

DAIRY PRODUCTION

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December 12, 1955

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Milk production on farms during November totaled 8,724 million pounds -- 3 percent above last year's previous high and nearly 13 percent above the 1944-53 average for the month. Seasonally, production declined less than usual as liberal feeding offset effects of unseasonably cold weather and snow cover during the greater part of November in the northern portion of the country. Output decreased about 6 percent from October to November compared with an average decline of 10 percent for this period. Production during November was at a rate of 1.75 pounds of milk per capita per day, slightly above November last year and average. Output of milk in the first 11 months of 1955, totaling 115.4 billion pounds, was record high for the period, somewhat above the 114.7 billion pounds in January-November 1954.

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on December 1 averaged 16.53 pounds -- 4 percent above the previous high for the date set last year and 20 percent above average. The heavy milk flow per cow was partly due to a record high rate of grain and concentrate feeding. Seasonally, production per cow increased slightly from November 1 to December 1, as compared with an average decline of nearly 2 percent. Output per cow was at a record high

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	<u>1955</u> 1954	Average 1944-53	1954	1955
	<u>Million pounds</u>			<u>Percent</u>	<u>Pounds</u>		
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	9,324	103	1.87	1.78	1.81
Nov.	7,743	8,474	8,724	103	1.73	1.73	1.75
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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level for December 1 in all regions. Compared with a year earlier, production per cow on December 1 ranged from 1 percent above in the South Atlantic region to 6 percent above in the West North Central area. Output per cow was considerably above average in all regions, with increases ranging from 14 to 24 percent. The proportion of milk cows in crop reporters' herds in production on December 1 averaged 69.0 percent, a record high for the date, compared with 68.0 percent a year earlier.

Among the 33 States with monthly milk production estimates currently available, November output was a record high for the month in 10 States, equaled the record high in 2 States, and was near the record in 6 others. Wisconsin, as usual, led the States in November milk production with 1,055 million pounds, or nearly one-eighth of the total United States output. Other leading States included Minnesota with 583 million pounds, California with 556 million pounds, and Pennsylvania with 486 million pounds.

Grain and concentrate feeding continues at record high level

The amount of grain and other concentrates fed per milk cow continued at a record high rate for the season as milk cows were shifted to full winter rations. On December 1, crop reporters fed their herds an average of 5.90 pounds of concentrate ration per head daily, 6 percent more than a year earlier, and 13 percent above the 1944-53 average for the date. The seasonal increase from the very high October 1 rate this year, however, was less than average.

Abundant supplies of feed grains on farms, cold stormy weather around the first of the month, and improved price relationships all contributed to the high rate of concentrate feeding. In the eastern, north central, and southern sections of the country, the amount of grain fed per milk cow was the highest for December 1 in a 23-year record, while in the West, the previous high record (Continued on page 4)

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	Nov. average 1944-53	Nov. 1954	Oct. 1955	Nov. 1955	State	Nov. average 1944-53	Nov. 1954	Oct. 1955	Nov. 1955
<u>Million pounds</u>					<u>Million pounds</u>				
N. J.	82	95	97	93	Ga.	85	88	105	100
Pa.	395	463	525	486	Ky.	156	170	206	171
Ohio	367	418	470	446	Tenn.	155	174	199	171
Ind.	256	255	282	247	Ala.	96	98	106	99
Ill.	362	359	390	358	Miss.	94	112	119	112
Mich.	369	391	464	428	Ark.	91	99	105	100
Wis.	880	1,010	1,105	1,055	Okla.	133	133	146	135
Minn.	505	539	530	583	Tex.	244	234	242	230
Iowa	404	389	427	395	Mont.	38	35	40	35
Mo.	270	308	377	309	Idaho	85	103	108	97
N. Dak.	98	104	113	105	Wyo.	17	15	17	15
S. Dak.	83	78	90	84	Utah	46	49	52	49
Nebr.	139	137	159	142	Wash.	121	128	148	133
Kans.	180	181	179	180	Oreg.	84	86	92	81
Va.	138	147	173	150	Calif.	437	540	578	556
W. Va.	59	58	70	59	Other				
N. C.	116	129	141	125	States	1,116	1,304	1,419	1,349
S. C.	42	45	50	46	U. S.	7,743	8,474	9,324	8,724

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/		
	Dec. 1 av. 1944-53	Dec. 1, 1954	Dec. 1, 1955	Dec. 1 av. 1944-53	Dec. 1, 1954	Dec. 1, 1955
	- Pounds -			- Pounds -		
Me.	14.5	16.9	17.3	6.0	6.6	6.8
N. H.	16.2	18.5	18.9	5.5	5.7	5.9
Vt.	14.7	17.5	18.0	5.6	5.8	6.2
Mass.	17.4	19.7	20.1	6.3	6.0	6.5
Conn.	17.4	21.2	20.7	6.5	6.6	6.4
N. Y.	17.9	19.7	20.7	6.5	6.8	7.1
N. J.	19.8	21.5	22.1	7.9	7.8	7.9
Pa.	17.1	19.1	20.1	7.3	7.7	7.8
N. Atl.	17.47	19.47	20.30	6.6	6.9	7.2
Ohio	15.7	19.1	20.2	6.2	6.3	6.9
Ind.	14.4	17.6	17.9	5.9	6.5	6.9
Ill.	15.0	17.7	17.9	6.3	6.4	6.6
Mich.	17.5	19.5	21.8	6.2	6.2	7.2
Wis.	15.4	17.8	18.6	5.6	5.9	6.1
E. N. Cent.	15.70	18.28	19.25	6.0	6.2	6.6
Minn.	15.6	16.9	19.0	5.4	5.3	5.8
Iowa	14.7	16.6	17.7	6.1	5.8	6.9
Mo.	10.8	13.6	13.2	4.8	5.4	5.6
N. Dak.	11.1	13.5	14.0	4.4	4.8	4.9
S. Dak.	10.8	12.3	12.9	3.8	3.8	4.3
Nebr.	13.1	16.0	17.1	4.8	4.8	4.9
Kans.	13.7	16.6	17.4	5.1	5.4	5.8
W. N. Cent.	13.33	15.57	16.47	5.2	5.3	5.8
Md.	16.1	18.0	18.4	7.0	8.1	7.5
Va.	13.3	15.7	15.5	5.0	5.6	5.8
W. Va.	11.2	13.0	12.7	3.8	3.4	4.4
N. C.	12.2	14.6	14.1	5.2	5.3	5.6
S. C.	10.8	10.4	11.9	3.9	4.4	5.3
Ga.	8.9	8.7	10.2	3.9	4.9	5.2
S. Atl.	12.23	13.83	13.96	4.7	5.2	5.6
Ky.	10.9	12.1	12.2	5.1	5.2	5.1
Tenn.	9.7	11.1	10.6	4.6	5.2	5.1
Ala.	8.5	7.9	8.9	4.3	4.9	5.9
Miss.	6.9	7.0	7.8	3.2	3.9	3.7
Ark.	7.4	8.4	9.4	3.3	4.4	4.4
La.	6.3	7.2	7.4	3.3	3.6	3.9
Okla.	9.5	11.9	11.9	3.7	5.0	5.0
Tex.	7.8	9.4	10.0	4.1	5.2	5.1
S. Cent.	8.84	10.11	10.40	4.0	4.7	4.8
Mont.	13.5	15.0	15.5	3.8	3.6	4.5
Idaho	17.3	18.7	19.0	3.9	3.9	4.3
Wyo.	14.3	17.0	15.9	3.4	3.5	3.5
Colo.	15.0	16.7	18.2	4.9	5.2	5.4
Utah	17.8	18.3	20.2	4.1	4.3	5.5
Wash.	17.0	18.8	18.9	5.5	5.3	5.7
Oreg.	14.3	15.9	14.7	4.6	4.5	4.8
Calif.	18.2	21.2	22.0	4.5	4.7	5.1
West	16.22	18.57	18.92	4.6	4.7	5.0
U. S.	13.77	15.87	16.53	5.23	5.58	5.90

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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was equaled. The feeding rate in the South was about one-fifth above average and in the other regions from 9 to 12 percent above average.

Dairy product-feed price ratios were much more favorable for feeding than at this time a year ago. The value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows in November averaged \$2.88, the lowest in 6 years and 9 percent below the same month of 1954. In milk-selling areas, the value per 100 pounds was \$2.93 and in cream-selling areas, \$2.55. The milk-feed price ratio for November was the most favorable for feeding in 9 years and about 6 percent above the 1934-53 average. The butterfat-feed price ratio was 11 percent higher than a year ago, but still 10 percent below average for November.

DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region	Milk-Feed 1/				Butterfat-Feed 2/			
	Nov. 1934-53 av.	Nov. 1954	Oct. 1955	Nov. 1955	Nov. 1934-53 av.	Nov. 1954	Oct. 1955	Nov. 1955
N. Atl.	1.41	1.39	1.45	1.48	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.40	1.30	1.44	1.51	23.9	18.5	20.1	21.1
W.N.C.	1.60	1.37	1.51	1.52	27.6	21.9	24.3	24.5
S. Atl.	1.58	1.56	1.60	1.66	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.56	1.50	1.63	1.74	18.7	14.6	15.7	16.3
West	1.39	1.34	1.33	1.38	21.6	17.2	17.6	18.1
U. S.	1.43	1.36	1.45	1.51	24.8	20.1	22.0	22.4

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.