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MILK PRODUCTION

January 11, 1957

Milk cows on farms produced a total of 9,278 million pounds of milk during December -- 1 percent above December 1955 and 15 percent above the 1945-54 December average. Production increased 6 percent from November, about the same gain for the period as last year but larger than the usual increase of 4 percent. During December, milk output was at a daily rate of 1.77 pounds per capita, equal to the rate a year earlier but higher than the 10-year December average of 1.72 pounds.

The sum of the 12 monthly milk production estimates made in 1956 is nearly 127.0 billion pounds, about 3 percent more than the previous record high of 123.5 billion pounds in 1955. This total production is tentative pending a more detailed analysis of numbers of milk cows and production per milk cow by States. The results will be published February 14, 1957.

ALBERT R. MANN
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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	9,450	102	1.84	1.79	1.81
Nov. . .	7,789	8,668	8,757	101	1.71	1.74	1.73
Dec. . .	8,097	9,158	9,278	101	1.72	1.77	1.77
Year...	117,138	123,454	126,952	103	2.13	2.05	2.07

$\frac{1}{108}$ Influenced by extra day in February. Daily average production was 105 percent.

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

[In millions of pounds]

State	Dec. av. 1945-54	Dec. 1955	Nov. 1956	Dec. 1956	State	Dec. av. 1945-54	Dec. 1955	Nov. 1956	Dec. 1956
N.J.	87	96	85	91	Ga.	86	93	96	100
Pa.	413	496	462	488	Ky.	143	156	185	173
Ohio.....	366	436	441	438	Tenn.	150	159	175	168
Ind.	253	267	253	254	Ala.	93	93	88	93
Ill.	370	386	380	403	Miss.	92	104	109	114
Mich.	378	417	397	408	Ark.	84	88	94	92
Wis.	1,024	1,240	1,171	1,305	Okla.	127	124	124	129
Minn.	624	760	583	764	Tex.	236	249	240	245
Iowa.....	420	436	425	464	Mont.	37	34	33	33
Mo.	257	270	268	264	Idaho.....	88	109	106	112
N. Dak. ..	101	115	101	108	Wyo.	17	16	15	17
S. Dak. ..	86	91	86	91	Utah.....	50	55	54	57
Nebr.	147	161	148	165	Wash.	120	129	134	135
Kans.	182	190	175	186	Oreg.	78	76	77	75
Va.	134	144	161	161	Calif. ...	454	556	553	557
W. Va. ...	56	58	60	61	Other				
N.C.	116	130	134	136	States...	1,186	1,378	1,298	1,341
S.C.	42	46	46	50	U. S.	8,097	9,158	8,757	9,278

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

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

Region	Milk-feed 1/				Butterfat-feed 2/			
	Dec. 15, av. 1935-54	Dec. 15, 1955	Nov. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, av. 1935-54	Dec. 15, 1955	Nov. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1956
N. Atl. ..	1.37	1.44	1.51	1.46	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ...	1.38	1.40	1.51	1.45	24.1	20.5	20.9	20.2
W.N.C. ...	1.58	1.47	1.54	1.49	28.0	24.2	25.5	24.7
S. Atl. ..	1.58	1.66	1.70	1.69	-	-	-	-
S. Cent. ..	1.57	1.72	1.71	1.70	19.3	16.5	16.1	16.0
West.....	1.40	1.37	1.46	1.47	21.7	18.1	18.9	18.7
U. S. ..	1.41	1.45	1.53	1.49	25.2	22.2	23.1	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.

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Output per cow reaches new high for January 1

Production per milk cow in crop reporters' herds on January 1, 1957 averaged 18.21 pounds. This was above the previous record high of 17.40 pounds for January 1 last year, and was 25 percent above average for the date. Milk flow was at a record high for January 1 in all regions except the North Atlantic States, where output per cow was exceeded only by the record high reported last year. The largest gains in production over last year occurred in the southern and western parts of the country. Seasonally, production per cow increased more rapidly than usual from December 1 in all regions. Compared with the January 1 average, the current January 1 output per cow ranged from 14 percent above in the North Atlantic States to 31 percent above in the South Atlantic and South Central States. Increases from average varied from 24 to 26 percent in the other regions.

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Table 11.-Milk produced per milk cow and percent of milk cows milked in herds kept by reporters 1/

State and division	Milk produced per milk cow 2/			Percent of milk cows milked		
	January 1, av. 1946-55	January 1, 1956	January 1, 1957	January 1, av. 1946-55	January 1, 1956	January 1, 1957
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	14.8	17.3	19.5	76.8	76.2	79.6
N. H.	17.3	18.9	19.9	79.4	77.7	80.1
Vt.	15.8	19.2	18.9	74.7	75.7	76.7
Mass.	17.7	21.0	22.1	78.3	80.8	81.6
Conn.	18.2	21.4	23.1	77.4	79.4	79.6
N. Y.	19.0	22.0	21.2	73.1	73.8	75.9
N. J.	20.7	23.6	23.2	77.2	79.2	78.1
Pa.	17.9	21.4	20.6	74.3	76.7	76.2
N. Atl.	18.35	21.54	20.94	74.6	76.0	76.8
Ohio.....	16.2	20.6	20.3	72.2	77.8	75.5
Ind.	14.6	17.8	18.1	69.2	71.8	71.4
Ill.	15.9	19.7	20.6	66.7	69.6	72.5
Mich.	18.4	21.9	22.3	76.0	79.8	80.1
Wis.	17.2	20.5	21.5	70.6	73.3	75.1
E. N. Cent.	16.81	20.33	21.25	70.8	74.0	75.2
Minn.	18.2	22.5	22.4	66.7	72.6	72.6
Iowa.....	15.6	19.0	20.6	64.6	69.8	72.2
Mo.	10.4	12.9	12.8	59.8	63.5	62.5
N. Dak.	12.4	15.4	14.5	53.5	57.4	54.4
S. Dak.	11.4	13.2	13.5	54.0	57.3	56.4
Nebr.	14.2	16.4	17.3	61.8	64.7	67.1
Kans.	14.2	17.3	18.3	63.2	68.0	69.4
W. N. Cent.	14.52	17.83	18.04	61.9	66.7	66.7
Md.	16.0	18.6	20.4	72.4	77.1	76.9
Va.	13.5	16.7	18.1	67.3	71.6	74.4
W. Va.	10.8	11.0	12.5	67.9	66.4	67.5
N. C.	12.2	15.4	16.9	69.5	73.1	75.9
S. C.	10.8	12.6	15.0	67.2	65.8	71.9
Ga.	8.9	10.7	12.1	56.9	57.9	61.7
S. Atl.	12.27	14.30	16.07	66.6	68.2	71.0
Ky.	10.4	11.5	13.7	60.8	62.3	63.9
Tenn.	9.6	10.7	12.1	63.5	63.6	65.2
Ala.	8.4	9.2	9.4	56.6	54.5	55.9
Miss.	7.0	7.6	9.1	54.6	55.0	58.1
Ark.	7.2	9.1	9.3	49.6	51.9	55.1
La.	6.4	7.9	7.8	40.9	55.0	54.9
Okla.	9.8	11.9	13.1	54.2	56.9	61.7
Tex.	8.1	9.9	10.2	51.1	52.0	51.9
S. Cent.	8.85	10.70	11.62	55.8	58.1	60.0
Mont.	13.3	14.7	15.3	60.0	62.4	60.3
Idaho.....	17.3	18.1	20.1	72.2	72.1	72.5
Wyo.	15.2	17.8	17.8	64.5	68.0	66.1
Colo.	15.0	17.4	17.6	64.7	69.7	70.7
Utah.....	18.7	21.6	21.1	74.8	77.3	78.4
Wash.	17.8	19.1	22.0	74.9	78.8	79.1
Oreg.	14.0	15.7	15.7	68.1	69.9	71.5
Calif.	18.9	22.3	23.3	75.6	79.6	78.3
West.....	16.78	19.20	20.94	71.2	75.4	76.1
U. S.	14.53	17.40	18.21	65.9	69.1	70.4

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).

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On January 1, crop reporters milked 70.4 percent of the milk cows in their herds. This compares with 69.1 percent reported for the same date last year and the 10-year average of 65.9 percent. The percentage of cows being milked equaled or exceeded January 1 last year in all regions. Reporters in all sections of the country on January 1 were also milking higher than average proportions of the milk cows in their herds.

Production above average in most States

In the 33 States with monthly estimates of milk production available, December output was at a record high for the month in 13 States, 8 of which were Southern States, and equaled the high in 2 more. Production for the month was below average in only two States. Wisconsin continued to lead in milk production, with a December output of 1,305 million pounds; followed by Minnesota with 764 million; California, 557 million; Pennsylvania, 488 million; and Iowa, 464 million pounds.

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