

# MILK PRODUCTION

July 12, 1956

HD  
9275  
U. S. D. A.  
A-2

## SUMMARY

Milk production on farms during June totaled 12,656 million pounds, 1 percent above the same month last year and 3 percent above the June 1945-54 average. Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 20.90 pounds on July 1, and continued at record high levels for the date in most sections of the country. A total of 67.4 billion pounds of milk was produced in the first 6 months of 1956 compared with the previous record high of 65.2 billion pounds for the comparable period in 1954. Dairy pastures improved slightly during June, but condition was the lowest reported for July 1 since 1936. Pastures were generally furnishing ample green feed in the Northeast, Great Lakes States, and the far West. Drought conditions continued over much of the Great Plains. Pastures were short in this area and in some southeastern States.

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	11,512	103	2.33	2.26	2.31
May....	12,348	12,844	12,974	101	2.66	2.51	2.50
June...	12,289	12,520	12,656	101	2.73	2.53	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	

$\frac{1}{108}$  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.

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States,  
June 1956, with comparisons <sup>1/</sup>

[In millions of pounds]

State	June av. 1945-54	June 1955	May 1956	June 1956	State	June av. 1945-54	June 1955	May 1956	June 1956
N.J. ....	100	101	112	101	Ga. ....	104	100	110	103
Pa. ....	532	585	668	610	Ky. ....	249	257	282	269
Ohio.....	548	561	615	581	Tenn. ..	234	237	257	241
Ind. ....	384	403	399	382	Ala. ...	122	113	114	111
Ill. ....	538	498	538	498	Miss. ..	146	145	160	156
Mich. ....	558	559	530	546	Ark. ...	136	127	132	127
Wis. ....	1,704	1,806	1,783	1,786	Okla. ..	210	164	185	168
Minn. ....	918	915	1,015	962	Tex. ...	332	257	274	264
Iowa.....	672	628	630	632	Mont. ..	67	57	52	55
Mo. ....	426	425	445	431	Idaho...	133	156	156	158
N. Dak. ..	229	226	194	229	Wyo. ...	27	23	20	22
S. Dak. ..	176	156	155	158	Utah....	68	68	73	73
Nebr. ....	259	249	244	241	Wash. ..	186	187	192	185
Kans. ....	265	225	252	227	Oreg. ..	138	129	135	130
Va. ....	185	187	192	191	Calif. .	564	654	696	654
W. Va. ...	85	85	80	84	Other				
N.C. ....	145	148	162	152	States.	1,797	2,034	2,066	2,076
S.C. ....	52	55	56	53	U. S. ..	12,289	12,520	12,974	12,656

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

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

Region	Milk-feed <sup>1/</sup>				Butterfat-feed <sup>2/</sup>			
	June av. 1935-54	June 1955	May 1956	June 1956	June av. 1935-54	June 1955	May 1956	June 1956
N. Atl. ..	1.08	1.08	1.11	1.11	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ...	1.11	1.08	1.24	1.24	20.7	18.0	18.9	18.8
W.N.C. ...	1.30	1.19	1.31	1.33	24.0	21.8	23.6	23.7
S. Atl. ..	1.36	1.36	1.42	1.49	-	-	-	-
S. Cent. .	1.23	1.26	1.43	1.44	16.6	14.5	15.8	15.6
West.....	1.17	1.17	1.24	1.23	19.3	16.7	18.5	18.5
U. S. ..	1.14	1.13	1.24	1.25	21.8	20.0	21.5	21.6

<sup>1/</sup> Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of whole milk sold by farmers to plants and dealers.

<sup>2/</sup> Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of butterfat in cream sold by farmers.

### Production continues high

Milk production on farms during June totaled 12,656 million pounds, the highest since June 1945 and 3 percent above the 1945-54 average for the month. Output exceeded the June 1955 production of 12,520 million pounds by 1 percent. Milk flow declined seasonally from May at about the same rate as last year but more rapidly than average. During June, milk production was at a daily rate of 2.53 pounds per capita, the same as a year earlier but 7 percent less than average. In the first half of 1956, a total of nearly 67.4 billion pounds of milk was produced compared with the previous record high of 65.2 billion pounds for the comparable period in 1954.

### Milk per cow declines more than usual seasonally

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 20.90 pounds on July 1. Output continued at record high levels for that date over much of the country as milk production per cow lagged behind July 1 last year in only the Southeastern States. Seasonally, production dropped off more sharply than usual in the Eastern and North Central areas. For the country as a whole, milk production per cow declined more than 6 percent from June 1 to July 1 compared with the average decrease of 5 percent. On July 1, milk production per cow was 8 percent above average for that date with gains ranging from 5 percent in the South Atlantic to about 9 percent in the North Atlantic and South Central States. The East North Central was up 6 percent and the West North Central and the West were up 8 percent. Crop correspondents reported that 76.6 percent of the milk cows in their herds were milked on July 1 compared with 75.8 percent last year and the July 1 average of 76.3 percent. Reporters in only the South Atlantic States failed to milk as large a proportion of milk cows in herd as last year.

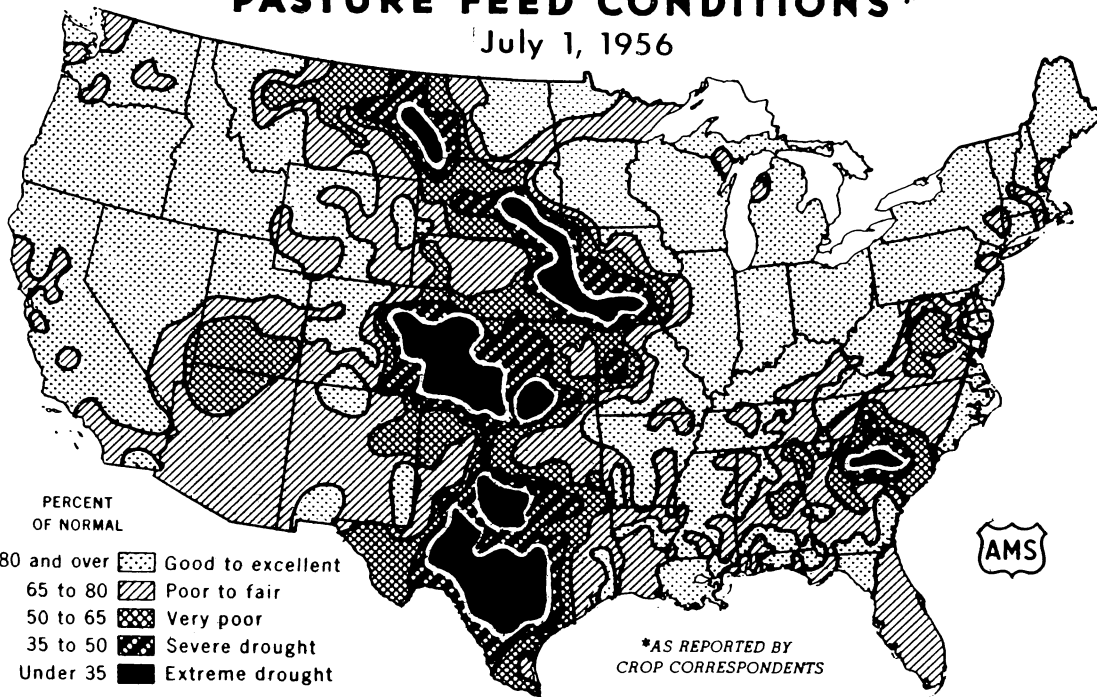
Among the 33 States with monthly milk production estimates available, June production equaled or exceeded the record high for the month in 8 States, but was below average in 17 States. Wisconsin was the leading milk producing State, with 1,786 million pounds in June, but has failed to reach the high level of a year earlier for the past 2 months. Minnesota produced 962 million pounds, followed by California with 654 million, Iowa with 632 million, and Pennsylvania with 610 million pounds.

### July 1 pastures poorest since 1936

Condition of dairy pastures averaged 78 percent of normal on July 1 -- 6 percentage points below last year and 8 points below the 1945-54 average for the date. Condition was the lowest reported for July 1 since 1936 when pastures averaged 61 percent of normal. Seasonally, condition improved 2 percentage points from June 1 to July 1. Usually there is very little change in condition during this period. Drought conditions continued over most of the Great Plains area and pasture feed remains very short. Condition of pasture declined during June in several South Atlantic States. In the Northeastern States, Great Lakes States, and the far West, dairy pastures were furnishing ample green feed.

# PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS\*

July 1, 1956



- 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

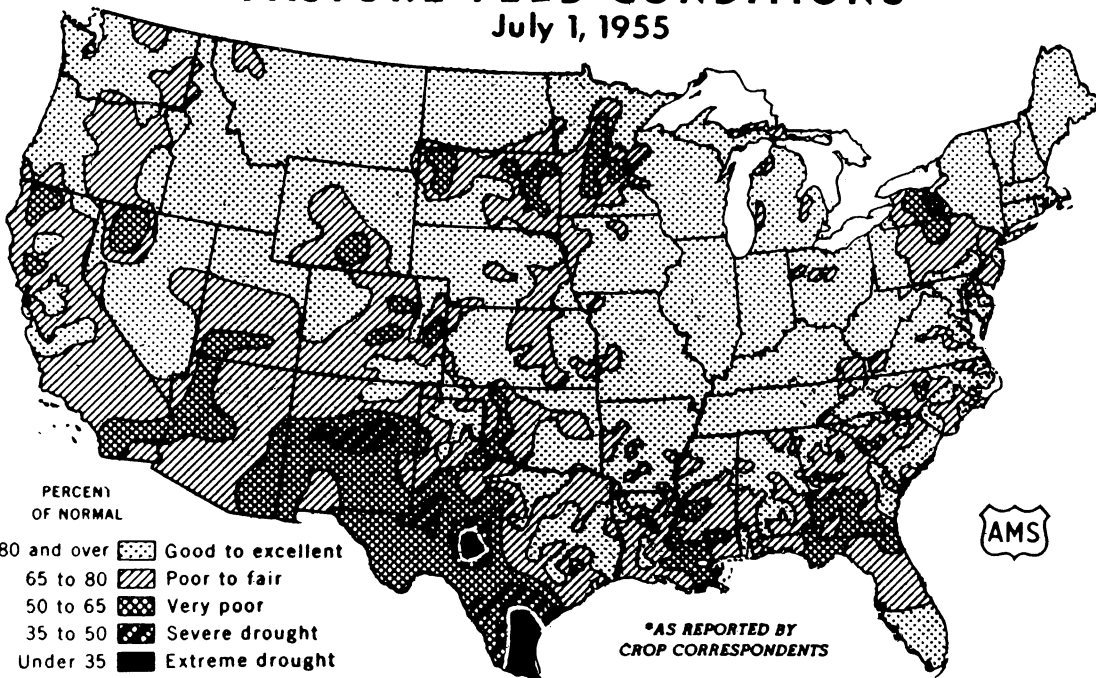
\*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 8977-56 (7) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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July 1, 1955



- PERCENT OF NORMAL
- 80 and over Good to excellent
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  - 35 to 50 Severe drought
  - Under 35 Extreme drought

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1711-55 (7) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Table 4.-Milk produced per milk cow in herds kept by reporters <sup>1/</sup>

State and division	July 1, av. 1945-54	July 1, 1954	July 1, 1955	July 1, 1956
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Me. ....	21.2	22.4	23.3	22.2
N. H. ....	20.2	22.0	23.9	22.5
Vt. ....	21.6	21.8	22.5	22.8
Mass. ....	21.4	21.9	24.3	24.8
Conn. ....	20.5	22.5	22.3	24.1
N. Y. ....	24.8	25.0	25.1	26.8
N. J. ....	22.9	22.1	22.9	22.4
Pa. ....	22.3	22.5	22.5	24.4
N. Atl. ....	22.88	23.25	23.63	24.84
Ohio.....	21.4	23.3	23.1	24.6
Ind. ....	20.4	21.4	22.9	22.3
Ill. ....	20.6	21.5	21.5	21.8
Mich. ....	24.5	25.0	26.1	26.3
Wis. ....	25.1	25.0	26.0	25.7
E. N. Cent. ....	23.32	24.05	24.69	24.80
Minn. ....	23.2	23.9	24.2	24.8
Iowa.....	21.3	21.4	22.6	22.5
Mo. ....	16.0	16.3	16.8	18.0
N. Dak. ....	20.7	20.3	20.7	21.8
S. Dak. ....	18.4	19.3	18.9	19.4
Nebr. ....	19.5	20.1	21.5	21.1
Kans. ....	17.3	18.1	18.5	18.5
W. N. Cent. ....	19.72	20.28	20.77	21.21
Md. ....	19.0	19.0	20.4	21.5
Va. ....	16.7	17.0	18.0	18.0
W. Va. ....	16.0	15.7	17.9	17.4
N. C. ....	15.2	16.5	15.6	15.9
S. C. ....	12.6	12.8	12.5	12.8
Ga. ....	10.5	10.0	10.8	11.5
S. Atl. ....	14.97	15.17	15.84	15.74
Ky. ....	15.4	15.4	15.8	16.2
Tenn. ....	13.8	14.0	13.4	14.0
Ala. ....	10.4	9.0	10.4	10.2
Miss. ....	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.8
Ark. ....	10.8	10.8	12.4	12.5
La. ....	7.6	7.5	7.9	8.0
Okla. ....	12.6	12.6	13.9	14.8
Tex. ....	9.9	9.6	9.8	10.6
S. Cent. ....	11.70	11.76	12.28	12.80
Mont. ....	20.8	21.1	22.5	20.4
Idaho.....	23.5	25.1	26.1	25.7
Wyo. ....	21.5	20.6	22.8	22.7
Colo. ....	19.9	19.9	20.6	20.4
Utah.....	22.3	22.1	24.0	27.2
Wash. ....	24.0	23.9	24.8	24.2
Oreg. ....	22.5	22.8	23.2	23.5
Calif. ....	23.0	24.1	25.0	25.4
West.....	22.32	22.76	23.77	24.00
U. S. ....	19.32	19.78	20.33	20.90

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

Table 5.-Dairy pasture feed condition, as percentage of normal, July 1, 1956, with comparisons 1/

State and division	July 1, av. 1945-54	July 1, 1954	July 1, 1955	July 1, 1956
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me. ....	91	98	99	89
N. H. ....	89	98	95	86
Vt. ....	90	99	94	89
Mass. ....	89	95	95	84
R. I. ....	89	89	92	84
Conn. ....	89	85	82	90
N. Y. ....	86	90	79	86
N. J. ....	80	64	74	82
Pa. ....	86	80	78	89
N. Atl. ....	87	88	82	87
Ohio.....	89	81	88	93
Ind. ....	90	79	93	94
Ill. ....	89	77	94	84
Mich. ....	89	94	86	91
Wis. ....	87	92	91	88
E. N. Cent. ....	89	86	90	89
Minn. ....	88	93	78	87
Iowa.....	94	87	89	54
Mo. ....	84	77	89	68
N. Dak. ....	81	92	89	80
S. Dak. ....	87	93	71	54
Nebr. ....	88	82	85	57
Kans. ....	82	77	83	46
W. N. Cent. ....	87	87	83	66
Del. ....	84	53	82	83
Md. ....	84	57	85	83
Va. ....	86	69	83	72
W. Va. ....	87	75	89	88
N. C. ....	80	71	79	65
S. C. ....	71	58	76	49
Ga. ....	76	62	72	69
Fla. ....	76	78	67	77
S. Atl. ....	81	66	80	72
Ky. ....	86	76	93	89
Tenn. ....	81	78	89	83
Ala. ....	77	65	80	77
Miss. ....	78	70	78	83
Ark. ....	77	64	86	84
La. ....	75	69	73	75
Okla. ....	79	73	77	56
Tex. ....	71	60	70	43
S. Cent. ....	78	69	80	69
Mont. ....	85	89	96	66
Idaho.....	91	89	91	95
Wyo. ....	85	61	85	76
Colo. ....	77	36	77	53
N. Mex. ....	58	51	64	55
Ariz. ....	75	74	72	74
Utah.....	84	76	80	83
Nev. ....	86	79	82	91
Wash. ....	88	89	88	79
Oreg. ....	90	89	84	91
Calif. ....	79	83	76	83
West.....	83	79	82	79
U. S. ....	85.5	82.3	84.3	78.3

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.

## Good pasture in Northeast

In the North Atlantic States, where pastures were delayed by cool weather, condition improved considerably during June and was about average for July 1. Pastures were good in the eastern Corn Belt and Great Lakes States where adequate rainfall was received during June. July 1 condition of pastures in the East North Central States was reported at 89 percent of normal compared with 86 percent last month. Pastures were generally good in the West, especially California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

## Pasture condition low in Great Plains and Southeast

Pastures were poor in most of the Great Plains States that have suffered from continued dry weather. The condition of pastures for milk cows was especially poor in a belt extending from eastern Montana across South Dakota into western Iowa, and down into Nebraska, Kansas, eastern Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and part of Arizona and New Mexico. Parts of this area have had local showers since July 1, but considerably more rain is needed to improve pasture feed prospects. On July 1, condition of dairy pastures in the West North Central States was 66 percent, the same as the previous month, and compares with the average of 87 percent.

On July 1, dairy pastures were below average in most of the South Atlantic States. Condition declined from 76 percent of normal on June 1 to 72 percent on July 1 due to lack of rainfall. Pastures were especially poor in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Some rainfall has occurred since July 1, but more is needed to improve green feed.