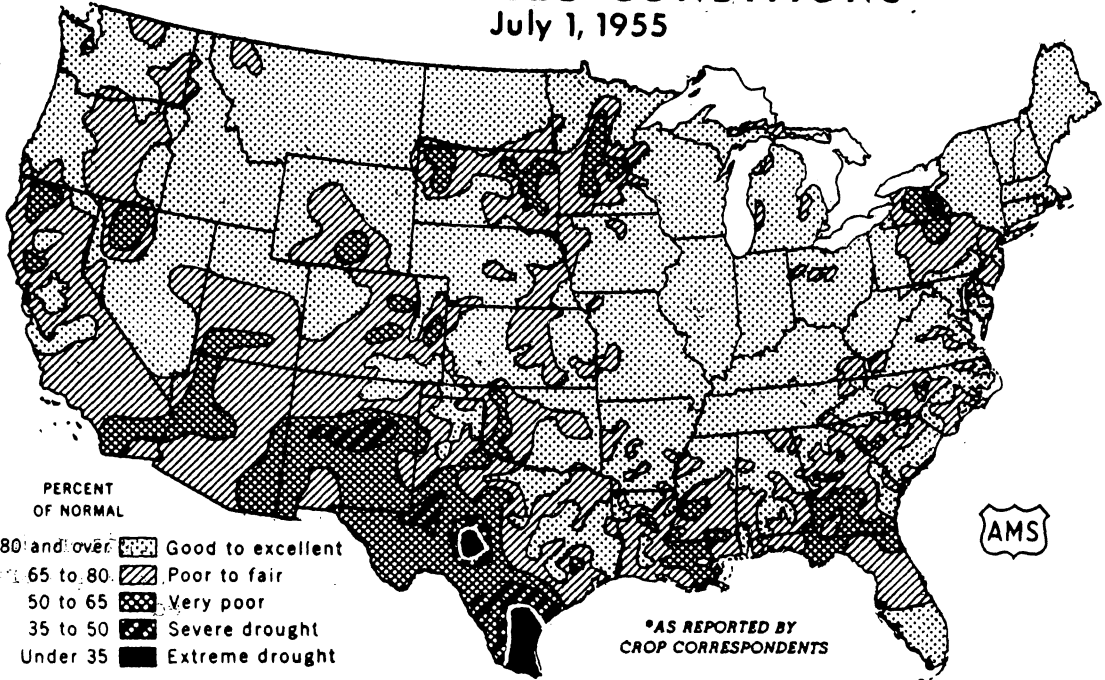
Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	June 1934-53 av.	June 1954	May 1955	June 1955	June 1934-53 av.	June 1954	May 1955	June 1955
N. Atl.	1.09	.96	1.04	1.08	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.11	1.00	1.08	1.08	20.9	17.4	18.0	18.0
W.N.C.	1.31	1.07	1.19	1.16	24.1	20.4	21.8	21.8
S. Atl.	1.36	1.29	1.30	1.33	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.23	1.12	1.23	1.23	16.6	14.0	14.6	14.5
West	1.17	1.12	1.17	1.17	19.3	15.9	16.8	16.7
U. S.	1.14	1.04	1.12	1.13	21.8	18.8	19.9	20.0

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*

July 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



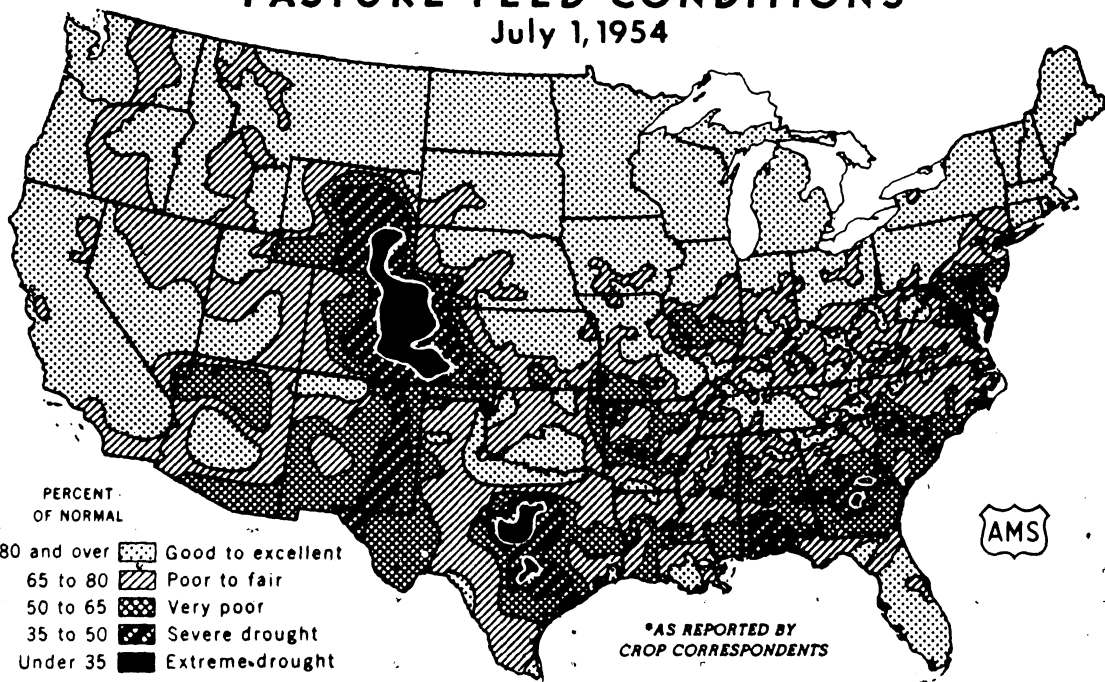
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS

* 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. 1711-55(7) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

July 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. 850-54(7) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

State and division	Milk produced per milk cow in herds kept by reporters 1/			Dairy pasture feed condition 2/		
	July 1, 1944-53 av.	July 1, 1954	July 1, 1955	July 1, 1944-53 av.	July 1, 1954	July 1, 1955
	Pounds			Percent of normal		
Me.	20.9	22.4	23.3	89	98	99
W. H.	19.8	22.0	23.9	87	98	95
Vt.	21.5	21.8	22.5	89	99	94
Mass.	21.2	21.9	24.3	86	95	95
Conn.	20.2	22.5	22.3	88	85	82
N. Y.	24.6	25.0	25.1	86	90	79
N. J.	22.9	22.1	22.9	81	64	74
Pa.	22.0	22.5	22.5	87	80	78
N. Atl.	22.64	23.25	23.63	87	88	82
Ohio	20.9	23.3	23.1	90	81	88
Ind.	20.0	21.4	22.9	91	79	93
Ill.	20.3	21.5	21.5	90	77	94
Mich.	24.1	25.0	26.1	89	94	86
Wis.	24.8	25.0	26.0	87	92	91
E. N. Cent.	22.91	24.05	24.69	89	86	90
Minn.	22.7	23.9	24.2	88	93	78
Iowa	21.0	21.4	22.6	95	87	89
Mo.	15.6	16.3	16.8	85	77	89
N. Dak.	20.5	20.3	20.7	81	92	89
S. Dak.	18.0	19.3	18.9	87	93	71
Nebr.	19.0	20.1	21.5	89	82	85
Kans.	17.0	18.1	18.5	83	77	83
W. N. Cent.	19.35	20.28	20.77	88	87	83
Md.	18.8	19.0	20.4	86	57	85
Va.	16.3	17.0	18.0	86	69	83
W. Va.	15.9	15.7	17.9	88	75	89
N. C.	14.9	16.5	15.6	79	71	79
S. C.	12.4	12.8	12.5	71	58	76
Ga.	10.4	10.0	10.8	76	62	72
S. Atl.	14.76	15.17	15.84	82	66	80
Ky.	15.2	15.4	15.8	84	76	93
Tenn.	13.6	14.0	13.4	80	78	89
Ala.	10.6	9.0	10.4	77	65	80
Miss.	9.2	9.2	9.1	79	70	78
Ark.	10.8	10.8	12.4	79	64	86
La.	7.6	7.5	7.9	76	69	73
Okla.	12.5	12.6	13.9	80	73	77
Tex.	9.9	9.6	9.8	73	60	70
S. Cent.	11.59	11.76	12.28	78	69	80
Mont.	20.7	21.1	22.5	85	89	96
Idaho	23.2	25.1	26.1	92	89	91
Wyo.	21.3	20.6	22.8	89	61	85
Colo.	19.8	19.9	20.6	83	36	77
Utah	22.1	22.1	24.0	86	76	80
Wash.	23.9	23.9	24.8	88	89	88
Oreg.	22.4	22.8	23.2	89	89	84
Calif.	22.8	24.1	25.0	78	83	76
West	22.12	22.76	23.77	83	79	82
U. S.	19.03	19.78	20.33	85.8	82.3	84.3

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.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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in about average July 1 pasture feed in these States. Dairy pastures also deteriorated during June in western New York, central and northeastern Pennsylvania, and parts of New Jersey, with July 1 pasture condition in these States from 7 to 9 points below average. Pasture feed while much improved during June was still below average and a year earlier in an area covering central and southwestern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota.

In the northern and central Great Plains States and Wyoming and Colorado, drought-breaking rains resulted in substantial grass feed development over the area. Pastures showed marked recovery from the drought conditions of a month earlier with July 1 conditions ranging from 12 points above June 1 in Wyoming to 29 points above in Nebraska. In Oklahoma and Texas, pasture feed conditions also improved during June, and the July 1 condition was above a year ago. However, pastures were still short and dry in parts of these States.