

MILK PRODUCTION

April 12, 1956

SUMMARY

Production of milk on farms in the United States during March totaled 11,024 million pounds - 5 percent above March last year. Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 19.93 pounds, a new April high and 18 percent above the average. The proportion of cows milked in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 74.5 percent, about 1 percent higher than the previous record April 1 of a year earlier. Crop reporters fed a record high April 1 average of 6.72 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow - 5 percent above last year's high and 12 percent above the average. Pastures in the Southern half of the country and on the West Coast where dairy cows are on pasture averaged 66 percent of normal - 2 percentage points above the April 1 condition last year, but otherwise the poorest for the date since 1933. Green feed has been retarded by the shortage of moisture in the Midwest and Southwest and delayed by cool weather in the South and West. In the North and East, moisture is ample and prospects for grazing with the coming of warmer weather are relatively good.

Table 1.-Monthly milk production on farms, United States, 1945-54 average, 1955 and 1956

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average 1945-54	1955	1956	$\frac{1956}{1955}$	Average 1945-54	1955	1956
	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Jan. ..	8,382	9,163	9,604	105	1.81	1.80	1.86
Feb. ..	8,223	8,835	9,582	$\frac{1}{108}$	1.95	1.92	1.98
Mar. ..	9,739	10,486	11,024	105	2.10	2.06	2.14
Apr. ..	10,493	11,156			2.33	2.26	
May....	12,348	12,844			2.66	2.51	
June...	12,289	12,520			2.73	2.53	
July...	11,508	11,453			2.47	2.23	
Aug. ..	10,504	10,515			2.25	2.05	
Sept. .	9,155	9,434			2.02	1.90	
Oct. ..	8,611	9,222			1.84	1.79	
Nov. ..	7,789	8,668			1.71	1.74	
Dec. ..	8,097	9,158			1.72	1.77	
Year...	117,138	123,454			2.13	2.05	

^{1/} Influenced by extra day in February. Daily average production was 105 percent.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service • Crop Reporting Board

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Milk production continues at record high level

Production of milk on farms during March totaled 11,024 million pounds -- 5 percent above March last year and 13 percent above the 1945-54 average for the month. Relatively cold wet weather prevailed during March over much of the country east of the Mississippi River, in most West North Central States, and in the Pacific Northwest. Milk production was at the rate of 2.14 pounds per capita per day, 4 percent above the rate of March a year ago and 2 percent above the 10-year average.

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 19.93 pounds, 5 percent above the previous high for the date last year and 18 percent above the average. The heavy milk flow per cow was encouraged by a record high rate of grain and concentrate feeding. Seasonally, production per cow increased 5 percent from March 1 to April 1 as compared with an average gain of 7 percent. Output per milk cow was at a record high level for April 1 in all regions of the country. Compared with a year earlier, production per cow on April 1 ranged from about 1 percent above in the West to nearly 6 percent above in the East and West North Central regions. Output per cow was well above average with increases ranging from 10 percent in the West to 22 percent in the South Atlantic States. The proportion of cows milked in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 74.5 percent for the country as a whole, about 1 percent higher than the previous record for April 1 set a year earlier.

Record output in leading dairy States

Among the 33 States with monthly milk production estimates available, March output equaled or exceeded the record high for the month in 15 States. On the other hand, production was relatively low for March in Oregon, Montana,

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States, March 1956, with comparisons ^{1/}

[In millions of pounds]

State	Mar. average 1945-54	Mar. 1955	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1956	State	Mar. average 1945-54	Mar. 1955	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1956
N.J. ..	96	107	95	105	Ga. ...	96	106	97	106
Pa. ...	474	566	507	595	Ky. ...	161	176	166	190
Ohio...	417	482	465	526	Tenn. .	168	180	158	187
Ind. ..	293	325	298	339	Ala. ..	103	95	92	101
Ill. ..	439	436	413	448	Miss. .	113	127	110	125
Mich. .	443	455	418	489	Ark. ..	94	94	79	90
Wis. ..	1,346	1,499	1,410	1,589	Okla. .	168	149	138	150
Minn. .	808	849	861	969	Tex. ..	287	258	235	263
Iowa...	510	501	468	534	Mont. .	45	41	35	40
Mo. ...	296	315	284	328	Idaho..	104	126	113	132
N. Dak.	141	152	137	159	Wyo. ..	20	16	15	17
S. Dak.	115	113	108	118	Utah...	56	60	56	62
Nebr. .	188	185	164	189	Wash. .	112	116	128	145
Kans. .	214	202	181	209	Oreg. .	97	97	76	95
Va. ...	138	152	133	149	Calif..	526	618	530	623
W. Va..	58	63	56	65	Other				
N.C. ..	120	135	125	137	States	1,417	1,609	1,384	1,697
S.C. ..	46	51	47	53	U. S. .	9,739	10,486	9,582	11,024

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

Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Texas. Wisconsin, as usual, led all States in total milk production with 1,589 million pounds, followed by Minnesota with 969 million, California with 623 million, and Pennsylvania with 595 million pounds -- all record highs for the month.

Heavy grain feeding

Grain and concentrate feeding of milk cows continued at record or near record levels as the feeding season passed its winter peak in most parts of the country. On April 1, crop reporters fed an average of 6.72 pounds of grains and concentrates per milk cow -- 5 percent above last year's previous high and 12 percent above the 1945-54 average.

Cold, damp weather in the northern and eastern parts of the country and less than average available pasture feed in the South contributed to the heavy feeding of grain and concentrates. Although the amount of grain fed per cow usually increases from February 1 to April 1, it held about steady this year due to the very high rate of feeding on February 1.

Regionally, the amount of grain fed per milk cow on April 1 was the highest on record for all major geographic divisions of the country except the West. The average amount fed per milk cow ranged from 7.9 pounds in the North Atlantic States to 5.5 pounds in the West. Other feeding rates were 7.4 pounds in the East North Central region; 6.9 pounds, West North Central; 5.9, South Atlantic; and 5.6 pounds in the South Central. This year, 88 percent of the farmers reported feeding some grain or other concentrates to their milk cows, about the same as on April 1 in each of the 4 previous years except 1954 when it was slightly higher.

Dairy product-feed price ratios above last year

The value per 100 pounds of grain and concentrate rations fed to milk cows in March was 9 percent below the year earlier and the lowest for the month since 1946. Ration values averaged \$3.01 per hundredweight in milk-selling areas and \$2.61 in cream-selling areas. The March milk-feed price ratio was the highest for the month since 1946, 11 percent above last year, and 5 percent above the 1935-54 average. The butterfat-feed price ratio was up 11 percent from last year and the highest March ratio in 4 years, but still 6 percent below the longtime average.

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions, March 1956, with comparisons

Region	Milk-feed 1/				Butterfat-feed 2/			
	March av. 1935-54	Mar. 1955	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1956	March av. 1935-54	Mar. 1955	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1956
N. Atl.	1.20	1.15	1.31	1.24	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.23	1.14	1.33	1.28	22.5	17.9	20.0	20.0
W.N.C.	1.41	1.23	1.42	1.38	25.5	21.7	24.1	24.0
S. Atl.	1.49	1.40	1.62	1.57	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.37	1.30	1.58	1.47	18.0	14.4	16.1	16.1
West	1.27	1.25	1.39	1.33	20.4	16.9	18.2	18.0
U. S.	1.26	1.19	1.38	1.32	23.3	19.8	22.0	21.9

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.

Table 4.-Value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows, by regions, March 1956, with comparisons

Region	March av. 1935-54	March 1955	January 1956	February 1956	March 1956
	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
N. Atl.	2.96	3.78	3.46	3.47	3.46
E. N. C.	2.36	3.02	2.70	2.71	2.73
W. N. C.	2.10	2.74	2.45	2.45	2.45
S. Atl.	2.85	3.71	3.36	3.38	3.38
S Cent.	2.65	3.45	3.02	3.07	3.08
West.....	2.64	3.38	3.21	3.20	3.22
U. S.					
Milk-selling areas..	2.58	3.31	2.99	3.00	3.01
Cream-selling areas.	2.26	2.91	2.60	2.61	2.61
Combined milk and cream areas.....	2.49	3.25	2.93	2.95	2.95

Dairy pasture condition poor on April 1

Dairy pastures in those parts of the country where milk cows are generally on green feed on April 1 averaged 66 percent of normal -- 2 percentage points above the April 1 condition last year, but otherwise the poorest for the date since 1933. The April 1 dairy pasture average represents the combined condition of pasture feed in the early pasture States mainly in the southern half of the country and the Pacific Coast area. The low condition on April 1 was due to the shortage of moisture in some sections and the continued cool weather over the Southern and Western areas.

Pastures below average in South

The April 1 condition of dairy pasture feed in the South Atlantic region was below average, but in most of these States better than a year ago. In the South Central region, condition was below average in all States, especially in Oklahoma and Texas, but was at least as good as on April 1 a year earlier in all States other than Texas. Pastures for milk herds on the West Coast are now starting to grow. Condition in California was held down by lack of moisture, but pastures were still better than on April 1 last year. Cool weather limited grass growth in Oregon and Washington and pastures in the Pacific Northwest were below average for the date.

Soils were very dry in sections of the Great Plains and the Corn Belt, and additional rainfall is needed to benefit pastures. Pastures were considerably poorer than last year in Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Moisture supplies are generally ample in the dairy sections of the North Atlantic and East North Central parts of the country. Milk cows there are not yet on pasture, but prospects for grazing, with warmer weather in prospect, are relatively good.

Table 5.-Milk produced and "grain" fed per milk cow in herds kept by reporters, April 1, 1956, with comparisons ^{1/}

State and division	Milk produced per milk cow			"Grain" fed per milk cow ^{2/}		
	Apr. 1 av. 1945-54	Apr. 1, 1955	Apr. 1, 1956	Apr. 1 av. 1945-54	Apr. 1, 1955	Apr. 1, 1956
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	15.5	18.7	20.2	6.1	7.1	7.2
N. H.	18.6	21.9	21.3	5.8	6.4	6.1
Vt.	18.5	20.7	22.0	6.2	6.3	6.8
Mass.	19.3	22.9	23.1	6.6	6.8	6.9
Conn.	19.6	23.3	24.3	6.6	7.3	7.9
N. Y.	22.4	24.4	25.3	7.4	7.9	7.9
N. J.	22.5	25.1	24.0	8.3	8.4	8.3
Pa.	20.7	23.2	24.5	8.0	8.1	8.4
N. Atl.	20.85	23.39	24.36	7.3	7.7	7.9
Ohio.....	17.8	21.6	23.2	6.8	7.0	7.6
Ind.	16.5	19.9	20.3	6.4	7.3	7.5
Ill.	18.1	20.9	21.4	7.4	7.9	7.5
Mich.	20.9	22.4	24.0	7.0	7.0	7.3
Wis.	21.4	22.8	24.4	6.8	6.9	7.4
E. N. Cent..	19.78	22.08	23.32	6.9	7.1	7.4
Minn.	22.1	24.1	25.8	6.7	7.1	7.5
Iowa.....	18.0	19.8	21.9	7.9	7.7	7.9
Mo.	12.3	14.3	15.2	5.3	6.0	6.3
N. Dak.	16.0	18.4	19.2	5.3	6.1	6.3
S. Dak.	14.1	16.4	17.2	4.9	5.4	5.2
Nebr.	16.9	19.1	19.6	6.1	6.3	5.7
Kans.	16.6	18.8	19.5	5.8	6.6	7.0
W. N. Cent..	17.28	19.54	20.64	6.3	6.7	6.9
Md.	17.7	19.9	21.5	7.6	8.5	8.0
Va.	14.1	17.3	16.9	5.5	5.4	5.9
W. Va.	11.0	12.6	13.1	4.2	4.5	4.8
N. C.	12.9	15.8	16.6	5.5	6.0	6.1
S. C.	11.7	13.0	14.8	3.9	4.1	5.5
Ga.	10.0	11.6	11.9	4.3	5.1	5.6
S. Atl.	12.89	15.19	15.70	5.1	5.7	5.9
Ky.	11.8	13.4	13.9	5.6	5.8	6.5
Tenn.	11.3	12.1	13.6	4.9	5.5	5.7
Ala.	9.4	9.3	10.3	4.6	4.7	6.2
Miss.	8.1	10.2	8.5	3.5	4.1	4.7
Ark.	8.4	11.0	10.7	3.8	4.9	5.7
La.	7.5	8.4	9.5	3.4	3.1	4.6
Okla.	11.4	14.0	14.1	4.5	5.3	5.5
Tex.	9.5	10.2	10.1	4.4	5.0	5.3
S. Cent. ...	10.25	11.78	12.18	4.4	4.9	5.6
Mont.	15.7	16.8	17.2	4.2	4.7	4.7
Idaho.....	19.6	21.4	23.1	4.4	4.4	4.6
Wyo.	17.3	15.8	18.7	4.2	3.7	4.2
Colo.	15.5	20.0	19.1	5.3	5.8	5.9
Utah.....	19.9	22.3	23.8	4.5	5.0	5.4
Wash.	19.7	20.3	20.4	6.0	5.6	7.5
Oreg.	17.4	17.2	17.7	5.0	5.0	5.0
Calif.	21.5	25.6	24.2	4.9	6.2	5.1
West.....	19.21	20.94	21.08	5.0	5.6	5.5
U. S.	16.83	18.94	19.93	6.00	6.41	6.72

^{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.

Table 6.-Dairy pasture feed condition, as percentage of normal, April 1, 1956, with comparisons ^{1/}

State and division	April 1 av. 1945-54	April 1, 1954	April 1, 1955	April 1, 1956
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	90	85	92	97
N. H.	95	97	97	99
Vt.	94	96	95	95
Mass.	94	92	90	91
R. I.	92	94	98	96
Conn.	92	84	94	97
N. Y.	88	87	89	88
N. J.	86	81	80	77
Pa.	87	79	83	84
N. Atl.	-	-	-	-
Ohio.....	86	74	86	82
Ind.	86	78	84	85
Ill.	87	77	85	81
Mich.	91	90	92	90
Wis.	88	78	92	91
E. N. Cent. ...	-	-	-	-
Minn.	88	88	89	87
Iowa.....	90	74	88	71
Mo.	81	61	72	65
N. Dak.	79	78	77	74
S. Dak.	86	85	80	66
Nebr.	85	77	77	67
Kans.	83	67	69	62
W. N. Cent. ...	82	64	70	64
Del.	88	82	80	84
Md.	85	83	79	81
Va.	84	73	70	75
W. Va.	81	64	78	74
N. C.	85	81	71	82
S. C.	75	74	68	77
Ga.	77	78	66	76
Fla.	75	73	62	58
S. Atl.	78	78	67	75
Ky.	81	65	79	79
Tenn.	80	71	71	79
Ala.	75	72	62	72
Miss.	75	75	65	70
Ark.	73	66	66	71
La.	77	72	69	71
Okla.	72	58	51	58
Tex.	68	46	56	47
S. Cent.	73	61	60	61
Mont.	82	82	77	81
Idaho.....	89	88	80	92
Wyo.	82	73	52	79
Colo.	76	57	48	66
N. Mex.	68	46	52	68
Ariz.	83	82	73	75
Utah.....	87	82	82	83
Nev.	87	99	78	95
Wash.	84	80	71	65
Oreg.	83	84	70	70
Calif.	75	83	64	72
West.....	79	81	67	70
U. S.	76.4	69.3	64.0	65.9

^{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.

Table 7.—Number of farms reporting milk cows and other dairy items, by States, 1954 1/

State and division	All farms	Farms reporting milk cows on place	Farms reporting dairy products sold		Dairy type farms 2/	Farms reporting milking machines
			Milk	Cream		
Me.	23,368	14,820	5,823	1,279	4,577	5,091
N. H.	10,411	6,089	3,172	253	2,462	2,664
Vt.	15,981	13,227	10,696	289	9,900	9,803
Mass.	17,361	7,750	4,391	114	3,942	4,104
R. I.	2,004	927	588	6	489	480
Conn.	12,753	6,873	3,759	58	3,231	3,464
N. Y.	105,714	71,765	54,629	2,734	49,173	51,233
N. J.	22,686	7,100	3,982	41	3,653	3,809
Pa.	128,876	82,708	46,971	6,691	38,300	39,349
N. Atl. ...	339,154	211,259	134,011	11,465	115,727	119,997
Ohio.....	177,074	107,958	64,756	12,331	25,826	41,901
Ind.	153,593	88,097	50,171	11,679	12,085	30,148
Ill.	175,543	103,187	49,073	19,002	13,267	32,202
Mich.	138,922	82,534	52,135	16,274	37,602	46,347
Wis.	153,558	128,797	121,711	1,929	107,316	100,761
E. N. Cent.	798,690	510,573	337,846	61,215	196,116	251,359
Minn.	165,225	122,416	60,606	54,415	49,822	73,954
Iowa.....	192,933	138,142	24,328	88,613	8,545	48,447
Mo.	201,614	144,879	52,036	29,911	27,507	19,793
N. Dak.	61,939	42,686	1,820	35,920	3,159	11,886
S. Dak.	62,520	42,136	2,321	30,799	1,514	8,891
Nebr.	100,846	71,718	5,827	51,153	2,850	13,918
Kans.	120,167	77,982	18,637	34,020	8,174	17,445
W. N. Cent.	905,244	639,959	165,575	324,831	101,571	194,334
Del.	6,297	2,822	1,450	25	916	1,129
Md.	32,500	17,152	7,652	1,284	6,187	6,375
Va.	136,416	92,865	17,821	13,309	7,735	5,101
W. Va.	68,583	52,521	6,736	10,742	4,713	3,116
N. C.	267,906	134,805	17,297	5,150	6,205	5,397
S. C.	124,203	54,490	4,616	1,628	1,814	1,718
Ga.	165,524	89,349	6,486	2,930	3,099	3,425
Fla.	57,543	16,738	1,307	213	946	1,161
S. Atl. ...	858,972	460,742	63,365	35,281	31,615	27,422
Ky.	193,487	137,099	37,444	19,942	8,149	9,092
Tenn.	203,149	138,860	45,221	6,167	15,063	7,833
Ala.	176,956	110,283	10,313	3,410	2,585	2,538
Miss.	215,915	122,867	19,723	2,205	6,638	5,047
Ark.	145,075	85,392	14,661	7,351	7,490	4,372
La.	111,127	66,579	4,140	498	3,231	3,235
Okla.	118,979	78,014	12,009	18,378	7,135	8,863
Tex.	292,946	161,298	14,128	9,278	8,351	10,014
S. Cent. ..	1,457,634	900,392	157,639	67,229	58,642	50,994
Mont.	33,059	19,980	2,216	9,250	1,682	3,652
Idaho.....	38,735	27,915	18,191	3,832	6,605	14,362
Wyo.	11,392	7,751	1,014	2,840	772	1,120
Colo.	40,749	24,217	4,726	8,758	3,476	5,310
N. Mex.	21,070	9,638	1,216	865	784	933
Ariz.	9,321	3,720	906	93	564	800
Utah.....	22,825	14,159	7,896	965	3,539	4,302
Nev.	2,857	1,543	279	272	270	333
Wash.	65,175	36,795	13,471	5,906	9,170	11,275
Oreg.	54,442	33,170	9,866	6,504	5,686	9,812
Calif.	123,074	34,031	15,916	1,308	12,450	15,771
West.....	422,699	212,919	75,697	40,593	44,998	67,670
U. S.	4,782,393	2,935,844	934,133	540,614	548,669	711,776

1/ Data from 1954 Census of Agriculture preliminary State releases, Census Bureau, U. S. Department of Commerce.

2/ Farms meeting the following requirements: (a) Value of dairy products sold at least 30% of value of all products sold and (b) milk cows make up at least half the total cows and (c) the value of combined sales of dairy products and cattle and calves represent at least 50 percent of the value of all products sold.