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MILK PRODUCTION

April 11, 1958

SUMMARY

An estimated total of 10,944 million pounds of milk was produced in March by milk cows on farms, only slightly more than for the same month last year, but 10 percent above the March 1947-56 average. From February to March, milk production showed a little less increase than in 1957 and did not gain as much as usual between these months. Milk production for the first quarter of 1958 totaled 30.2 billion pounds, which compared with the previous high of about 30.1 billion pounds for the same period in the last 2 years. Crop reporters fed an average of 7.34 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow on April 1. This was 5 percent above the previous high of last year and 18 percent above the April 1 average. The April 1 feeding rate was at record levels in all regions of the Country. Prospects for dairy pastures in the 1958 grazing season are the best since 1949. The condition of 80 percent of normal on April 1 reflected the favorable moisture supply that existed over much of the Country. Pastures made slow growth during March in most of the Southeastern and South Central States, and supplied very little feed up to April 1 as cool weather retarded development. In the Pacific Northwest, dairy pastures greened up much earlier than usual and are supplying good grazing. Dairy pasture prospects in the North Central and North Atlantic States are very good with the coming of warm weather.

Table 1.-Monthly milk production on farms, United States, 1947-56 average, 1957 and 1958

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average 1947-56	1957	1958	$\frac{1958}{1957}$	Average 1947-56	1957	1958
	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Jan.	8,586	9,692	9,800	101	1.79	1.84	1.83
Feb.	8,443	9,446	9,482	100	1.92	1.98	1.96
Mar.	9,927	10,939	10,944	100	2.06	2.07	2.04
Apr.	10,599	11,412			2.28	2.23	
May.....	12,382	13,007			2.57	2.46	
June.....	12,240	12,518			2.62	2.44	
July.....	11,397	11,597			2.36	2.18	
Aug.	10,437	10,736			2.16	2.02	
Sept. ...	9,178	9,538			1.96	1.85	
Oct.	8,729	9,379			1.80	1.76	
Nov.	7,981	8,771			1.70	1.70	
Dec.	8,347	9,346			1.71	1.75	
Year...	118,246	126,381			2.08	2.02	

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Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States, March 1958 ^{1/}

[In millions of pounds]

State	Mar. av. 1947-56	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1958	Mar. 1958	State	Mar. av. 1947-56	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1958	Mar. 1958
N. Y.	784	841	725	892	Ga.	99	115	88	102
N. J.	100	98	89	102	Ky.	168	196	172	197
Pa.	499	556	495	593	Tenn.	173	194	152	180
Ohio.....	432	477	405	474	Ala.	101	105	73	87
Ind.	301	336	276	315	Miss.	116	130	98	121
Ill.	435	462	392	439	Ark.	92	91	73	82
Mich.	449	463	392	468	Okla.	155	145	113	132
Wis.	1,392	1,565	1,400	1,594	Tex.	274	283	237	286
Minn.	831	987	875	999	Mont.	42	40	33	39
Iowa.....	508	565	473	560	Idaho.....	108	124	109	129
Mo.	301	317	265	289	Wyo.	18	16	14	16
N. Dak.	140	154	131	159	Colo.	77	75	65	73
S. Dak.	112	120	116	133	Utah.....	57	62	57	63
Nebr.	186	194	162	182	Wash.	140	150	129	149
Kans.	208	198	157	180	Oreg.	96	90	73	92
Va.	143	160	143	164	Calif.	549	654	581	681
W. Va.	59	64	54	64	Other				
N. C.	124	144	129	142	States....	611	712	689	711
S. C.	47	56	47	55	U. S.	9,927	10,939	9,482	10,944

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

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions, March 15, 1958

Region	Milk-feed ^{1/}				Butterfat-feed ^{2/}			
	Mar. 15, av. 1947-56	Mar. 15, 1957	Feb. 15, 1958	Mar. 15, 1958	Mar. 15, av. 1947-56	Mar. 15, 1957	Feb. 15, 1958	Mar. 15, 1958
N. Atl.	1.18	1.29	1.45	1.36	-	-	-	-
E. N. C.	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.35	20.8	19.3	20.8	20.4
W. N. C.	1.29	1.30	1.58	1.55	24.1	23.0	27.8	27.6
S. Atl.	1.46	1.57	1.71	1.66	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.36	1.43	1.63	1.52	16.4	15.2	16.1	15.8
West.	1.25	1.37	1.50	1.45	18.8	18.3	19.6	19.8
U. S.	1.23	1.34	1.48	1.41	22.0	21.2	24.8	24.4

^{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.

Table 4.-Value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows, by regions, March 15, 1958

[In dollars]

Region	Mar. 15, av. 1947-56	Mar. 15, 1957	Jan. 15, 1958	Feb. 15, 1958	Mar. 15, 1958
N. Atl.	3.97	3.67	3.51	3.50	3.52
E. N. C.	3.19	2.83	2.63	2.65	2.68
W. N. C.	2.89	2.64	2.20	2.20	2.22
S. Atl.	3.83	3.44	3.40	3.40	3.45
S. Cent.	3.62	3.19	3.05	3.08	3.13
West.	3.63	3.31	3.03	3.04	3.02
U. S.					
Milk-selling areas..	3.47	3.13	2.92	2.93	2.96
Cream-selling areas..	3.08	2.77	2.40	2.40	2.43
Combined milk and cream areas.....	3.40	3.09	2.86	2.87	2.90

Total production slightly above last year

An estimated total of 10,944 million pounds of milk was produced in March by milk cows on farms, only slightly more than for the same month last year, but 10 percent above the March 1947-56 average. From February to March, milk production showed a little less increase than in 1957 and did not gain as much as usual between these months. The quantity of milk produced on farms in March was sufficient to provide 2.04 pounds daily to each person in the United States - approximately 1 percent less than in March last year and the average. Milk production for the first quarter of 1958 totaled 30.2 billion pounds, which compared with the previous high of about 30.1 billion pounds for the same period in the last 2 years.

Record rate on April 1

Milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds averaged 20.95 pounds on April 1. This was about 3 percent above the previous high for the date set last year and 19 percent above the average. Rate per milk cow was at a record high for April 1 in all regions except the South Central. Compared with April 1 a year ago, crop reporters indicated good gains in production per cow in the Great Lakes and Atlantic Coastal States, but other sections of the Country showed little or no increase. Milk production per cow in the entire Country increased 4 percent from March 1 to April 1 compared with a seasonal gain of around 5 percent in 1957 and the average gain of nearly 7 percent between these dates. April 1 output per cow was 19 percent above average for the date, with increases ranging up to nearly a third in the South Atlantic States.

Increase in percentage milked

Crop reporters milked 76.2 percent of the milk cows in their herds on April 1. This was 2 percent more than on the same date last year and 7 percent more than the April 1 average. The proportion of cows milked on April 1 exceeded or equaled the percentage indicated for the corresponding date of the previous year and the average in all sections of the Country. Nearly 3 percent more milk cows in herds were milked on April 1 than on March 1, compared with the average seasonal increase of 4 percent. The proportion of cows milked exceeded the usual seasonal advance between March 1 and April 1 in only the South Atlantic States.

In the 35 States with monthly milk production estimates available, output exceeded or equaled the record high for March in 9 States. March production reached new highs for the month in the heavy milk producing States of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and California. Wisconsin led in milk production in March with 1,594 million pounds, followed by Minnesota with 999 million; New York, 892 million; California, 681 million; and Pennsylvania, 593 million pounds.

Record feeding rate on April 1

Crop reporters fed an average of 7.34 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow on April 1. This was 5 percent above the previous high of last year and 18 percent above the 1947-56 April 1 average. The feeding rate was at record levels in all regions of the Country on April 1. The winter feeding rate usually reaches its peak about April 1, just before pasture feed becomes available. The quantity of grain and concentrates fed per milk cow increased 1 percent between February 1 and April 1, which was the same as average. Seasonally heavier feeding of grain and concentrates on April 1 in the eastern part of the Country more than offset declines in the South and West. Although feeding rates declined in the South and West, quantities fed per cow in those areas were considerably above average for the date.

The amount of grain fed per milk cow on April 1 was the highest of record in all regions. The average amount of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1 ranged from 8.4 pounds in the North Atlantic States to 6.0 pounds in the West.

Feeding rates in the other regions were 8.1 pounds in the East North Central; 7.6 pounds in the West North Central; 6.7 pounds in the South Atlantic; and 6.1 pounds in the South Central. About 87 percent of the farmers reported feeding some grain and concentrates to their milk cows on April 1 compared with 88 percent for both a year earlier and average.

March 15 ratios most favorable in several years

The value per 100 pounds of grain and concentrate rations fed to milk cows during March was 6 percent below March last year and at the lowest level for this date since 1946. Ration values averaged \$2.96 per hundredweight in milk-selling areas and \$2.43 in cream-selling areas on March 15. The March milk-feed ratio was the highest since 1946 and the butterfat-feed was the highest since 1947.

Dairy pasture prospects best in several years

Prospects for dairy pastures in the 1958 grazing season are the best since 1949. The condition of 80 percent of normal on April 1 reflected the favorable moisture supply that existed over much of the Country. Pasture grazing for milk cows up to the present time has been limited except for localized areas in the Southeast, South Central, and Pacific Northwest. Dairy pastures went into the past winter in good condition in most sections of the Country, and with favorable moisture since that time present prospects appear good for pasture growth this season.

Slow development in South

Pastures made slow growth during March in most of the Southeastern and South Central States, and supplied very little feed up to April 1. Usually there is considerable grazing in these areas by this time, but cool weather has retarded development. However, some grazing was done by milk cows in local areas in the southern Coastal States. A shortage of hay and other feed has occurred in some Southeastern States due to the prolonged cold weather, but with mild temperatures pastures are expected to make rapid growth and relieve the short hay supply situation there.

Good grazing in Pacific Northwest

In the Pacific Northwest, dairy pastures have greened up much earlier than usual and are supplying good grazing. Other Western areas have good moisture supplies and mild temperatures should cause grass to grow rapidly. The April 1 pasture condition in the Western States was 94 percent of normal, the highest condition on record for this time of year.

Prospects are good in Northeast

Dairy pasture prospects in the North Central and North Atlantic States are very good with the coming of warm weather. The current condition is an indication of future prospects as no grazing was done up to April 1. In the West North Central States, April 1 pasture condition was the highest since 1952. Pastures have improved considerably from a year earlier in this area where they had not fully recovered in 1957 from the 1956 drought. The condition of pastures in this section of the Country was 80 percent on April 1, compared with 60 percent a year earlier and the average of 77 percent.

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. 1947-56	April 1, 1957	April 1, 1958	April 1, av. 1947-56	April 1, 1957	April 1, 1958
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	16.4	20.7	22.1	77.2	82.0	81.2
N. H.	19.6	23.1	23.5	81.2	83.0	81.2
Vt.	19.5	21.8	23.1	82.2	84.3	85.0
Mass.	20.4	23.5	25.1	81.6	83.4	82.9
Conn.	20.8	25.5	26.4	82.4	85.1	86.0
N. Y.	23.3	24.2	26.1	80.1	81.1	82.9
N. J.	23.2	24.3	27.0	82.1	81.5	84.6
Pa.	21.8	23.3	24.6	80.9	81.5	82.8
N. Atl.	21.87	23.58	25.12	80.8	81.8	83.2
Chio.	19.0	23.0	24.0	75.2	80.6	83.2
Ind.	17.5	20.6	20.2	72.5	77.3	76.7
Ill.	18.9	22.7	22.7	71.1	75.8	76.1
Mich.	21.7	23.9	24.4	80.7	83.1	83.9
Wis.	22.1	25.0	25.8	80.0	82.7	83.5
E. N. Cent. ...	20.67	23.86	24.43	77.2	81.0	81.8
Minn.	23.2	26.4	27.0	80.0	85.1	86.4
Iowa.	18.8	22.9	23.2	70.3	76.7	77.4
Mo.	12.9	14.2	13.8	62.5	62.8	65.2
N. Dak.	16.8	19.5	20.7	65.8	67.1	69.6
S. Dak.	14.9	17.2	19.2	62.5	65.9	68.0
Nebr.	17.8	19.9	19.1	70.0	71.4	71.3
Kans.	17.2	20.2	19.1	69.6	73.9	73.6
W. N. Cent. ...	18.16	21.08	21.19	70.3	74.1	75.2
Md.	18.6	21.2	21.0	76.4	78.5	80.4
Va.	15.0	18.6	19.3	66.8	71.8	73.4
W. Va.	11.4	14.1	14.5	62.9	66.5	67.9
N. C.	13.7	17.5	16.6	69.3	76.6	74.2
S. C.	12.4	16.0	13.9	67.0	73.0	70.0
Ca.	10.6	13.3	12.4	59.7	62.8	62.4
S. Atl.	13.65	16.88	18.07	66.4	71.1	76.6
Ky.	12.1	14.4	14.8	62.0	65.3	65.0
Tenn.	11.7	14.2	12.9	64.6	67.9	69.1
Ala.	9.5	11.0	9.3	57.5	60.1	55.0
Miss.	8.5	8.9	9.0	56.6	57.4	58.2
Ark.	9.1	11.2	11.0	52.9	57.8	59.3
La.	8.0	9.4	9.0	44.1	55.2	58.2
Okla.	12.0	15.7	14.7	59.0	66.6	63.7
Tex.	9.8	11.3	11.5	55.1	52.3	54.6
S. Cent.	10.69	12.96	12.82	58.3	62.0	62.0
Mont.	16.1	18.1	18.4	64.2	65.0	66.4
Idaho.	20.5	22.2	22.4	75.6	77.9	77.9
Wyo.	17.7	17.5	19.4	67.0	66.4	68.5
Colo.	18.3	19.6	19.9	70.7	75.7	72.1
Utah.	20.8	22.4	24.5	77.0	76.9	80.1
Wash.	20.0	22.5	22.0	78.0	81.2	81.2
Oreg.	17.6	19.0	20.9	71.6	72.8	74.0
Calif.	22.4	26.2	25.6	78.0	81.4	81.6
West.	19.82	22.62	22.66	74.6	78.2	78.6
U. S.	17.63	20.43	20.95	71.3	74.9	76.2

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, 1958 ^{1/}

[Percent]

State and division	April 1, av. 1947-56	April 1, 1956	April 1, 1957	April 1, 1958
Me.	91	97	93	95
N. H.	95	99	98	92
Vt.	93	95	94	97
Mass.	93	91	97	96
R. I.	92	96	89	95
Conn.	92	97	96	92
N. Y.	88	88	91	89
N. J.	84	77	86	81
Pa.	85	84	86	81
N. Atl.	-	-	-	-
Ohio.....	84	82	86	81
Ind.	84	85	87	78
Ill.	84	81	84	81
Mich.	90	90	89	92
Wis.	88	91	87	89
E. N. Cent.	-	-	-	-
Minn.	88	87	87	90
Iowa.....	86	71	75	89
Mo.	76	65	65	72
N. Dak.	77	74	70	81
S. Dak.	82	66	66	90
Nebr.	82	67	59	92
Kans.	77	62	55	87
W. N. Cent.	77	64	60	80
Del.	86	84	83	64
Md.	83	81	88	73
Va.	81	75	87	59
W. Va.	78	74	80	69
N. C.	83	82	89	67
S. C.	74	77	84	60
Ga.	75	76	81	65
Fla.	72	58	71	63
S. Atl.	76	75	82	65
Ky.	78	79	84	66
Tenn.	78	79	84	64
Ala.	72	72	75	56
Miss.	73	70	71	55
Ark.	71	71	76	63
La.	75	71	74	61
Okla.	66	58	68	82
Tex.	61	47	69	85
S. Cent.	68	61	72	72
Mont.	81	81	69	85
Idaho.....	88	92	92	96
Wyo.	78	79	64	95
Colo.	70	66	53	89
N. Mex.	65	68	59	84
Ariz.	81	75	79	97
Utah.....	85	83	76	91
Nev.	85	95	86	96
Wash.	80	65	84	96
Oreg.	81	70	90	94
Calif.	74	72	84	94
West.	77	70	84	94
U. S.	72.7	65.9	75.4	79.5

^{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, 1958 ^{1/}

[Pounds]

State and division	April 1, av. 1947-56	April 1, 1956	April 1, 1957	April 1, 1958
Me.	6.4	7.2	7.5	7.8
N. H.	6.0	6.1	6.7	7.7
Vt.	6.4	6.8	7.2	7.3
Mass.	6.6	6.9	7.1	8.0
Conn.	6.9	7.9	8.2	8.4
N. Y.	7.6	7.9	8.2	8.5
N. J.	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.9
Pa.	8.2	8.4	8.7	8.8
N. Atl.	7.5	7.9	8.2	8.4
Ohio.....	7.0	7.6	8.4	8.7
Ind.	6.6	7.5	7.6	7.5
Ill.	7.6	7.5	8.0	7.9
Mich.	7.1	7.3	7.9	8.1
Wis.	7.0	7.4	7.8	8.1
E. N. Cent.	7.0	7.4	7.9	8.1
Minn.	7.0	7.5	7.9	8.5
Iowa.....	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.5
Mo.	5.6	6.3	6.5	6.7
N. Dak.	5.5	6.3	6.3	6.6
S. Dak.	5.0	5.2	4.9	5.5
Nebr.	6.2	5.7	6.3	6.6
Kans.	6.1	7.0	7.8	7.7
W. N. Cent.	6.5	6.9	7.2	7.6
Md.	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.2
Va.	5.7	5.9	6.8	7.0
W. Va.	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.2
N. C.	5.7	6.1	6.6	7.0
S. C.	4.2	5.5	6.5	6.6
Ga.	4.6	5.6	5.5	6.5
S. Atl.	5.3	5.9	6.3	6.7
Ky.	5.8	6.5	6.4	7.4
Tenn.	5.1	5.7	5.5	5.9
Ala.	4.9	6.2	6.0	6.5
Miss.	3.8	4.7	5.0	6.2
Ark.	4.2	5.7	5.6	5.9
La.	3.6	4.6	4.1	4.8
Okla.	4.8	5.5	6.6	5.9
Tex.	4.8	5.3	5.0	5.5
S. Cent.	4.7	5.6	5.5	6.1
Mont.	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.8
Idaho.....	4.6	4.6	4.7	5.2
Wyo.	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.7
Colo.	5.6	5.9	6.3	6.1
Utah.....	4.7	5.4	5.6	5.5
Wash.	6.2	7.5	6.6	6.9
Oreg.	5.0	5.0	5.5	6.2
Calif.	5.1	5.1	5.5	6.0
West.	5.1	5.5	5.6	6.0
U. S.	6.21	6.72	6.99	7.34

^{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.