

DAIRY PRODUCTION

October 12, 1955

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SUMMARY

Milk production on farms continued at record levels during September and pushed up to 3 percent above a year earlier. Output for the first 9 months totaled 97.4 billion pounds of milk, slightly exceeding last year's previous record for the period. Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds dropped off less than average from September 1 to October 1 and continued to set new highs for the date. Heavy milk flow was supported by record quantities of grain and concentrates fed per milk cow on October 1, as dairy product-feed price relationships continued to become more favorable with the approach of the winter feeding season. On October 1, the condition of dairy pasture was the second lowest for the date in 16 years. Green feed for milk cows was very short in many important Midwestern dairy areas, but plentiful along the East Coast and much better than a year ago through most of the South.

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	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	11,704	101	2.52	2.29	2.28
Aug.	10,529	10,474	10,616	101	2.29	2.08	2.07
Sept.	9,174	9,369	9,618	103	2.06	1.91	1.93
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 production at record level

Production of milk on farms during September totaled 9,618 million pounds, 3 percent above September a year ago and 2 percent above the previous September high. Production during September was at the rate of 1.93 pounds of milk per capita per day, slightly above September a year ago, but 6 percent below average. Output of milk in the first 9 months of 1955 of 97.4 billion pounds was a record high for the period, slightly above the 97.2 billion pounds in January-September 1954.

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on October 1 averaged 16.61 pounds--5 percent above the previous high for the date set last year, and 12 percent above average. The heavy milk flow per cow was encouraged by a record high rate of grain and concentrate feeding. Seasonally, production per cow declined only 3 percent from September 1 to October 1 as compared to an average decline of 7 percent. Output per cow was at record-high level for October 1 in all regions. Compared with a year earlier, production per cow on October 1 ranged from 3 percent above in the South Atlantic and Western regions to 8 percent above in the North Atlantic and South Central areas. Output per cow was also sharply above average in all regions with increases ranging from 10 to 13 percent. The proportion of milk cows in crop reporters' herds in production on October 1 averaged 69.2 percent, slightly above a year earlier, but about average for the date.

Leading milk States set new records

Among the 33 States with monthly milk production estimates available, September output was a record high for the month in 9 States and near record level in 8 other States. On the other hand, production was as low or nearly as

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

State	Sept. average : 1944-53	Sept. : 1954	Aug. : 1955	Sept. : 1955	State	Sept. average : 1944-53	Sept. : 1954	Aug. : 1955	Sept. : 1955
					Million pounds				
N. J.	88	95	93	94	Ga.	100	106	112	106
Pa.	445	480	518	514	Ky.	218	221	231	227
Ohio	446	465	519	479	Tenn.	211	222	248	225
Ind.	317	324	341	322	Ala.	112	111	123	114
Ill.	422	397	436	397	Miss.	120	123	147	130
Mich.	444	452	514	479	Ark.	117	107	133	113
Wis.	1,068	1,105	1,344	1,140	Okla.	166	140	173	146
Minn.	503	476	612	509	Texas	287	262	266	244
Iowa	473	440	508	441	Mont.	49	43	48	42
Mo.	362	375	447	392	Idaho	101	116	132	114
N. Dak.	141	133	172	129	Wyo.	21	18	19	17
S. Dak.	110	98	123	103	Utah	50	51	59	51
Nebr.	174	167	190	159	Wash.	143	147	164	151
Kans.	202	190	211	182	Oreg.	102	104	117	101
Va.	170	185	204	192	Calif.	474	561	636	584
W. Va.	73	71	79	74	Other				
N. C.	135	143	161	152	States	1,281	1,388	1,448	1,444
S. C.	50	53	58	51	U. S.	9,174	9,369	10,616	9,618

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

low as for any September in about a quarter century of records in most Great Plains States, Wisconsin, as usual, led all States, producing 1,140 million pounds in September, followed by California with 584 million, Pennsylvania, 511 million, and Minnesota, 509 million--all record highs for the month, except Minnesota.

Heavy grain and concentrate feeding

Farmers were feeding grain and concentrates to their milking herds at a record high October 1 rate per cow this year as poor pastures and improved dairy product-feed price relationships encouraged liberal feeding. Crop reporters fed an average of 4.82 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow on October 1. This was 7 percent above last year's October 1 rate of 4.49 pounds and 22 percent above the 1944-53 average for the date. Seasonally, the quantity of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows showed considerably more than the average gain from August 1 to October 1.

Regionally, grain and concentrate feeding rates set new 13-year record highs for October 1 in the East and West North Central regions, equaled the highs in the North Atlantic and South Atlantic regions, and were near record levels in the South Central region and the West. The quantity of grain and concentrates fed per milk cow on October 1 was above a year earlier in all the major regions other than the South Central where last year's rate was stepped up by drought. By regions, feeding rates were highest in the North Atlantic area at 6.1 pounds per milk cow in herd, and the lowest was in South Central region at 3.9 pounds. October 1 averages in other areas were 5.3 pounds in the East North Central, 4.6 pounds in the West North Central and 4.5 pounds in both the South Atlantic and West. Nationally, the proportion of crop reporters feeding some grain or other concentrates to milk cows in their herds averaged 77.4 percent, slightly above last year, exceeded only by the record high of 78.2 percent set in 1953, and about 7 percent above average for the date.

Dairy product-feed price ratios improve

The value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows by dairymen across the Nation averaged \$3.00 per hundredweight in September. This was nearly 9 percent below a year earlier and the lowest for the month since 1949. In the milk-selling areas, the value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region:	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	Sept. 1934-53 av.	Sept. 1954	Aug. 1955	Sept. 1955	Sept. 1934-53 av.	Sept. 1954	Aug. 1955	Sept. 1955
N. Atl.	1.28	1.28	1.33	1.39	-	-	-	-
E. N. C.	1.27	1.15	1.24	1.31	22.4	17.3	19.0	19.4
W. N. C.	1.49	1.24	1.36	1.42	26.1	20.2	23.0	23.3
S. Atl.	1.45	1.42	1.42	1.51	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.38	1.31	1.36	1.48	17.6	13.5	14.7	15.3
West	1.30	1.25	1.22	1.29	20.7	16.5	16.9	17.3
U. S.	1.30	1.23	1.29	1.36	23.4	18.7	20.9	21.2

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.

in September was \$3.06 per hundredweight and in cream-selling areas was \$2.67. The milk-feed price ratio in September was 11 percent above a year earlier, the most favorable for the month since 1948, and about 5 percent above the longtime average. The butterfat-feed price ratio was 13 percent above a year earlier, but 9 percent below average.

Pasture condition reflects drought

On October 1, the condition of dairy pastures averaged 67.1 percent of normal, slightly below last year and the second lowest for the date since 1939. Dairy pastures were mostly good to excellent in States along the Atlantic Seaboard, in some areas along the Gulf Coast, and in portions of the West. In the central part of the country, pastures on October 1 were spotted, varying mostly from poor to extremely short, with the Eastern Great Plains States most adversely affected. Late September rains have improved fall grazing prospects for milk stock over much of this area, but lateness of the season will limit growth.

Green feed short in Midwest

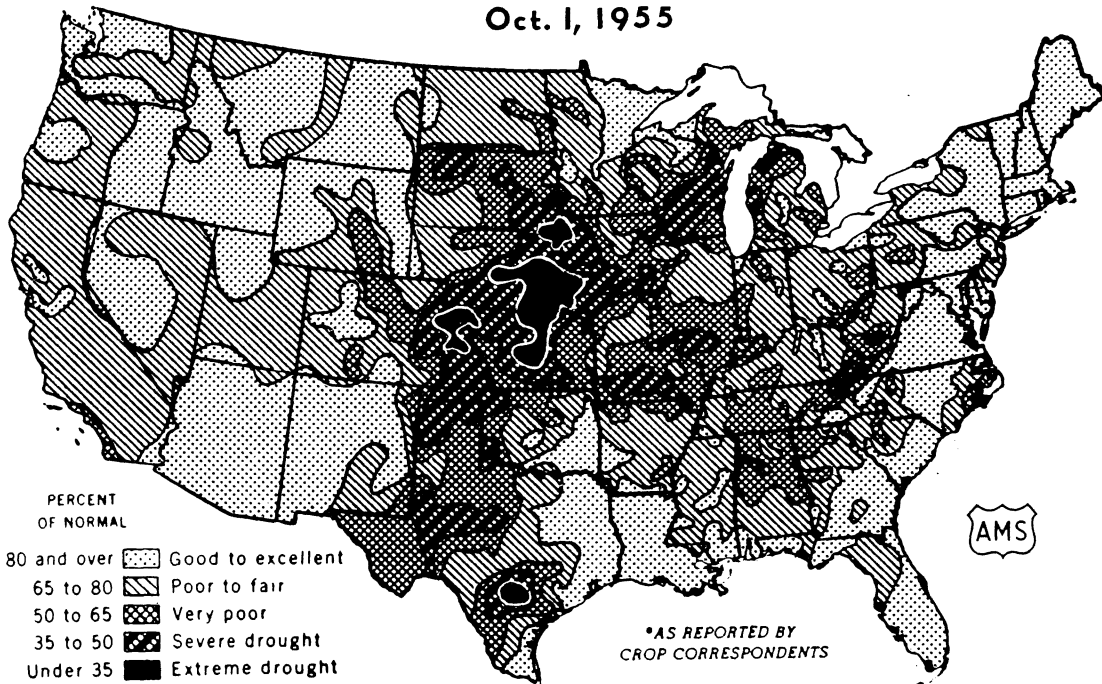
Pastures were extremely short on October 1 in an extensive area covering most of southeast Nebraska and extending down to central Kansas, (See pasture map). This was surrounded by a much larger area where condition ranged from severe drought to very poor, including most of South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, northern Michigan, southern Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, western Oklahoma, and portions of Texas. As the result of late September rains over much of these areas, grass has greened up and pasture prospects improved greatly, but the amount of feed furnished milk cows will depend on temperatures during the remainder of the growing season. Fall-sown grain pastures in the central and southern Great Plains area were generally a little late, but prospects were greatly improved by September rainfall.

In the Northeast, pasture condition continued well above average and was on par with the very good condition a year ago. In the South, October 1 pasture feed was much better than during the severe drought last year. In West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, pasture condition was considerably below average, but in Maryland, Delaware, and Louisiana considerably above.

In the Pacific Northwest, pastures were a little above average, but not providing the exceptional feed they were at this time last year.

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

Oct. 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



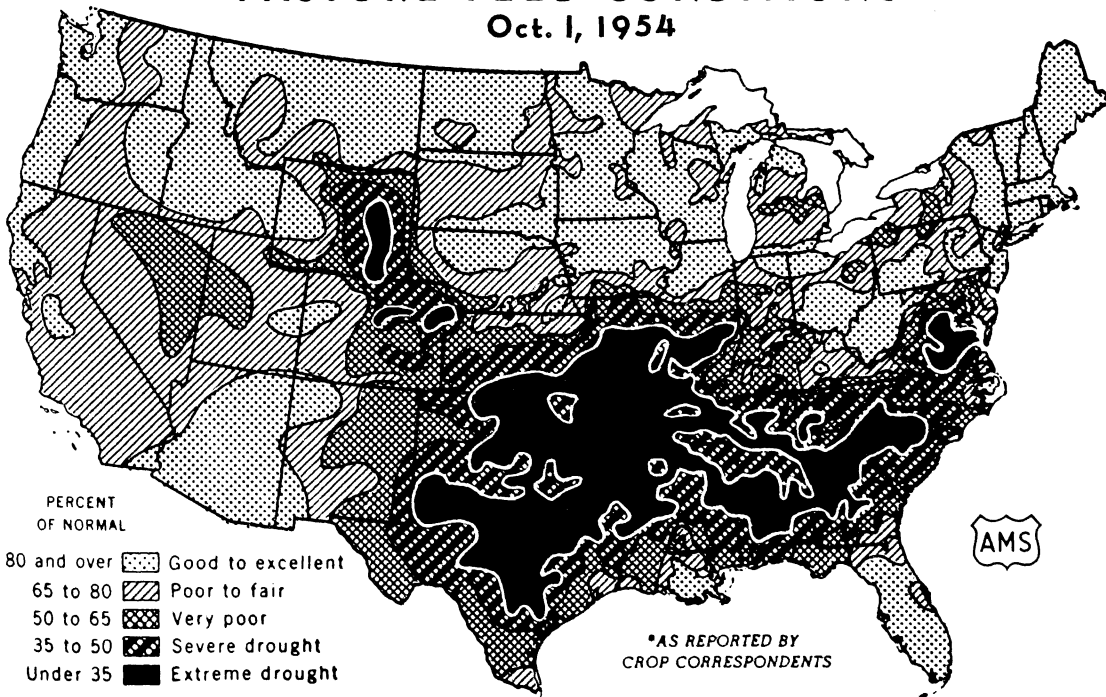
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS

* 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. 1890-55 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

Oct. 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. 1142-54 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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 division	Oct. 1, 1944-53	Oct 1, 1954	Oct. 1, 1955	Oct. 1, 1944-53	Oct. 1, 1954	Oct. 1, 1955
	Pounds			Pounds		
Me.	17.0	19.8	20.2	5.2	5.5	5.7
N. H.	17.5	20.6	21.5	4.6	4.4	5.4
Vt.	16.1	16.8	18.6	4.4	4.4	4.9
Mass.	19.2	19.8	21.4	5.9	5.3	5.4
Conn.	18.9	21.6	22.3	5.7	6.0	6.3
N. Y.	19.1	19.3	21.5	5.5	5.4	5.8
N. J.	21.2	22.5	23.0	7.1	7.2	7.1
Pa.	18.5	19.2	21.2	6.3	6.5	6.9
N. Atl.	18.84	19.60	21.25	5.6	5.7	6.1
Ohio	17.6	19.8	20.1	4.9	5.5	5.9
Ind.	16.4	19.0	19.2	4.6	5.2	5.8
Ill.	16.2	17.6	18.6	4.7	4.9	5.5
Mich.	18.7	19.9	21.8	4.8	5.5	6.0
Wis.	16.2	16.4	16.8	3.6	4.0	4.5
E. N. Cent.	16.89	17.96	18.63	4.3	4.8	5.3
Minn.	13.4	13.7	15.3	2.8	3.1	4.1
Iowa	15.4	16.6	17.3	4.5	4.9	6.0
Mo.	13.4	13.5	15.0	3.6	5.0	4.6
N. Dak.	12.4	12.7	12.6	2.7	3.2	3.4
S. Dak.	11.5	12.0	12.8	2.5	2.8	3.2
Nebr.	13.5	15.4	15.8	3.5	3.1	4.1
Kans.	13.1	15.4	15.6	3.8	4.6	5.0
W. N. Cent.	13.44	14.46	15.17	3.5	4.0	4.6
Md.	17.5	19.0	19.0	5.9	6.1	6.1
Va.	15.1	16.8	17.9	3.9	4.5	4.6
W. Va.	13.8	14.8	14.9	2.6	3.0	3.3
N. C.	13.8	15.1	15.6	4.2	4.9	4.7
S. C.	11.6	11.7	11.4	3.3	4.0	3.8
Ga.	9.7	10.0	10.5	3.3	4.0	4.3
S. Atl.	13.59	14.73	15.23	3.8	4.4	4.5
Ky.	13.5	13.2	14.0	3.0	3.7	3.7
Tenn.	11.9	11.8	12.6	3.2	4.1	4.2
Ala.	9.0	8.3	8.8	3.3	4.3	4.2
Miss.	7.6	7.7	7.7	1.9	2.9	3.5
Ark.	9.1	9.3	9.5	2.4	4.1	3.3
La.	6.9	6.8	7.5	2.6	3.3	2.8
Okla.	10.2	10.3	12.2	2.8	4.0	4.7
Texas	8.6	9.8	8.9	3.5	4.8	4.2
S. Cent.	10.15	10.43	11.28	2.9	4.0	3.9
Mont.	15.4	17.3	16.9	2.6	3.4	3.3
Idaho	18.8	20.2	19.9	3.6	3.5	3.6
Wyo.	16.8	18.9	18.6	2.8	2.9	3.2
Colo.	14.8	19.3	18.0	4.0	4.8	4.7
Utah	18.6	20.2	20.9	3.5	3.3	3.8
Wash.	19.3	20.8	20.6	4.6	4.3	4.8
Oreg.	17.2	17.8	17.8	4.5	4.0	4.8
Calif.	19.5	21.9	22.0	4.5	4.5	4.8
West	17.88	19.55	20.17	4.1	4.2	4.5
U.S.	14.81	15.78	16.61	3.94	4.49	4.82

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 FEED CONDITION 1/

State	October 1, 1944-53 av.	October 1, 1953	October 1, 1954	October 1, 1955
Percent of normal				
Me.	71	67	93	84
N. H.	74	60	87	87
Vt.	77	69	86	89
Mass.	71	41	97	92
R. I.	73	79	85	92
Conn.	73	48	90	91
N. Y.	75	67	77	81
N. J.	73	51	83	79
Pa.	73	48	76	80
N. Atl.	74	55	80	82
Ohio	73	54	81	71
Ind.	78	51	67	70
Ill.	80	49	60	64
Mich.	77	72	72	66
Wis.	77	66	84	57
E. N. Cent.	77	60	76	64
Minn.	76	74	84	71
Iowa	81	46	80	51
Mo.	75	13	29	58
N. Dak.	74	76	84	71
S. Dak.	78	79	79	52
Nebr.	81	58	73	46
Kans.	76	42	46	44
W. N. Cent.	78	55	70	57
Del.	75	61	67	86
Md.	80	65	64	88
Va.	80	38	52	81
W. Va.	76	45	88	68
N. C.	78	54	47	81
S. C.	76	60	32	77
Ga.	76	75	36	74
Fla.	79	75	73	82
S. Atl.	78	56	54	79
Ky.	75	37	64	70
Tenn.	73	49	40	62
Ala.	75	66	34	65
Miss.	74	57	40	76
Ark.	69	29	24	71
La.	77	71	52	90
Okla.	71	52	25	66
Tex.	66	52	34	66
S. Cent.	71	50	38	68
Mont.	80	83	86	85
Idaho	84	81	86	87
Wyo.	81	73	51	78
Colo.	76	64	50	64
N. Mex.	68	52	58	77
Ariz.	79	75	84	80
Utah	78	72	69	79
Nev.	84	79	69	76
Wash.	74	82	96	80
Oreg.	74	83	88	77
Calif.	74	75	76	73
West	76	76	78	76
U. S.	75.8	58.3	68.0	67.1

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.