

MILK PRODUCTION

PERIODICAL ROOM

April 12, 1957

SUMMARY

Milk production on farms during March totaled 10,961 million pounds, and exceeded the previous record high of March last year by nearly 1 percent and the 1946-55 average by 12 percent. Production for the first quarter of 1957 totaled 30.1 billion pounds, approximately equal to the output for the same period last year. Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 20.43 pounds, about 3 percent above the previous high for the same date last year. Crop reporters fed an average of 6.99 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow on April 1 -- 4 percent above the previous high of last year. Precipitation has been adequate in most areas of the country to indicate generally favorable prospects for dairy pastures. Considerable feed has been available in the Southern and Pacific Coast areas, where dairy pastures on April 1 were the best since 1953. The drought situation that existed over much of the central and southern Great Plains during 1956 was eased by recent precipitation, and pasture prospects have improved considerably.

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

APR 7 1957

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average 1946-55	1956	1957	$\frac{1957}{1956}$	Average 1946-55	1956	1957
	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Jan. ...	8,446	9,603	9,697	101	1.79	1.86	1.84
Feb. ...	8,284	9,657	9,464	$\frac{1}{98}$	1.93	1.99	1.99
Mar. ...	9,799	10,888	10,961	101	2.07	2.10	2.08
Apr. ...	10,530	11,325			2.30	2.25	
May.....	12,368	12,840			2.62	2.47	
June....	12,242	12,490			2.67	2.48	
July....	11,428	11,526			2.41	2.21	
Aug. ...	10,453	10,659			2.20	2.04	
Sept. ..	9,158	9,512			1.99	1.88	
Oct. ...	8,658	9,276			1.82	1.77	
Nov. ...	7,879	8,695			1.70	1.71	
Dec. ...	8,223	9,227			1.72	1.76	
Year..	117,468	125,698			2.10	2.04	

1/ Influenced by extra day in February 1956.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service • Crop Reporting Board
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Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States,
March 1957, with comparisons 1/

[In millions of pounds]

State	Mar. av. 1946-55	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1957	State	Mar. av. 1946-55	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1957
N.Y. ..	757	914	691	845	Ga.	98	106	101	116
N.J. ..	98	105	88	99	Ky.	164	185	177	200
Pa. ...	484	587	468	567	Tenn. ..	170	187	158	194
Ohio...	423	499	428	487	Ala. ...	102	101	91	104
Ind. ..	296	338	297	338	Miss. ..	114	124	110	124
Ill. ..	435	444	414	463	Ark. ...	93	90	79	93
Mich. .	444	477	383	462	Okla. ..	160	145	123	144
Wis. ..	1,366	1,554	1,380	1,582	Tex. ...	278	263	241	290
Minn. .	815	967	838	978	Mont. ..	43	40	35	41
Iowa...	507	545	486	580	Idaho...	105	123	104	122
Mo. ...	296	328	277	316	Wyo. ...	19	17	14	17
N. Dak.	140	156	127	155	Colo. ..	78	74	65	75
S. Dak.	113	118	106	120	Utah....	56	61	56	62
Nebr. .	186	190	171	198	Wash. ..	141	143	127	153
Kans. .	210	200	169	198	Oreg. ..	96	90	73	90
Va. ...	140	153	140	161	Calif. .	538	631	547	650
W. Va..	58	65	52	66	Other				
N.C. ..	122	136	134	146	States.	608	680	666	669
S.C. ..	46	52	48	56	U.S. ...	9,799	10,888	9,464	10,961

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

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

Region	Milk-feed <u>1/</u>				Butterfat-feed <u>2/</u>			
	Mar. 15, av. 1936-55	Mar. 15, 1956	Feb. 15, 1957	Mar. 15, 1957	Mar. 15, av. 1936-55	Mar. 15, 1956	Feb. 15, 1957	Mar. 15, 1957
N. Atl.	1.21	1.23	1.35	1.29	-	-	-	-
E.N.C..	1.24	1.29	1.33	1.29	22.4	20.0	19.3	19.3
W.N.C..	1.42	1.38	1.34	1.32	25.7	24.0	23.0	23.0
S. Atl.	1.49	1.64	1.61	1.58	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.38	1.49	1.53	1.44	17.9	16.2	15.1	15.2
West. .	1.29	1.34	1.40	1.40	20.3	18.2	18.2	18.3
U.S..	1.27	1.33	1.38	1.33	23.4	21.8	21.1	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.

Record milk production in March

Milk production on farms during March totaled 10,961 million pounds, and exceeded the previous record high of March last year by nearly 1 percent and the 1946-55 average by 12 percent. Seasonally, production increased more rapidly than in 1956, but did not gain as much as usual from February to March. The total quantity of milk produced during March was sufficient to provide each person in the United States with 2.08 pounds daily, 1 percent below the rate of March 1956, but slightly above the 10-year average. Production for the first quarter of 1957 totaled 30.1 billion pounds, approximately equal to the output for the same period last year.

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 20.43 pounds, about 3 percent above the previous high for the same date last year and 19 percent above the April 1 average. Output per cow on April 1 was higher than last year in all regions except the North Atlantic States, where it decreased 3 percent. Increases from last year ranged from 2 percent in the North Central part of the country to nearly 8 percent in the South Atlantic States. In general, larger gains occurred in the South and West. Production per milk cow increased about 5 percent from March 1 to April 1 compared with the average seasonal gain of 7 percent. The rate of gain was higher than usual in only the South Atlantic States. Compared with the April 1 average, output per milk cow was up 19 percent for the Nation, with increases ranging from 11 percent in the North Atlantic States to approximately 25 percent in the South.

Three-fourths of cows milked

Crop reporters indicated that 74.9 percent of the milk cows in their herds were milked on April 1 compared with 74.5 percent on the same date last year and the April 1 average of 70.7 percent. Crop reporters in all regions were milking more than the usual proportion of milk cows on April 1. The percentage of cows milked failed to exceed the level of April 1 last year in only the Northeastern part of the country.

Among the 35 States with monthly milk production estimates available, March output equaled or exceeded the record high for the month in 12 States, with 7 of these in the South. Conversely, milk production equaled or was below average in Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Oregon. Wisconsin, the principal milk producing State, had a March output of 1,582 million pounds, followed by Minnesota with 978 million; New York, 845 million; California, 650 million; and Iowa, 580 million pounds.

Feeding rate continues high

Crop reporters fed an average of 6.99 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow on April 1. This was 4 percent above the previous high of last year and 15 percent above the 1946-55 April 1 average. Feeding rates continued at record or near record levels as the feeding season passed the winter peak in most sections of the country. The amount of grain and concentrates fed per milk cow declined 1 percent between February 1 and April 1, while usually a small increase may be expected. Heavier feeding of grain and concentrates on April 1 in the northeastern part of the country was more than offset by seasonal declines in the West and South, especially in the South Central States. Although feeding rates declined seasonally in the southern areas, quantities fed per milk cow continued considerably above average for the date.

The amount of grain fed per milk cow on April 1 was the highest on record in all regions of the country except in the South Central States and in the West where feeding rates approached record highs. About 88 percent of the farmers reported

Table 4.-Value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows, by regions, March 15, 1957, with comparisons

[In dollars]

Region	Mar. 15, av. 1936-55	Mar. 15, 1956	Jan. 15, 1957	Feb. 15, 1957	Mar. 15, 1957
N. Atl.	3.05	3.46	3.62	3.67	3.67
E. N. C.	2.44	2.73	2.80	2.85	2.83
W. N. C.	2.16	2.45	2.59	2.64	2.64
S. Atl.	2.95	3.35	3.40	3.45	3.44
S. Cent.	2.73	3.05	3.17	3.21	3.19
West.	2.72	3.20	3.28	3.33	3.31
U. S.					
Milk-selling areas..	2.66	3.00	3.11	3.15	3.14
Cream-selling areas.	2.33	2.62	2.74	2.79	2.79
Combined milk and cream areas.....	2.57	2.95	3.06	3.11	3.10

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feeding some grain and concentrates to their milk cows on April 1, the same proportion as at the same time last year and the 10-year average. The average amount of grain fed per milk cow on April 1 ranged from 8.2 pounds in the North Atlantic to 5.5 pounds in the South Central States. Feeding rates in other regions were 7.9 pounds in the East North Central; 7.2 pounds, West North Central; 6.3 pounds, South Atlantic; and 5.6 pounds in the West.

Cost of ration above last year

The value per 100 pounds of grain and concentrate rations fed to milk cows during March was up 5 percent from March last year, but lower than in the previous 5 years. Ration values averaged \$3.14 per hundredweight in milk-selling areas and \$2.79 in cream-selling areas on March 15. The milk-feed price ratio equaled that of March 15 a year earlier and otherwise was the highest for the date since 1946. The butterfat-feed price ratio was down 4 percent from mid-March last year and down 10 percent from the longtime average for the date.

April 1 dairy pastures above average

Precipitation has been adequate in most areas of the country to indicate generally favorable prospects for dairy pastures. Condition of dairy pastures on April 1 averaged 75 percent of normal -- 9 percentage points above the April 1 condition last year and 1 point above the April average. The April 1 condition represents the average of the early pasture States in the southern part of the country and the Pacific Coast area where milk cows are generally on green feed. Considerable feed has been available in these regions where dairy pastures on April 1 were the best since 1953. The drought situation that existed over much of the central and southern Great Plains during 1956 was eased by recent precipitation, and pasture prospects have improved considerably.

Good pastures in South

The April 1 condition of dairy pastures in the southern regions was above average, and has improved from last year in most of the States. Pastures for milk cows grew well during March in most of the southern States east of the Great Plains and were

(Continued on page 8)

Table 5.- 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		
	April 1, av. 1946-55	April 1, 1956	April 1, 1957	April 1, av. 1946-55	April 1, 1956	April 1, 1957
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	15.8	20.2	20.7	76.7	79.0	82.0
N. H.	19.1	21.3	23.1	81.2	81.2	83.0
Vt.	18.9	22.0	21.8	81.4	85.3	84.3
Mass.	19.8	23.1	23.5	81.2	82.7	83.4
Conn.	20.1	24.3	25.5	81.4	86.8	85.1
N. Y.	22.8	25.3	24.2	79.7	81.4	81.1
N. J.	22.9	24.0	24.3	82.0	81.8	81.5
Pa.	21.2	24.5	23.3	80.3	83.1	81.5
N. Atl.	21.29	24.36	23.58	80.2	82.6	81.8
Ohio.....	18.3	23.2	23.0	74.4	81.1	80.6
Ind.	17.0	20.3	20.6	71.9	76.6	77.3
Ill.	18.4	21.4	22.7	70.6	73.9	75.8
Mich.	21.2	24.0	23.9	80.3	82.6	83.1
Wis.	21.7	24.4	25.0	79.4	83.7	82.7
E. N. Cent.	20.19	23.32	23.86	76.6	81.0	81.0
Minn.	22.6	25.8	26.4	79.5	82.7	85.1
Iowa.....	18.4	21.9	22.9	69.8	74.2	76.7
Mo.	12.6	15.2	14.2	61.8	68.3	62.8
N. Dak.	16.4	19.2	19.5	65.3	69.1	67.1
S. Dak.	14.5	17.2	17.2	61.8	67.5	65.9
Nebr.	17.3	19.6	19.9	69.1	73.1	71.4
Kans.	16.9	19.5	20.2	69.2	72.2	73.9
W. N. Cent.	17.70	20.64	21.08	69.7	74.0	74.1
Kd.	18.1	21.5	21.2	76.2	77.3	78.5
Va.	14.6	16.9	18.6	66.1	71.2	71.8
W. Va.	11.2	13.1	14.1	62.5	65.2	66.5
N. C.	13.3	16.6	17.5	68.8	74.8	76.6
S. C.	12.0	14.8	16.0	66.7	71.1	73.0
Ga.	10.3	11.9	13.3	59.3	61.1	62.8
S. Atl.	13.26	15.70	16.88	65.8	69.9	71.1
Ky.	11.9	13.9	14.4	62.0	65.1	65.3
Tenn.	11.4	13.6	14.2	64.3	66.7	67.9
Ala.	9.4	10.3	11.0	57.5	57.3	60.1
Miss.	8.4	8.5	8.9	56.5	54.1	57.4
Ark.	8.8	10.7	11.2	52.0	57.6	57.8
La.	7.6	9.5	9.4	42.4	58.0	55.2
Okla.	11.6	14.1	15.7	58.2	62.8	66.6
Tex.	9.6	10.1	11.3	55.2	53.7	52.3
S. Cent.	10.45	12.18	12.96	57.9	60.7	62.0
Mont.	15.8	17.2	18.1	63.9	65.6	65.0
Idaho.....	20.0	23.1	22.2	75.3	78.0	77.9
Wyo.	17.5	18.7	17.5	67.3	65.0	66.4
Colo.	18.0	19.1	19.6	70.3	70.2	75.7
Utah.....	20.3	23.8	22.4	76.5	78.5	76.9
Wash.	19.9	20.4	22.5	77.7	79.8	81.2
Oreg.	17.5	17.7	19.0	71.3	72.3	72.8
Calif.	22.0	24.2	26.2	77.5	79.8	81.4
West.	19.50	21.08	22.62	74.2	76.3	78.2
U. S.	17.19	19.93	20.43	70.7	74.5	74.9

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 6.--Dairy pasture feed condition, as percentage of normal,
April 1, 1957, with comparisons ^{1/}

[Percent]

State and division	April 1, av. 1946-55	April 1, 1955	April 1, 1956	April 1, 1957
Me.	90	92	97	93
N. H.	95	97	99	98
Vt.	93	95	95	94
Mass.	94	90	91	97
R. I.	92	98	96	89
Conn.	92	94	97	96
N. Y.	88	89	88	91
N. J.	85	80	77	86
Pa.	86	83	84	86
N. Atl.	-	-	-	-
Ohio.....	86	86	82	86
Ind.	85	84	85	87
Ill.	86	85	81	84
Mich.	90	92	90	89
Wis.	88	92	91	87
E. N. Cent.	-	-	-	-
Minn.	88	89	87	87
Iowa.....	89	88	71	75
Mo.	79	72	65	65
N. Dak.	78	77	74	70
S. Dak.	85	80	66	66
Nebr.	84	77	67	59
Kans.	80	69	62	55
W. N. Cent.	80	70	64	60
Del.	87	80	84	83
Md.	84	79	81	88
Va.	82	70	75	87
W. Va.	80	78	74	80
N. C.	83	71	82	89
S. C.	74	68	77	84
Ga.	75	66	76	81
Fla.	74	62	58	71
S. Atl.	77	67	75	82
Ky.	80	79	79	84
Tenn.	78	71	79	84
Ala.	73	62	72	75
Miss.	74	65	70	71
Ark.	72	66	71	76
La.	76	69	71	74
Okla.	69	51	58	68
Tex.	64	56	47	69
S. Cent.	70	60	61	72
Mont.	82	77	81	69
Idaho.....	88	80	92	92
Wyo.	79	52	79	64
Colo.	72	48	66	53
N. Mex.	65	52	68	59
Ariz.	81	73	75	79
Utah.....	86	82	83	76
Nev.	85	78	95	86
Wash.	83	71	65	84
Oreg.	82	70	70	90
Calif.	73	64	72	84
West.	77	67	70	84
U.S.	74.3	64.0	65.9	75.4

^{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.

Table 7.-"Grain" fed per milk cow in herds kept by reporters,
April 1, 1957, with comparisons ^{1/}

[Pounds]

State and division	April 1, av. 1946-55	April 1, 1955	April 1, 1956	April 1, 1957
Me.	6.2	7.1	7.2	7.5
N. H.	5.9	6.4	6.1	6.7
Vt.	6.2	6.3	6.8	7.2
Mass.	6.6	6.8	6.9	7.1
Conn.	6.7	7.3	7.9	8.2
N. Y.	7.5	7.9	7.9	8.2
N. J.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.1
Pa.	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.7
N. Atl.	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.2
Ohio.....	6.9	7.0	7.6	8.1
Ind.	6.5	7.3	7.5	7.6
Ill.	7.5	7.9	7.5	8.0
Mich.	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.9
Wis.	6.9	6.9	7.4	7.8
E. N. Cent.	7.0	7.1	7.4	7.9
Minn.	6.8	7.1	7.5	7.9
Iowa.....	7.9	7.7	7.9	8.0
Mo.	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.5
N. Dak.	5.4	6.1	6.3	6.3
S. Dak.	5.0	5.4	5.2	4.9
Nebr.	6.2	6.3	5.7	6.3
Kans.	6.0	6.6	7.0	7.8
W. N. Cent.	6.4	6.7	6.9	7.2
Md.	7.8	8.5	8.0	7.9
Va.	5.6	5.4	5.9	6.8
W. Va.	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.9
N. C.	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.6
S. C.	4.0	4.1	5.5	6.5
Ga.	4.5	5.1	5.6	5.5
S. Atl.	5.2	5.7	5.9	6.3
Ky.	5.7	5.8	6.5	6.4
Tenn.	5.0	5.5	5.7	5.5
Ala.	4.7	4.7	6.2	6.0
Miss.	3.6	4.1	4.7	5.0
Ark.	4.0	4.9	5.7	5.6
La.	3.4	3.1	4.6	4.1
Okla.	4.6	5.3	5.5	6.6
Tex.	4.6	5.0	5.3	5.0
S. Cent.	4.5	4.9	5.6	5.5
Mont.	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.6
Idaho.....	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.7
Wyo.	4.3	3.7	4.2	3.9
Colo.	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.3
Utah.....	4.6	5.0	5.4	5.6
Wash.	6.0	5.6	7.5	6.6
Oreg.	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.5
Calif.	5.0	6.2	5.1	5.5
West.	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.6
U. S.	6.09	6.41	6.72	6.99

^{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. Includes grain, millfeeds, and other concentrates.

supplying considerable grazing by April 1. The April 1 condition of pastures in the lower Atlantic and Gulf Coast States ranged up to 13 points above a year earlier. Pastures for milking herds on the West Coast were above average for April 1, especially in California and Oregon, and showed much improvement from last year when cool weather slowed grass growth in part of the area.

Prospects improve in Great Plains

The drought situation was considerably relieved in the central and southern Great Plains by precipitation in March and early April. In the central Plains States, April 1 pasture condition was below the same date last year and average. With recent precipitation, feed prospects should improve in this area in the next few weeks. Pastures have showed improvement in the southern Plains States, particularly in Oklahoma and Texas, where the April 1 pasture condition was 10 and 22 points, respectively, above the year earlier. Milk cows are not on pastures in the northeastern States, but moisture has been sufficient in most of the area and prospects indicate there should be generally good grazing with the approach of warm weather.

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