

MILK PRODUCTION

September 12, 1956

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SUMMARY

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Milk production on farms during August totaled 10,794 million pounds, the highest for August since the 1945 record of 11,010 million pounds. Output for August exceeded that of last year and the 1945-54 average by about 3 percent. Seasonally, total production did not decline from July as rapidly as last year and usual. In the first 8 months of 1956, milk production totaled 89.8 billion pounds, 3 percent more than the previous record high of 87.0 billion pounds for the same period last year. Condition of dairy pastures averaged 75.1 percent of normal on September 1 -- the highest for the date since 1951, but still slightly below the September 1 average. Much needed rainfall improved green feed in a few midwestern States, but dry weather during August caused deterioration of pastures in most eastern States and in the South Central section of the country.

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	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	110/108	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	12,620	101	2.73	2.53	2.52
July...	11,508	11,453	11,697	102	2.47	2.23	2.26
Aug. ..	10,504	10,515	10,794	103	2.25	2.05	2.07
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.

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States,
August 1956, with comparisons 1/

[In millions of pounds]

State	Aug. av. 1945-54	Aug. 1955	July 1956	Aug. 1956	State	Aug. av. 1945-54	Aug. 1955	July 1956	Aug. 1956
N.J. ...	93	91	91	94	Ga.	105	100	103	102
Pa.	481	509	556	543	Ky.	251	258	267	269
Ohio....	491	504	538	509	Tenn. ..	237	240	248	246
Ind. ...	353	359	343	337	Ala. ...	119	111	115	109
Ill. ...	474	434	472	455	Miss. ..	137	138	155	149
Mich. ..	486	485	500	470	Ark. ...	129	116	128	123
Wis. ...	1,275	1,314	1,526	1,324	Okla. ..	188	149	160	153
Minn. ..	618	609	778	639	Tex. ...	301	243	263	246
Iowa....	559	510	580	529	Mont. ..	55	47	49	45
Mo.	399	398	415	398	Idaho...	118	133	148	134
N. Dak..	181	172	210	171	Wyo. ...	23	19	22	19
S. Dak..	135	124	148	131	Utah....	57	59	70	64
Nebr. ..	213	198	224	200	Wash. ..	161	164	174	164
Kans. ..	233	199	206	197	Oreg. ..	116	113	119	108
Va.	187	190	195	198	Calif. .	536	635	660	636
W. Va. .	80	76	82	78	Other				
N.C. ...	147	154	156	160	States.	1,512	1,610	1,942	1,738
S.C. ...	54	54	54	56	U. S. ..	10,504	10,515	11,697	10,794

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions,
August 15, 1956, with comparisons

Region	Milk-feed <u>1/</u>				Butterfat-feed <u>2/</u>			
	Aug. av. 1935-54	Aug. 1955	July 1956	Aug. 1956	Aug. av. 1935-54	Aug. 1955	July 1956	Aug. 1956
N. Atl..	1.22	1.33	1.25	1.32	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. .	1.21	1.24	1.23	1.26	21.7	19.0	18.8	18.7
W.N.C. .	1.43	1.36	1.35	1.34	25.4	23.0	23.6	22.9
S. Atl..	1.41	1.42	1.52	1.51	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.31	1.36	1.42	1.42	17.1	14.7	15.5	15.1
West....	1.25	1.22	1.23	1.26	20.0	16.9	18.3	18.4
U.S. .	1.24	1.29	1.28	1.31	22.8	20.9	21.5	21.0

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.

August production highest since 1945

Milk production on farms during August totaled 10,794 million pounds, the highest for August since the 1945 record of 11,010 million pounds. Output for August exceeded that of last year and the 1945-54 average by about 3 percent. Seasonally, total production did not decline from July as rapidly as last year and usual. The total quantity of milk produced during August was sufficient to provide each person in the United States with 2.07 pounds daily, about 8 percent below the 1945-54 average for the month. In the first 8 months of 1956, milk production totaled 89.8 billion pounds, 3 percent more than the previous record high of 87.0 billion pounds for the same period last year.

Milk per cow continues at record high

On September 1, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters averaged 17.89 pounds, continuing at a record high rate of output and was 5 percent above September 1 last year. Regionally, milk production per cow ranged from 2 to 11 percent above September 1 a year earlier, with the largest gain occurring in the South Central region. Compared with the September 1 average, milk production per cow for the country as a whole was up 11 percent. Increases from the average rate ranged from 7 percent in the North Atlantic States to 16 percent in the South Atlantic and South Central States. The North Central region was up 8 percent and the West up 14 percent. Seasonally, milk output per cow in the United States declined 6 percent compared with the average August 1 to September 1 decrease of nearly 8 percent. The seasonal drop was sharper than usual in only the West North Central States.

Percent of cows milked below average

Crop correspondents reported that 70.8 percent of the milk cows in their herds were milked on September 1 compared with 70.3 percent on the same date last year and the September 1 average of 71.5 percent. Regionally, crop reporters in the West North Central States and in the West were milking a lower proportion of milk cows in their herds than last year.

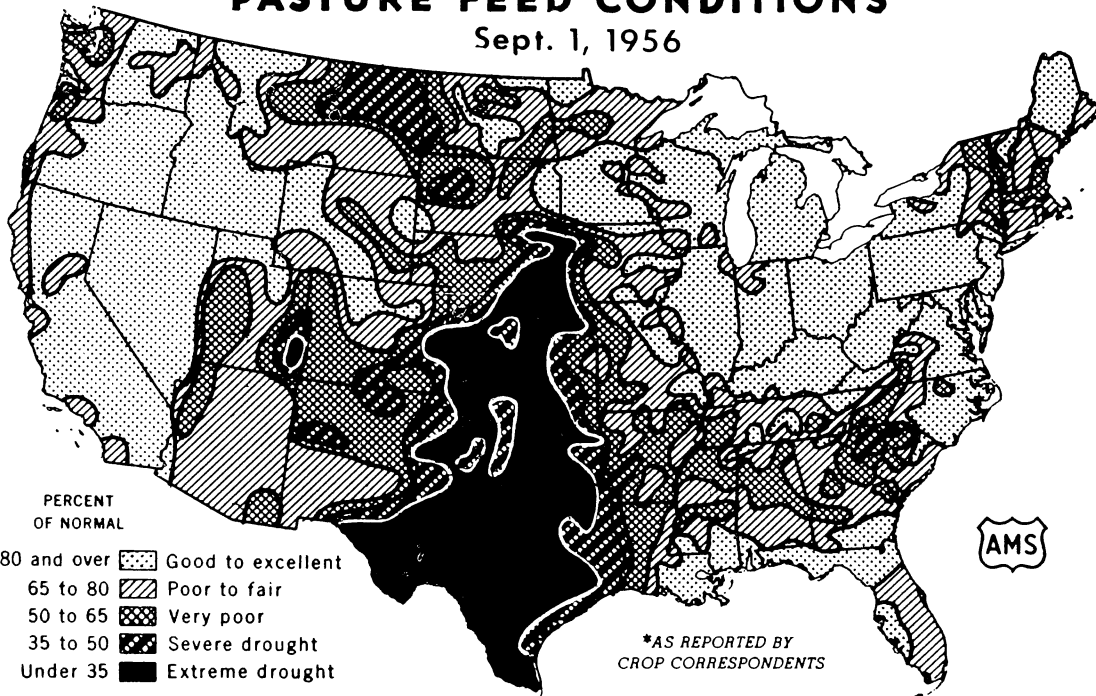
Among the 33 States with monthly milk production estimates available, August production equaled or exceeded the record high for the month in 9 States, but was below average in 18 States. Wisconsin, with 1,324 million pounds, was the leading milk producing State; followed by Minnesota with 639 million; California, 636 million; Pennsylvania, 543 million; and Iowa, 529 million pounds.

September 1 pasture condition highest since 1951

Condition of dairy pastures averaged 75.1 percent of normal on September 1 -- the highest for the date since 1951, but still slightly below the September 1 average. Much needed rainfall improved green feed in a few midwestern States but dry weather during August caused deterioration of pastures in most eastern States and in the South Central section of the country. In the East North Central States, dairy pastures were better than average for September 1. In the West, condition of dairy pastures changed little during August and on September 1 was slightly below average.

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

Sept. 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

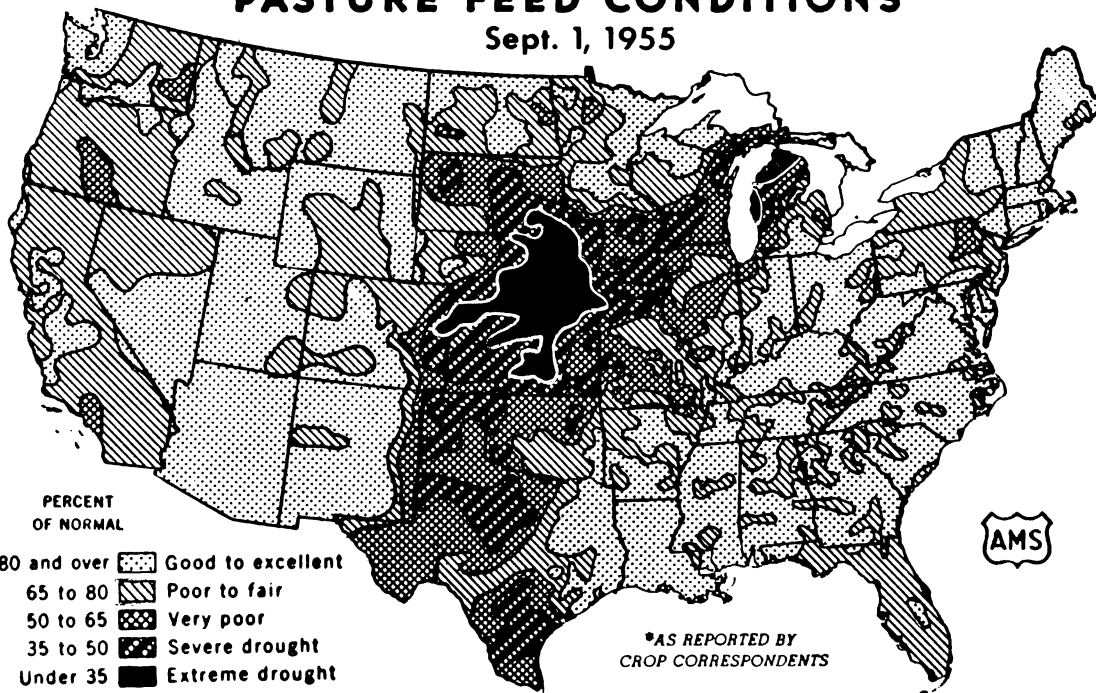
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 3493-56 (9) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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- 80 and over Good to excellent
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1802-55 (9) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

The condition of dairy pastures improved during August in Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan. In most of the Great Lakes States, pastures were furnishing ample green feed for milk cows on September 1. Lack of moisture reduced pasture feed in several New England and Southeastern States resulting in pasture condition on September 1 below average and last year in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Pastures declined during August in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, but were generally furnishing sufficient feed in most of these States. Since August 1, condition of pastures has dropped 10 or more percentage points in each of the New England States. The seasonal decline of pasture feed was more pronounced than usual in the South Central States, excluding Kentucky.

Drought continues in lower Great Plains

Pastures deteriorated further during August in the Central and Southern Great Plains due to continued dry weather. Some improvement occurred in Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, and Iowa during August, but on September 1 severe drought conditions still existed in eastern Nebraska and over most of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. In these States, September 1 condition ranged from 34 to 40 points below average. Condition of pastures dropped sharply in Oklahoma during August. In Texas, the prolonged drought has caused a serious shortage of water for both civilian and livestock uses. The condition of pastures in Texas, at 24 percent, equaled the record low for September 1, 1934.

Pastures in West generally poorer than usual

Pasture feed conditions showed little change during August in the western States, but were poorer than September 1 last year and average. Some decline occurred during the month in Idaho, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and California, but was compensated by improvement in other western States. In Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, pastures improved during August, but were still below average. Pastures were generally good on September 1 in California and Oregon in the Pacific Coast area, but were below average in Washington.

Table 4.-Milk produced per milk cow and percent of cows milked
in herds kept by reporters 1/

State and division	Milk produced per milk cow 2/			Percent of milk cows milked		
	Sept. 1, av. 1945-54	Sept. 1, 1955	Sept. 1, 1956	Sept. 1, av. 1945-54	Sept. 1, 1955	Sept. 1, 1956
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	18.3	21.2	22.1	80.7	82.1	80.8
N. H.	18.3	19.5	21.9	77.6	76.8	77.0
Vt.	16.4	17.3	17.8	75.6	73.6	72.9
Mass.	19.6	19.0	20.6	80.4	76.0	81.4
Conn.	19.4	21.4	21.1	78.3	77.2	76.9
N. Y.	19.5	19.8	20.5	77.6	74.3	75.3
N. J.	21.7	21.0	23.0	79.5	76.9	78.1
Pa.	19.4	20.1	21.0	78.5	76.9	76.6
N. Atl.	19.45	20.00	20.83	78.0	76.0	76.1
Ohio.	18.8	21.0	21.6	76.4	74.5	73.7
Ind.	17.8	20.4	20.2	74.9	73.2	74.7
Ill.	17.8	19.1	20.2	71.1	70.2	73.1
Mich.	20.6	23.1	22.7	81.6	81.8	79.7
Wis.	18.1	18.1	18.5	78.3	75.8	74.5
E. N. Cent.	18.50	19.57	20.03	76.9	75.0	75.1
Minn.	15.2	16.1	15.8	69.4	70.5	66.2
Iowa.	16.8	18.2	19.5	69.6	70.7	69.5
Mo.	14.7	15.5	16.7	69.4	69.3	69.0
N. Dak.	15.3	15.5	15.2	69.7	67.7	66.5
S. Dak.	13.4	14.8	15.0	65.0	66.4	66.9
Nebr.	15.8	16.5	17.6	69.2	69.5	68.6
Kans.	14.8	15.6	15.7	66.1	64.5	64.7
W. N. Cent.	15.22	16.08	16.41	68.4	68.3	67.1
Md.	18.2	21.0	21.5	74.9	74.3	75.3
Va.	16.0	18.0	19.6	70.9	71.1	71.3
W. Va.	15.0	15.5	17.0	73.3	71.2	73.4
N. C.	14.7	16.6	16.7	72.4	71.9	69.3
S. C.	12.2	12.6	13.9	68.8	64.8	68.0
Ga.	10.3	10.8	12.3	60.6	57.2	61.2
S. Atl.	14.47	15.95	16.74	69.7	68.6	68.9
Ky.	14.5	14.9	15.9	71.2	67.7	71.9
Tenn.	13.1	13.3	13.9	71.6	69.3	68.1
Ala.	9.6	9.9	9.6	60.0	55.9	54.3
Miss.	8.4	8.7	9.6	60.4	58.7	60.9
Ark.	10.0	10.3	11.3	60.9	56.6	56.8
La.	7.2	7.6	8.5	46.9	43.9	54.1
Okla.	11.1	12.1	13.7	59.7	57.5	62.2
Tex.	9.0	9.3	9.3	55.5	50.8	55.0
S. Cent.	10.91	11.34	12.64	62.4	59.3	62.4
Mont.	17.5	18.6	19.0	71.6	71.9	72.8
Idaho.	20.2	21.7	22.0	77.7	79.0	78.4
Wyo.	19.3	19.1	19.4	74.3	69.0	73.0
Colo.	16.8	20.8	18.5	70.8	76.4	72.6
Utah.	20.0	21.5	21.1	78.3	78.3	77.6
Wash.	21.4	22.9	22.0	80.1	78.5	78.8
Oreg.	18.8	20.0	20.3	78.4	80.9	82.4
Calif.	20.9	22.9	25.2	78.1	80.1	78.5
West.	19.60	21.24	22.36	76.8	78.5	78.0
U. S.	16.11	17.05	17.89	71.5	70.3	70.8

1/ Figures for New England States and New Jersey represent combined crop and special dairy reporters; others represent crop reporters only. Regional averages include less important dairy States not shown separately.

2/ Averages represent daily milk production divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry).

Table 5.-Dairy pasture feed condition, as percentage of normal, September 1, 1956, with comparisons ^{1/}

State and division	Sept. 1, av. 1945-54	Sept. 1, 1954	Sept. 1, 1955	Sept. 1, 1956
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	72	93	89	80
N. H.	74	90	91	68
Vt.	78	90	88	72
Mass.	74	87	82	61
R. I.	79	96	94	80
Conn.	81	85	82	70
N. Y.	73	60	75	77
N. J.	76	60	74	84
Pa.	74	63	75	91
N. Atl.	74	69	78	80
Ohio.....	76	83	85	94
Ind.	80	82	83	87
Ill.	79	70	68	87
Mich.	74	69	64	94
Wis.	76	78	62	84
E. N. Cent.	77	77	70	88
Minn.	77	80	74	83
Iowa.....	81	79	45	72
Mo.	73	38	62	71
N. Dak.	75	81	77	72
S. Dak.	77	71	49	66
Nebr.	81	78	38	47
Kans.	75	53	41	35
W. N. Cent.	77	71	57	68
Del.	78	59	88	94
Md.	80	69	91	90
Va.	80	67	90	84
W. Va.	80	90	83	94
N. C.	79	60	88	72
S. C.	72	35	81	59
Ga.	73	45	83	69
Fla.	82	72	80	80
S. Atl.	78	62	86	79
Ky.	76	69	87	92
Tenn.	73	47	78	71
Ala.	71	37	83	67
Miss.	73	41	87	67
Ark.	67	24	80	61
La.	76	60	93	63
Okla.	69	30	60	31
Tex.	59	37	63	24
S. Cent.	69	42	75	54
Mont.	80	85	87	64
Idaho.....	86	87	88	87
Wyo.	80	53	84	74
Colo.	76	52	70	57
N. Mex.	69	56	80	53
Ariz.	84	91	96	77
Utah.....	81	65	82	71
Nev.	87	77	76	94
Wash.	78	92	83	73
Oreg.	78	86	76	79
Calif.	77	81	77	81
West.....	78	79	80	75
U. S.	75.7	68.7	70.8	75.1

^{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.