

MILK PRODUCTION

PERIODICAL ROOM
October 12, 1956

HD
9275
J6
A2

SUMMARY

Production of milk on farms during September totaled 9,660 million pounds, 2 percent above September last year and about 6 percent above the 1945-54 average for the month. Seasonally, total production declined from August about as rapidly as last year, but not as sharply as usual. Output of milk in the first 9 months of this year amounted to 99.5 billion pounds, a record for the period and 3 percent more than the previous high of 96.4 billion pounds produced in January-September 1955. Farmers were feeding grain and concentrates at a record high rate for the date to their milking herds on October 1, as poor pastures in much of the central and southern parts of the country and generally favorable dairy product-feed price relationships encouraged liberal feeding. Dairy pastures were furnishing only a limited amount of feed over much of the country on October 1. The condition of pastures for milk cows averaged 68 percent of normal -- only slightly higher than the relatively poor condition on October 1 the past two years and about 7 percentage points below the 1945-54 average.

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	12,620	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	9,660	102	2.02	1.90	1.91
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.

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

[In millions of pounds]

State	Sept. av. 1945-54	Sept. 1955	Aug. 1956	Sept. 1956	State	Sept. av. 1945-54	Sept. 1955	Aug. 1956	Sept. 1956
N.J.	89	93	94	91	Ga.	98	95	102	98
Pa.	452	506	543	516	Ky.	218	225	269	239
Ohio.....	447	465	509	492	Tenn. ...	210	220	246	222
Ind.	318	331	337	310	Ala.	108	103	109	98
Ill.	418	398	455	416	Miss. ...	117	120	149	130
Mich. ...	441	452	470	444	Ark.	113	99	123	108
Wis.	1,077	1,107	1,324	1,171	Okla. ...	156	132	153	137
Minn. ...	499	507	639	514	Tex.	272	211	246	227
Iowa.....	469	449	529	457	Mont. ...	48	42	45	40
Mo.	352	348	398	351	Idaho....	103	119	134	120
N. Dak. .	137	130	171	128	Wyo.	20	18	19	17
S. Dak. .	108	105	131	108	Utah.....	50	51	64	55
Nebr. ...	172	167	200	169	Wash. ...	142	150	164	149
Kans. ...	196	175	197	169	Oreg. ...	100	96	108	93
Va.	173	187	198	198	Calif. ..	486	586	636	588
W. Va. ..	73	73	78	74	Other				
N.C.	135	147	160	151	States..	1,309	1,479	1,738	1,527
S.C.	49	48	56	53	U. S. ...	9,155	9,434	10,794	9,660

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

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

Region	Milk-feed ^{1/}				Butterfat-feed ^{2/}			
	Sept. 15, av. 1935-54	Sept. 15, 1955	Aug. 15, 1956	Sept. 15, 1956	Sept. 15, av. 1935-54	Sept. 15, 1955	Aug. 15, 1956	Sept. 15, 1956
N. Atl. .	1.29	1.37	1.33	1.38	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ..	1.28	1.32	1.26	1.33	22.4	19.4	18.7	18.9
W.N.C. ..	1.50	1.42	1.33	1.41	26.3	23.3	22.9	23.3
S. Atl. .	1.46	1.52	1.48	1.57	-	-	-	-
S. Cent..	1.39	1.50	1.43	1.51	17.7	15.3	15.1	15.1
West. ...	1.31	1.28	1.27	1.34	20.7	17.3	18.4	18.3
U.S. ..	1.31	1.36	1.31	1.38	23.6	21.2	21.0	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.

September milk production 2 percent above last year

Production of milk on farms during September totaled 9,660 million pounds, 2 percent above September last year and about 6 percent above the 1945-54 average for the month. Seasonally, total production declined from August about as rapidly as last year, but not as sharply as usual. Production during September was at a rate of 1.91 pounds of milk per person per day, about the same as last September but 5 percent below the 10-year average for the date. Output of milk in the first 9 months of this year amounted to 99.5 billion pounds, a record high for the period and 3 percent more than the previous high of 96.4 billion pounds produced in January-September 1955.

Seasonal decline of milk per cow less than usual

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 17.58 pounds on October 1 -- nearly 6 percent above the previous high for the date set last year and 17 percent above the average. Seasonally, production per cow declined only 2 percent from September 1 to October 1 compared with the average decline of around 7 percent. East Coast and eastern Corn Belt areas showed increases over September 1. Output per cow was at a record high for October 1 in all regions except for the North Atlantic which closely approached the record reached last year. Compared with October 1 last year, milk production per cow ranged from about the same in the North Atlantic States to 10 percent above in the South Atlantic. Increases from last year in other regions varied from 2 to 9 percent. Output per milk cow was sharply above the October 1 average in all sections of the country, with gains ranging from 11 to 21 percent.

Percent of cows milked near average

Crop reporters were milking 69.5 percent of the milk cows in their herds on October 1 -- only slightly higher than the year earlier and average for the date. Regionally, crop reporters in the South and West generally were milking a larger proportion of their cows in herds on October 1 than they were a year ago. Reporters in the eastern part of the Corn Belt milked about the same percentage of the cows in their herds as a year earlier while a lower proportion was milked elsewhere.

Of the 33 States with monthly milk production estimates available, September output equaled or was a record high for the month in 11 States, but equaled or was below average for the month in 16 others. Wisconsin with 1,171 million pounds in September, was the leading milk producing State; followed by California with 588 million; Pennsylvania, 516 million; Minnesota, 514 million; and Ohio, 492 million pounds.

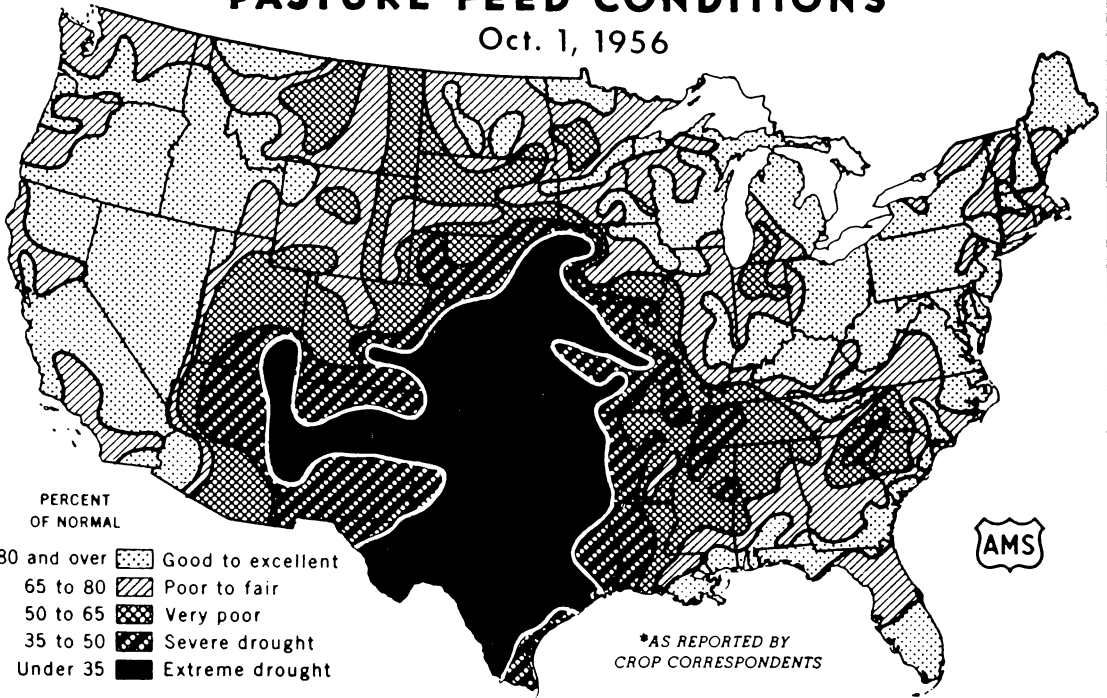
Grain fed at record rate on October 1

Farmers were feeding grain and concentrates at a record high rate for the date to their milking herds on October 1, as poor pastures in much of the central and southern parts of the country and generally favorable dairy product-feed price relationships encouraged liberal feeding. Crop reporters fed a record of 5.03 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow on October 1 -- 4 percent above last year's rate of 4.82 pounds, and 24 percent above the 1945-54 average for the date. Seasonally, the quantity of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows increased 6 percent from August 1 to October 1 compared with an average gain of 8 percent for this period.

On October 1, grain and concentrate feeding rates reached new highs in all regions other than the North Central States where record quantities were fed last year by crop reporters. By regions, feeding rates were highest in the North Atlantic States at 6.3 pounds per milk cow in herd, and the lowest in the West North Central at 4.3 pounds. Averages in other regions on October 1 were 5.3 pounds in the South

PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS*

Oct. 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

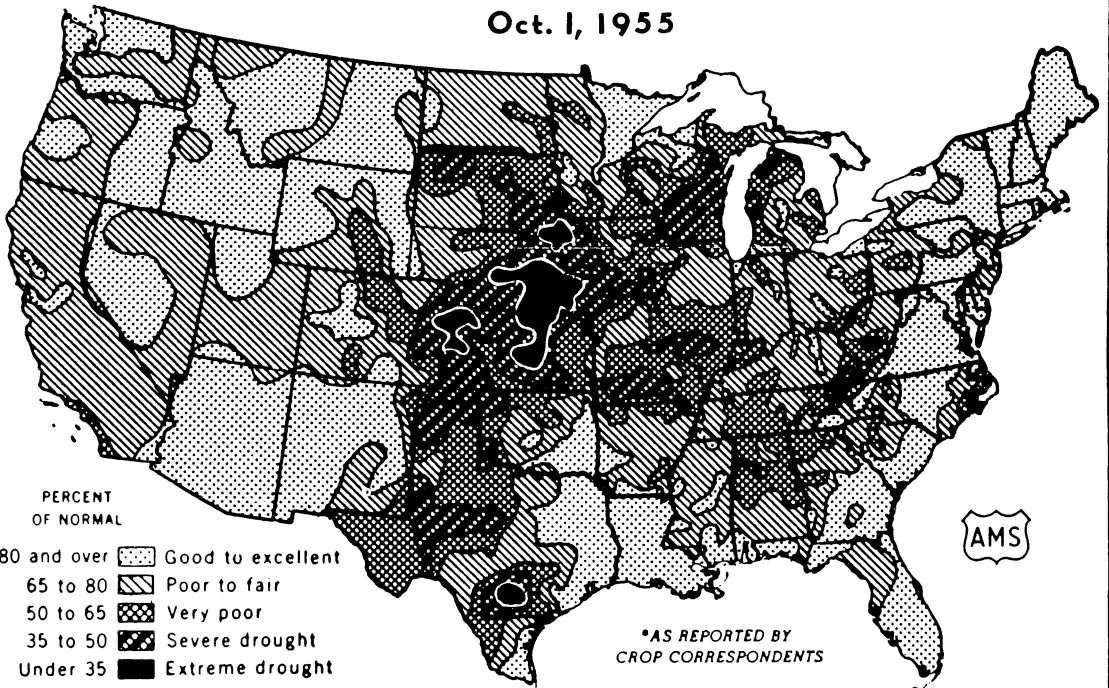
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 3598-86 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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NEG. 1890-85 (10) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Atlantic, 5.0 pounds in the East North Central and West, and 4.7 pounds in the South Central States. The southern part of the country was feeding grain and concentrates at a considerably higher rate than the remainder of the Nation when compared with the October 1 average. The proportion of all crop reporters feeding some grain and concentrates to milk cows in their herds averaged 78.0 percent on October 1, slightly above last year -- exceeded only by the 78.2 percent reported in 1953 -- and 6 percent above average.

Value of rations up from last year

The value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows averaged \$3.07 per hundred-weight on September 15 -- 2 percent above the year earlier, but otherwise the lowest value for the date since 1949. In the milk-selling areas, the value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows on September 15 was \$3.12 per hundredweight and in cream-selling areas was \$2.74. The milk-feed price ratio on September 15 was the most favorable for the month since 1948 and was 1 percent above a year earlier and 5 percent above the longtime average. The butterfat-feed price ratio equaled that of September 15 last year, but was 10 percent below average.

Pasture condition declined in September

Dairy pastures were furnishing only a limited amount of feed over much of the country on October 1. The condition of pastures for milk cows averaged 68 percent of normal -- only slightly higher than the relatively poor condition on October 1 the past two years and about 7 percentage points below the 1945-54 average. Seasonally, pasture condition for the country declined 7 percentage points from September 1 to October 1, when usually condition changes little during this period. The dry condition of dairy pastures that has existed in the central and southern Great Plains States for most of the 1956 season expanded during September to include several southeastern and western States. Green feed was generally good in the eastern Corn Belt, most of New England, the Atlantic Seaboard, the eastern Gulf Coast, and parts of the West.

Condition continues high in Northeast

On October 1, pastures were in very good condition in that part of the country extending from the Great Lakes area to the North Atlantic Coast. Condition of dairy pastures improved during September in the New England States and New York. In the South Atlantic region, October 1 pasture feed for milk cows was above average although pastures were generally short in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Pasture condition declined 3 percentage points from September 1 in the West and was 4 points below average for October 1 as grass was better than usual in California, Oregon, and Idaho. Pastures were also furnishing milk cows a good supply of feed on October 1 in Oregon, but were below average in Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.

Pastures remain poor in central and lower Great Plains

Green feed was extremely short in an extensive area covering southeastern Nebraska and including most of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, and extending into New Mexico, and Arizona. This was surrounded by an expanded area where condition of pasture ranged from very poor to extreme drought. This latter area included Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Colorado. The seeding of fall-sown grain has been delayed in most of the central and southern Great Plains due to the shortage of moisture. Where grain has been seeded, poor germination and lack of growth will limit pasture grazing from this source.

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		
	October 1, av. 1945-54	October 1, 1955	October 1, 1956	October 1, av. 1945-54	October 1, 1955	October 1, 1956
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	17.4	20.2	20.7	80.5	81.2	79.5
N. H.	18.1	21.5	22.0	78.6	79.3	79.0
Vt.	16.3	18.6	18.8	75.4	75.2	74.1
Mass.	19.4	21.4	21.1	80.0	77.5	80.6
Conn.	19.3	22.3	21.4	78.7	77.5	78.3
N. Y.	19.3	21.5	20.7	76.8	75.7	75.1
N. J.	21.6	23.0	22.7	79.4	78.6	77.1
Pa.	18.8	21.2	21.4	77.7	76.9	76.2
N. Atl.	19.10	21.25	21.20	77.4	76.6	76.2
Ohio.	18.0	20.1	22.7	75.8	74.9	72.8
Ind.	16.7	19.2	19.1	72.8	72.9	71.6
Ill.	16.4	18.6	19.6	68.7	68.1	70.5
Mich.	19.1	21.8	22.8	79.2	80.7	79.1
Wis.	16.4	16.8	18.4	73.9	71.9	71.7
E. N. Cent.	17.16	18.63	20.28	74.2	72.9	72.9
Minn.	13.6	15.3	15.2	62.8	63.5	62.0
Iowa.	15.7	17.3	18.2	66.7	67.5	68.2
Mo.	13.6	15.0	15.4	67.9	69.5	68.0
N. Dak.	12.5	12.6	12.9	62.3	58.5	57.4
S. Dak.	11.8	12.8	14.2	60.1	62.0	63.4
Nebr.	13.9	15.8	15.7	65.3	66.9	66.4
Kans.	13.5	15.6	15.4	63.4	64.8	64.1
W. N. Cent.	13.71	15.17	15.43	64.2	64.6	64.1
Md.	17.9	19.0	20.0	75.4	74.1	74.1
Va.	15.4	17.9	19.4	71.5	73.6	75.9
W. Va.	14.0	14.9	16.1	73.1	72.1	73.2
N. C.	14.0	15.6	17.1	72.7	72.7	74.1
S. C.	11.7	11.4	14.4	67.7	68.9	68.5
Ga.	9.8	10.5	12.6	59.6	58.5	63.5
S. Atl.	13.85	15.23	16.80	69.5	69.9	71.7
Ky.	13.6	14.0	15.6	70.6	67.8	70.5
Tenn.	12.0	12.6	12.9	70.9	69.8	68.2
Ala.	9.0	8.8	8.9	58.3	55.0	52.7
Miss.	7.7	7.7	8.4	57.6	56.3	59.6
Ark.	9.2	9.5	10.7	59.2	54.9	58.7
La.	7.0	7.5	8.1	45.4	53.2	52.0
Okla.	10.3	12.2	12.8	57.2	59.3	60.2
Tex.	8.8	8.9	10.6	53.9	53.1	54.6
S. Cent.	10.26	11.28	11.88	61.2	60.8	61.1
Mont.	15.8	16.9	16.6	68.4	68.8	70.4
Idaho.	19.1	19.9	20.7	75.8	74.6	75.8
Wyo.	17.2	18.6	17.8	70.1	66.7	67.1
Colo.	15.4	18.0	18.0	67.7	71.6	72.6
Utah.	19.0	20.9	23.9	76.2	72.8	76.9
Wash.	19.6	20.6	21.7	77.8	77.8	79.0
Oreg.	17.3	17.8	18.9	77.1	75.6	79.2
Calif.	19.8	22.0	25.0	76.4	79.1	79.2
West.	18.17	20.17	21.67	74.7	75.7	76.9
U. S.	15.06	16.61	17.58	69.4	69.2	69.5

^{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, and "grain" fed per milk cow in herds kept by reporters

State and division	Dairy pasture feed condition <u>1/</u>			"Grain" fed per milk cow <u>2/</u>		
	Oct. 1, av. 1945-54	Oct. 1, 1955	Oct. 1, 1956	Oct. 1, av. 1945-54	Oct. 1, 1955	Oct. 1, 1956
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	74	84	81	5.2	5.7	6.3
N. H.	77	87	84	4.6	5.4	5.4
Vt.	79	89	78	4.4	4.9	5.2
Mass.	75	92	73	5.8	5.4	6.3
Conn.	77	91	74	5.7	6.3	6.2
N. Y.	76	81	83	5.5	5.8	6.1
N. J.	75	79	83	7.1	7.1	7.0
Pa.	74	80	88	6.4	6.9	7.1
N. Atl.	75	82	84	5.6	6.1	6.3
Ohio.....	75	71	88	5.0	5.9	5.9
Ind.	78	70	74	4.7	5.8	5.4
Ill.	78	64	72	4.7	5.5	5.4
Mich.	77	66	81	4.9	6.0	5.7
Wis.	77	57	81	3.6	4.5	4.2
E. N. Cent.	77	64	80	4.4	5.3	5.0
Minn.	76	71	74	2.9	4.1	3.8
Iowa.....	80	51	62	4.7	6.0	4.9
Mo.	70	58	43	3.8	4.6	5.0
N. Dak.	74	71	71	2.8	3.4	3.8
S. Dak.	77	52	58	2.6	3.2	3.1
Nebr.	79	46	36	3.6	4.1	3.4
Kans.	71	44	23	3.9	5.0	5.5
W. N. Cent.	76	57	56	3.6	4.6	4.3
Md.	80	88	85	6.0	6.1	7.0
Va.	77	81	81	4.0	4.6	5.6
W. Va.	78	68	90	2.7	3.3	3.5
N. C.	76	81	71	4.3	4.7	5.5
S. C.	72	77	61	3.4	3.8	5.8
Ga.	72	74	72	3.4	4.3	5.8
S. Atl.	76	79	77	3.9	4.5	5.3
Ky.	74	70	82	3.1	3.7	4.1
Tenn.	70	62	64	3.3	4.2	4.1
Ala.	71	65	68	3.5	4.2	4.6
Miss.	71	76	59	2.0	3.5	3.4
Ark.	64	71	51	2.6	3.3	4.1
La.	74	90	56	2.7	2.8	3.8
Okla.	66	66	22	3.1	4.7	5.9
Tex.	62	66	22	3.8	4.2	6.6
S. Cent.	68	68	48	3.1	3.9	4.7
Mont.	80	85	66	2.8	3.3	3.9
Idaho.....	85	87	86	3.6	3.6	4.0
Wyo.	78	78	66	2.7	3.2	2.9
Colo.	74	64	46	4.3	4.7	4.6
Utah.....	78	79	67	3.6	3.8	4.0
Wash.	77	80	73	4.6	4.8	5.2
Oreg.	76	77	80	4.5	4.8	4.8
Calif.	75	73	79	4.6	4.8	5.5
West.....	76	76	72	4.2	4.5	5.0
U. S.	75.1	67.1	68.3	4.05	4.82	5.03

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.

2/ 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. Includes grain, millfeeds, and other concentrates.