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February 14, 1957

# MILK PRODUCTION

Production of milk on farms during January is estimated at 9,697 million pounds, 1 percent above last year and 15 percent above the 1946-55 January average. A record high rate of feeding grain and concentrates contributed to heavy milk flow, more than offsetting the effects of below normal temperatures and adverse weather that prevailed during January across much of the country. Relative to population, January milk production averaged 1.84 pounds per person per day compared with the January average of 1.79 pounds.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters continued at a record high rate on February 1. It was 4 percent above the previous high for the date last year and 23 percent above the February 1 average. Milk production per cow on February 1 was above a year earlier in all regions except the North Atlantic, which was down 3 percent. ~~ALBERT R. ANDERSON~~ ~~LIBRARY~~ increases in February 1 last year in the other regions ranged from 9 percent in the South Atlantic States to 1 percent in the West North Central. On February 1, milk per cow rates showed

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Table 1.—Monthly milk production on farms, United States, 1946-55 average, 1956 and 1957

Month	Monthly total					Daily average per capita			
	Average 1946-55	1955 1/	1956	1957	1957 1956	Average 1946-55	1955 1/	1956	1957
	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Jan. ...	8,446	9,163	9,603	9,697	101	1.79	1.80	1.86	1.84
Feb. ...	8,284	8,857	9,657			1.93	1.93	1.99	
Mar. ...	9,799	10,417	10,888			2.07	2.04	2.10	
Apr. ...	10,530	11,082	11,325			2.30	2.24	2.25	
May.....	12,368	12,898	12,840			2.62	2.52	2.47	
June....	12,242	12,443	12,490			2.67	2.51	2.48	
July....	11,428	11,395	11,526			2.41	2.22	2.21	
Aug. ...	10,453	10,498	10,659			2.20	2.04	2.04	
Sept. ...	9,158	9,454	9,512			1.99	1.90	1.88	
Oct. ...	8,658	9,192	9,276			1.82	1.78	1.77	
Nov. ...	7,879	8,612	8,695			1.70	1.73	1.71	
Dec. ...	8,223	9,117	9,227			1.72	1.76	1.76	
Year..	117,468	123,128	125,698			2.10	2.04	2.04	

1/ Revised.

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States,  
January 1957, with comparisons 1/

[In millions of pounds]

State	Jan. av. 1946-55	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1956	Jan. 1957	State	Jan. av. 1946-55	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1956	Jan. 1957
N. Y. ....	634	786	721	747	Ga. ....	87	99	101	106
N. J. ....	90	98	90	93	Ky. ....	144	157	171	180
Pa. ....	428	524	489	510	Tenn. ....	148	161	169	166
Chio. ....	377	440	433	437	Ala. ....	91	92	93	92
Ind. ....	259	284	265	278	Miss. ....	93	104	112	116
Ill. ....	386	398	396	410	Ark. ....	80	81	89	82
Mich. ....	390	410	408	402	Okla. ....	136	128	123	127
Wis. ....	1,118	1,358	1,280	1,400	Tex. ....	238	241	245	248
Minn. ....	696	853	767	852	Mont. ....	37	35	35	36
Iowa. ....	442	487	478	512	Idaho. ....	90	110	107	110
Mo. ....	256	293	268	284	Wyo. ....	17	16	16	16
N. Dak. ..	106	122	105	116	Colo. ....	75	68	69	65
S. Dak. ..	92	94	92	96	Utah. ....	53	58	55	58
Nebr. ....	158	163	165	173	Wash. ....	124	131	132	135
Kans. ....	183	177	180	178	Oreg. ....	77	78	75	76
Va. ....	130	141	155	153	Calif. ....	459	561	557	565
W. Va. ...	55	55	58	57	Other States....	540	622	539	627
N. C. ....	115	134	137	144	U. S. ...	8,446	9,603	9,227	9,697
S. C. ....	42	44	52	49					

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions,  
January 15, 1957, with comparisons

Region	Milk-feed 1/				Butterfat-feed 2/			
	Jan. 15, av. 1936-55	Jan. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1956	Jan. 15, 1957	Jan. 15, av. 1936-55	Jan. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1956	Jan. 15, 1957
N. Atl. ..	1.30	1.34	1.46	1.40	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ...	1.32	1.37	1.45	1.40	23.1	20.1	20.2	19.9
W.N.C. ...	1.50	1.44	1.47	1.44	26.7	24.3	24.7	24.4
S. Atl. ..	1.54	1.66	1.66	1.61	-	-	-	-
S. Cent. .	1.52	1.66	1.68	1.60	18.7	16.3	16.0	15.6
West. ....	1.38	1.41	1.46	1.43	21.0	18.1	18.7	18.4
U. S. ...	1.35	1.42	1.49	1.43	24.2	22.2	22.4	22.1

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.

the greatest gains from the previous year in the South and West. Seasonally, milk output per cow on farms increased 3 percent compared with the average January 1 to February 1 gain of 5 percent. The seasonal change was less than usual in all sections of the country.

#### Higher proportion of cows milked on February 1

Crop reporters indicated that 71.1 percent of the milk cows in their herds were milked on February 1 compared with 70.1 percent on the same date last year and the February 1 average of 66.1 percent. Farmers in all regions other than in the North Atlantic States were milking a higher proportion of the milk cows in their herds than on February 1 last year. However, reporters in all areas were milking a greater percentage than average.

In the 35 States with monthly milk production estimates available, January output exceeded the 10-year average for the month in 29 States. Production was below the January average in Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Oregon. Wisconsin, as usual, led all States in total milk production with 1,400 million pounds, followed by Minnesota with 852 million, New York with 747 million, California with 565 million, Iowa with 512 million, and Pennsylvania with 510 million pounds.

#### Grain feeding at record high

On February 1, crop reporters were feeding grain and concentrates to their milking herds at a record high rate for the date. Colder than normal winter weather, except in the South, and generally favorable dairy product-feed price relationships encouraged liberal feeding. Farmers fed a new high of 7.06 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow on February 1, which was 5 percent above last year's previous record of 6.71 pounds and 17 percent above the 1946-55 average for the date. Seasonally, the quantity of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows increased 11 percent from December 1, 1956 to February 1 this year compared with the average gain of about 14 percent.

Grain and concentrate feeding rates equaled or reached record highs for February 1 in all sections of the country. By regions, the feeding rate was highest in the North Atlantic States at 7.8 pounds per milk cow in herd, and lowest in the Western States at 6.0 pounds. Averages in other regions on February 1 were 7.6 pounds in the East North Central, 7.1 in the West North Central, 6.5 in the South Atlantic, and 6.4 pounds in the South Central States. Feeding rates on February 1 were considerably above average for the date in the southern and western sections, while only moderately above average in the rest of the country. In the North Atlantic, East North Central, and the West, feeding rates increased more than usual from December 1 to February 1.

#### Value of ration above last year

On January 15, the value of grain and concentrates farmers fed to their milk cows averaged \$3.02 per hundredweight -- 3 percent above the year earlier, but otherwise the lowest value for the date since 1950.

(Continued on page 7)

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

State and division	Milk produced per milk cow 2/			Percent of milk cows milked			"Grain" fed per milk cow 3/		
	Feb. 1, av. 1946-55	Feb. 1, 1956	Feb. 1, 1957	Feb. 1, av. 1946-55	Feb. 1, 1956	Feb. 1, 1957	Feb. 1, av. 1946-55	Feb. 1, 1956	Feb. 1, 1957
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me. ....	14.9	19.0	19.3	74.7	77.6	78.4	6.2	7.2	7.0
N. H. ....	17.2	20.2	20.5	78.3	78.2	78.0	5.7	6.5	6.2
Vt. ....	16.2	20.2	20.2	73.5	77.1	77.9	5.9	6.4	6.8
Mass. ....	18.7	22.0	23.6	78.8	80.0	81.5	6.4	6.6	7.4
Conn. ....	19.0	22.3	23.2	77.6	80.7	80.6	6.7	7.1	7.8
N. Y. ....	20.0	23.5	22.2	71.9	75.4	75.8	7.0	7.8	7.7
N. J. ....	21.5	24.0	23.3	78.1	81.0	78.7	8.2	8.4	8.1
Pa. ....	18.8	21.6	21.1	74.4	77.1	76.4	7.7	8.3	8.5
N. Atl. ....	19.15	22.24	21.60	74.4	77.2	77.0	7.0	7.7	7.8
Ohio.....	16.8	21.6	21.8	71.8	76.7	76.1	6.8	7.5	8.1
Ind. ....	15.1	18.8	20.1	68.4	72.0	74.1	6.6	7.3	7.8
Ill. ....	17.0	20.4	21.4	67.6	71.3	73.2	7.4	7.7	7.8
Mich. ....	19.0	22.5	22.1	74.9	78.7	79.5	6.7	7.5	7.7
Wis. ....	18.6	21.8	22.7	71.2	76.4	76.6	6.3	6.8	7.3
E. N. Cent. ....	17.85	21.33	22.15	71.0	75.3	76.2	6.7	7.2	7.6
Minn. ....	20.2	24.0	24.1	71.0	77.2	76.5	6.6	7.2	7.3
Iowa.....	16.6	20.3	20.7	65.7	71.6	71.4	7.7	8.0	8.0
Mo. ....	10.6	13.0	13.5	57.8	52.1	63.2	5.3	5.9	6.5
N. Dak. ....	14.1	16.9	16.7	56.7	61.2	60.6	5.3	6.0	6.2
S. Dak. ....	12.7	15.0	15.6	56.0	61.6	61.1	4.8	5.3	4.8
Nebr. ....	15.3	16.8	18.1	63.0	65.1	68.8	6.1	5.5	6.6
Kans. ....	14.8	17.6	18.5	64.3	68.5	70.0	6.0	6.7	7.9
W. N. Cent. ....	15.71	18.81	19.06	63.8	68.8	68.9	6.3	6.7	7.1
Md. ....	17.3	20.0	20.1	73.6	76.7	76.2	8.0	8.1	8.1
Va. ....	13.6	16.0	18.2	65.4	68.6	71.6	5.6	6.2	6.8
W. Va. ....	10.6	12.5	12.2	63.8	64.7	64.4	4.1	4.8	5.1
N. C. ....	12.4	15.2	16.9	69.2	74.6	75.7	5.6	7.1	6.8
S. C. ....	11.3	13.1	15.9	67.1	70.2	70.9	4.4	5.6	6.6
Ga. ....	9.3	11.0	11.9	57.4	61.6	61.6	4.8	6.5	6.0
S. Atl. ....	12.68	14.57	15.90	65.6	68.8	69.9	5.3	6.5	6.5
Ky. ....	10.5	12.2	13.9	59.4	60.5	64.4	5.9	6.5	6.4
Tenn. ....	9.7	11.8	12.1	61.8	64.4	64.2	5.2	6.3	6.2
Ala. ....	8.4	9.7	9.6	55.5	58.7	55.1	5.6	7.1	6.8
Miss. ....	6.8	8.0	9.6	52.8	54.5	59.2	4.5	5.8	6.1
Ark. ....	7.3	9.3	9.7	48.5	52.8	52.7	4.3	6.0	5.8
La. ....	6.5	8.2	8.5	39.8	57.9	56.1	4.2	4.8	5.3
Okla.....	10.2	13.3	13.4	54.4	60.3	62.7	4.6	5.1	6.7
Tex. ....	8.6	9.9	10.5	53.2	53.3	56.5	5.4	6.4	7.2
S. Cent. ....	9.09	11.14	11.81	55.1	58.8	60.3	5.0	6.1	6.4
Mont. ....	14.2	15.3	15.9	62.1	61.8	64.6	4.3	4.9	4.8
Idaho.....	18.0	20.1	20.4	72.4	74.4	74.7	4.4	4.5	5.0
Wyo. ....	16.1	17.4	17.6	65.2	66.8	67.2	4.0	3.9	4.0
Colo. ....	15.7	18.6	18.2	64.8	72.5	72.2	5.1	5.4	6.4
Utah.....	18.8	22.0	22.0	75.4	75.0	75.9	4.6	5.5	5.6
Wash. ....	17.6	20.0	21.7	73.1	78.2	79.7	5.8	6.4	6.5
Oreg. ....	14.0	15.5	16.2	64.1	67.0	66.3	4.7	5.1	4.9
Calif. ....	19.6	22.4	22.5	74.2	76.5	79.7	5.1	5.0	6.5
West.....	17.08	19.33	20.73	70.1	74.0	75.7	5.0	5.3	6.0
U. S. ....	15.29	18.09	18.77	66.1	70.1	71.1	6.04	6.71	7.06

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).

3/ Includes grain, millfeeds, and other concentrates.

Table 5.-Milk cows and milk production on farms, by States, average 1945-54, 1955 and 1956

State and division	Milk cows on farms <sup>1/</sup>			Milk production per cow <sup>2/</sup>			Total milk production on farms <sup>2/</sup>		
	Average 1945-54	1955 <sup>3/</sup>	1956 <sup>4/</sup>	Average 1945-54	1955 <sup>3/</sup>	1956 <sup>4/</sup>	Average 1945-54	1955 <sup>3/</sup>	1956 <sup>4/</sup>
	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Me. ....	114	112	112	5,542	6,090	6,150	630	682	589
N. H. ....	62	62	62	5,590	6,200	6,150	347	384	381
Vt. ....	269	283	286	5,705	6,100	6,160	1,531	1,726	1,762
Mass. ....	124	117	116	6,349	7,040	7,200	783	824	835
R. I. ....	19	18	17	7,005	7,690	7,750	136	138	132
Conn. ....	110	109	108	6,255	6,860	6,950	687	748	751
N. Y. ....	1,316	1,378	1,365	6,546	7,130	7,280	8,620	9,825	9,937
N. J. ....	152	151	147	7,284	7,800	7,850	1,107	1,178	1,154
Pa. ....	909	940	946	6,125	6,750	6,920	5,568	6,345	6,546
N. Atl. ....	3,076	3,170	3,159	6,313	6,893	7,023	19,408	21,850	22,187
Ohio.....	962	853	843	5,545	6,750	6,930	5,308	5,758	5,842
Ind. ....	699	593	570	5,381	6,600	6,720	3,734	3,914	3,830
Ill. ....	947	790	780	5,604	6,410	6,700	5,275	5,064	5,226
Mich. ....	881	817	800	6,134	6,670	6,820	5,387	5,449	5,456
Wis. ....	2,253	2,302	2,302	6,739	7,160	7,360	15,168	16,482	16,943
E. N. Cent. ...	5,741	5,355	5,295	6,092	6,847	7,044	34,872	36,667	37,297
Minn. ....	1,434	1,378	1,387	5,835	6,410	6,760	8,331	8,833	9,376
Iowa.....	1,158	1,022	1,007	5,355	5,830	6,270	6,186	5,958	6,314
Mo. ....	932	874	849	4,314	4,730	4,910	4,014	4,134	4,169
N. Dak. ....	401	368	363	4,486	4,850	4,970	1,789	1,785	1,804
S. Dak. ....	349	302	299	4,129	4,530	4,720	1,434	1,368	1,411
Nebr. ....	478	428	422	4,820	5,370	5,410	2,296	2,298	2,283
Kans. ....	583	468	443	4,461	5,030	5,140	2,586	2,354	2,277
W. N. Cent. ...	5,335	4,840	4,770	5,011	5,523	5,793	26,637	26,730	27,634
Del. ....	36	35	33	5,201	5,700	6,000	187	200	198
Md. ....	225	238	237	5,499	6,260	6,500	1,240	1,490	1,540
Va. ....	426	398	390	4,424	5,030	5,220	1,886	2,002	2,036
W. Va. ....	207	189	186	3,964	4,310	4,420	820	815	822
N. C. ....	359	360	355	4,335	4,680	4,900	1,557	1,685	1,740
S. C. ....	154	152	148	3,714	3,930	4,130	571	597	611
Ga. ....	334	316	305	3,464	3,720	4,020	1,154	1,176	1,226
Fla. ....	441	178	188	4,260	4,900	5,250	604	872	987
S. Atl. ....	1,882	1,866	1,842	4,261	4,736	4,973	8,017	8,837	9,160
Ky. ....	591	587	590	3,966	4,220	4,420	2,343	2,477	2,608
Tenn. ....	622	634	628	3,687	3,780	3,970	2,294	2,397	2,493
Ala. ....	375	353	344	3,421	3,430	3,530	1,282	1,211	1,214
Miss. ....	514	520	512	2,760	2,880	3,000	1,419	1,498	1,536
Ark. ....	409	352	342	3,167	3,510	3,640	1,292	1,236	1,245
La. ....	292	304	299	2,479	2,670	2,800	725	812	837
Okla. ....	561	412	385	3,630	4,130	4,450	2,021	1,702	1,713
Tex. ....	1,032	774	758	3,320	3,800	3,970	3,393	2,941	3,009
S. Cent. ....	4,396	3,936	3,858	3,366	3,627	3,799	14,769	14,274	14,655
Mont. ....	118	99	97	4,954	5,240	5,260	585	519	510
Idaho.....	206	219	215	6,250	6,920	6,950	1,284	1,515	1,494
Wyo. ....	49	40	39	5,080	5,150	5,380	250	206	210
Colo. ....	180	154	148	5,216	5,900	6,000	932	909	888
N. Mex. ....	55	47	46	4,127	4,600	4,750	224	216	218
Ariz. ....	46	47	46	6,052	7,500	7,550	278	352	347
Utah.....	104	101	101	6,487	6,900	7,220	670	697	729
Nev. ....	15	14	14	5,995	6,240	6,450	91	87	90
Wash. ....	269	261	259	6,642	6,970	7,000	1,781	1,819	1,813
Oreg. ....	214	198	188	5,836	6,100	6,150	1,249	1,208	1,156
Calif. ....	802	846	850	7,596	8,560	8,600	6,091	7,242	7,310
West.....	2,057	2,026	2,003	6,543	7,290	7,371	13,435	14,770	14,765
U. S. ....	22,487	21,193	20,927	5,222	5,810	6,006	117,138	123,128	125,698

<sup>1/</sup> Average number on farms during year, heifers that have not freshened excluded.

<sup>2/</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves and milk produced by cows not on farms.

<sup>3/</sup> Revised.

<sup>4/</sup> Preliminary.

Table 6.-Cows, heifers, and heifer calves kept for milk on farms, January 1,  
by age groups, average 1946-55, annual 1956 and 1957

[In thousands]

State and division	Cows and heifers 2 years old and over kept for milk			Heifers 1 to 2 years old kept for milk cows			Heifer calves under 1 year kept for milk cows		
	1946-55 average	1956	1957 <u>1/</u>	1946-55 average	1956	1957 <u>1/</u>	1946-55 average	1956	1957 <u>1/</u>
Me. ....	123	123	121	37	37	34	38	35	37
N. H. ....	70	71	71	18	18	17	20	19	18
Vt. ....	298	323	320	62	63	63	65	66	65
Mass. ....	130	123	123	23	24	22	24	22	22
R. I. ....	20	19	18	2	3	2	3	2	3
Conn. ....	120	118	117	22	23	22	24	23	22
N. Y. ....	1,428	1,512	1,482	305	321	309	317	319	305
N. J. ....	155	156	154	25	25	25	24	25	25
Pa. ....	984	1,039	1,049	247	248	245	261	256	262
N. Atl. ....	3,328	3,484	3,455	742	762	739	778	767	759
Ohio.....	1,022	930	930	244	213	213	260	232	223
Ind. ....	716	612	588	159	142	131	171	144	122
Ill. ....	997	866	849	265	230	231	313	294	329
Mich. ....	955	898	880	247	243	241	263	258	253
Wis. ....	2,472	2,578	2,604	554	640	633	587	655	644
E. N. Cent. ....	6,161	5,884	5,851	1,468	1,468	1,449	1,594	1,583	1,571
Minn. ....	1,540	1,542	1,557	394	438	426	413	446	482
Iowa.....	1,214	1,100	1,100	277	261	251	292	272	276
Mo. ....	976	936	899	196	191	193	221	214	213
N. Dak. ....	437	406	398	96	89	88	119	119	117
S. Dak. ....	382	332	325	97	77	73	138	117	117
Nebr. ....	495	446	450	120	99	99	134	116	114
Kans. ....	614	508	498	135	109	106	152	122	110
W. N. Cent. ....	5,657	5,270	5,227	1,316	1,264	1,236	1,469	1,406	1,429
Del. ....	38	36	34	9	8	9	9	9	8
Md. ....	240	251	251	55	54	56	57	57	58
Va. ....	466	436	432	93	86	87	107	102	97
W. Va. ....	224	209	201	42	36	36	44	39	37
N. C. ....	378	375	379	79	79	82	88	90	92
S. C. ....	170	168	171	39	38	39	44	44	47
Ga. ....	366	332	329	100	89	83	110	95	94
Fla. ....	156	194	210	48	66	70	62	77	81
S. Atl. ....	2,038	2,001	2,007	465	456	462	522	513	514
Ky. ....	651	654	654	108	115	112	119	122	125
Tenn. ....	668	681	681	125	124	122	138	135	142
Ala. ....	418	397	384	129	117	115	149	140	142
Miss. ....	572	593	581	127	134	125	141	140	144
Ark. ....	445	389	381	108	89	91	126	113	114
La. ....	334	348	345	82	75	78	93	93	93
Okla. ....	596	436	414	147	95	95	191	142	135
Tex. ....	1,113	849	824	243	187	186	277	213	209
S. Cent. ....	4,798	4,347	4,264	1,070	936	924	1,233	1,098	1,104
Mont. ....	126	106	104	28	24	23	38	32	32
Idaho.....	231	243	245	63	72	78	77	92	90
Wyo. ....	54	44	44	14	11	12	15	13	13
Colo. ....	193	163	161	47	46	41	58	53	48
N. Mex. ....	58	52	52	12	10	10	15	12	12
Ariz. ....	48	50	51	12	13	14	13	15	15
Utah.....	110	111	112	28	27	30	33	35	35
Nev. ....	18	17	16	7	8	9	10	10	10
Wash. ....	297	295	295	69	74	74	87	87	87
Oreg. ....	234	219	217	58	59	57	74	68	64
Calif. ....	871	927	927	229	250	233	253	260	256
West.....	2,240	2,227	2,224	568	594	581	673	677	662
U. S. ....	24,223	23,213	23,028	5,629	5,480	5,391	6,268	6,044	6,039

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(Continued from page 3)

In milk-selling areas, the value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows on January 15 was \$3.08 per hundredweight and in cream-selling areas was \$2.67. The milk-feed price ratio at mid-January was the most favorable for the date since 1947. Although only about 1 percent above the previous year, the milk-feed price ratio was 6 percent above the longtime average. The butterfat-feed price ratio was down fractionally from January 15 last year and was 9 percent below average for the date.

### ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION, 1956

Milk cows on farms in the United States produced a total of 125,698 million pounds of milk in 1956 - a new high annual output. Estimates for the 48 individual States just released placed production at 2,570 million pounds above the revised total of 123,128 million pounds of milk for 1955. Annual milk production during the years 1946-55 averaged more than 117 billion pounds, with total output ranging from 113 billion pounds in 1948 to 122 billion in 1954. The large milk output in 1956 was the result of record high milk production per cow, since the number of milk cows declined from the previous year and was below average. Production per capita, at 748 pounds in 1956, was more than in 1955 but less than the preceding 2 years and was about 7 percent lower than the 1925-39 average.

#### Milk per cow reaches new high

Production per cow set a new high average of 6,006 pounds of milk, or 231 pounds of milkfat, for the country in 1956. Output per milk cow has gained steadily each year since 1944, and has increased 23 percent in the last decade. The greatly increased rate per milk cow has been encouraged by heavier feeding of concentrates, higher producing milk cows from the use of good bulls in the artificial breeding program, and improved management practices accomplished in part by concentrating cows in fewer and larger milking herds.

#### Further decline in milk cows

• The number of milk cows on farms in the United States in 1956 totaled 20,927 thousand head, down more than 1 percent from the 21,193 thousand on farms in 1955, and the smallest number on records dating back through 1924. Numbers decreased sharply from the record high of 25.6 million head in 1944 to 22.3 million in 1948, and have ranged from 22 to 21 million until 1956. The number of milk cows on farms has edged down slightly each of the past 3 years.

Information on the historical series of milk cows and milk production including revisions of monthly production in 35 States can be found in the separate publication entitled "Milk Production on Farms and Statistics of Dairy Plant Products - 1956".