

MILK PRODUCTION

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SUMMARY

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Milk cows on farms produced an estimated total of 10,667 million pounds of milk in March. This was 1 percent less than in the same month last year, but 6 percent more than the March 1948-57 average. Milk production advanced seasonally about as rapidly as in 1958, but about 3 percent slower than usual from February to March. Milk production in the first 3 months totaled 29.8 billion pounds compared with 29.9 billion pounds in the January-March period last year. Crop reporters indicated that milk cows in their herds produced an average of 21.76 pounds of milk per cow on April 1. This was a 4-percent increase from the previous high for the date set last year. Farmers reported feeding grain and concentrates to milk cows at the rate of 7.42 pounds per cow on April 1, which was 1 percent above last year's previous record high for the date. Condition of dairy pastures for the country as a whole averaged 75 percent of normal on April 1, compared with 80 percent for the same date last year. Pasture condition reflects the moisture situation that existed over much of the country as actual grazing was limited to parts of the Southeast, South Central, and Pacific Coast areas. Dairy pastures went into the past winter in good condition in most sections of the country. However, precipitation has been considerably less than normal during the past 4 months in the extreme northern portion of the Mississippi Valley, northern and southern Great Plains, and the Southwest.

Table 1.-Monthly milk production on farms, United States, 1948-57 average, 1958 and 1959

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average 1948-57	1958	1959	$\frac{1959}{1958}$	Average 1948-57	1958	1959
	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Jan.	8,717	9,781	9,754	100	1.78	1.83	1.79
Feb.	8,562	9,356	9,344	100	1.92	1.93	1.90
Mar.	10,034	10,734	10,667	99	2.05	2.00	1.95
Apr.	10,685	11,177			2.26	2.15	
May.....	12,435	12,712			2.54	2.36	
June.....	12,224	12,332			2.58	2.36	
July.....	11,365	11,450			2.32	2.12	
Aug.	10,451	10,487			2.12	1.94	
Sept. ...	9,225	9,492			1.94	1.81	
Oct.	8,824	9,455			1.78	1.74	
Nov.	8,118	8,889			1.70	1.69	
Dec.	8,518	9,371			1.72	1.72	
Year...	119,158	125,236			2.06	1.97	

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States, March 1959 ^{1/}

[In millions of pounds]

State	Mar. av. 1948-57	Mar. 1958	Feb. 1959	Mar. 1959	State	Mar. av. 1948-57	Mar. 1958	Feb. 1959	Mar. 1959
N. Y.	799	880	718	885	Ga.	101	100	91	99
N. J.	100	103	86	101	Ky.	172	191	162	187
Pa.	510	588	487	595	Tenn.	176	175	144	171
Ohio.....	436	433	374	434	Ala.	102	88	77	86
Ind.	304	309	259	293	Miss.	118	113	89	109
Ill.	435	433	374	412	Ark.	92	82	69	80
Mich.	449	445	394	445	Okla.	150	126	112	123
Wis.	1,413	1,613	1,421	1,606	Tex.	272	287	226	265
Minn.	847	981	891	1,006	Mont.	42	39	33	38
Iowa.....	508	542	480	528	Idaho.....	109	130	114	133
Mo.	303	289	265	290	Wyo.	18	16	13	15
N. Dak. ..	141	156	131	163	Colo.	76	70	64	71
S. Dak. ..	112	127	113	127	Utah.....	58	63	58	66
Nebr.	185	175	151	175	Wash.	141	149	135	155
Kans.	204	180	153	176	Oreg.	95	91	71	89
Md.	114	128	110	123	Calif.	560	659	563	660
Va.	147	158	137	159	Other				
W. Va. ...	60	60	49	58	States...	510	566	556	553
N. C.	127	139	132	141	U. S.	10,034	10,734	9,344	10,667
S. C.	48	50	42	50					

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

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions, March 15, 1959

Region	Milk-feed ^{1/}				Butterfat-feed ^{2/}			
	Mar. 15, av. 1948-57	Mar. 15, 1958	Feb. 15, 1959	Mar. 15, 1959	Mar. 15, av. 1948-57	Mar. 15, 1958	Feb. 15, 1959	Mar. 15, 1959
N. Atl. ..	1.18	1.36	1.40	1.33	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ...	1.20	1.35	1.33	1.29	20.4	20.4	19.4	19.4
W.N.C. ...	1.28	1.53	1.49	1.45	23.8	27.6	26.7	27.0
S. Atl. ..	1.48	1.65	1.67	1.64	-	-	-	-
S. Cent. .	1.38	1.54	1.60	1.50	16.2	16.1	16.2	16.3
West.	1.26	1.45	1.43	1.38	18.5	19.8	18.2	18.5
U. S. ..	1.24	1.41	1.42	1.37	21.8	24.4	23.7	23.9

^{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, 1959

[In dollars]

Region	Mar. 15, av. 1948-57	Mar. 15, 1958	Jan. 15, 1959	Feb. 15, 1959	Mar. 15, 1959
N. Atl.	3.96	3.52	3.59	3.61	3.61
E. N. C.	3.16	2.68	2.70	2.70	2.71
W. N. C.	2.86	2.22	2.25	2.25	2.25
S. Atl.	3.79	3.42	3.39	3.39	3.37
S. Cent.	3.58	3.07	3.05	3.08	3.07
West.	3.61	3.02	3.16	3.18	3.18
U. S.					
Milk-selling areas.	3.45	2.93	2.96	2.97	2.97
Cream-selling areas	3.05	2.43	2.45	2.46	2.46
Combined milk and cream areas.....	3.38	2.88	2.91	2.92	2.92

Milk production less than March 1958

Milk cows on farms produced an estimated 10,667 million pounds of milk in March. This was 1 percent less than in the same month last year, but 6 percent more than the March 1948-57 average. Milk production advanced seasonally about as rapidly as in 1958, but about 3 percent slower than usual from February to March. Total output in March was sufficient to provide 1.95 pounds of milk daily to each person in the United States. This compared with 2.00 pounds in March a year earlier and the 10-year average for the month of 2.05 pounds. Milk production in the first 3 months totaled 29.8 billion pounds compared with 29.9 billion pounds in January-March period last year.

Milk production was above average for March in 17 of the 36 States where monthly estimates are available. Wisconsin was the leading milk producing State in March with 1,606 million pounds. It was followed by Minnesota with 1,006 million pounds; New York, 885 million; California, 660 million; and Pennsylvania, 595 million pounds.

Record high rate per cow on April 1

Crop reporters indicated that milk cows in their herds produced an average of 21.76 pounds of milk per cow on April 1. This was a 4 percent increase from the previous high for the date set last year. Rate per cow was at a record high for April 1 in all regions except the South Atlantic, which about equaled last year's record. Increases over a year earlier ranged from 1 percent in the North Atlantic region to 6 percent in the West North Central. Other regional gains were 4 percent in the East North Central and 5 percent in both the South Central and the West. For the entire country, production per cow rose 2 percent from March 1 compared with a 4-percent increase last year and the usual gain of 6 percent from March 1 to April 1.

The proportion of cows milked on April 1 was 76.1 percent. This was about equal to the proportion milked on that date last year, but 4 percentage points higher than the April 1 average. The proportion of cows milked declined from March 1 in the South Atlantic and Western regions, while increases occurred in other sections of the country. Usually, the percentage of cows milked advances from March 1 to April 1 in all regions.

Feeding of grain continues heavy

Farmers reported feeding grain and concentrates to milk cows at the rate of 7.42 pounds per cow on April 1. This was 1 percent above last year's previous record high for the date, and 18 percent above the 1948-57 April 1 average. Record highs in feeding rates were equaled or achieved in all regions except the South Atlantic, where the April 1 rate was 3 percent below last year's high. Feeding rates were above average in all sections of the country, the gains varying from 13 percent in the North Atlantic to 27 percent in the South Central. Nationally, grain and concentrate feeding rates are usually highest around April 1 before cows go on pasture feed. They also usually increase slightly over the February 1 winter rate. However, the current April 1 rate was unchanged from February. Milk cows in the North Atlantic and East North Central region were fed heavier than on February 1, but feeding rates failed to show the full seasonal gain. Use of grains in dairy rations normally taper off from February 1 to April 1 in the South where pasture feed develops earlier than in other parts of the country. The quantity fed per cow on April 1 was down seasonally in the South Atlantic States, but did not decrease as much as usual in the South Central.

Grain feeding rates continued highest in the North Atlantic region averaging 8.6 pounds per cow in herd, followed by the East North Central with 8.2 pounds and the West North Central with 7.7 pounds. In other regions, feeding rates averaged 6.5 pounds per cow in the South Atlantic, 6.2 in the West, and 6.1 pounds in the South Central. About 87 percent of the farmers fed some grain and concentrates to milk cows on April 1, approximately the same as a year earlier and average for the date.

Dairy product-feed price ratios lower than a year earlier

The value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows in mid-March was slightly higher than a year earlier, but otherwise the lowest for that date since 1946. Ration values in milk-selling areas averaged \$2.97 per hundredweight and in cream-selling areas, \$2.46 per hundredweight. The milk-feed price ratio in mid-March was below March 1958, but was more favorable than in any other March since the mid-forties. The March 15 butterfat-feed price ratio also dropped below a year earlier, but continued relatively favorable.

Dairy pastures start season above average

Condition of dairy pastures for the country as a whole averaged 75 percent of normal on April 1. This compared with 80 percent for the same date last year and the April 1, 1948-57 average of 73 percent. Pasture condition reflects the moisture situation that existed over much of the country on April 1, as actual grazing was limited to parts of the Southeast, South Central, and Pacific Coast areas. Dairy pastures went into the past winter in good condition in most sections of the country. However, precipitation has been considerably less than normal during the past 4 months in the extreme northern portion of the Mississippi Valley, northern and southern Great Plains and the Southwest.

Condition higher than April 1 last year in South Atlantic, lower in South Central

Pasture feed conditions in the South Atlantic States were more favorable than those in the South Central area on April 1. In the South Atlantic region, pastures for milk stock showed much improvement over April 1 last year and were a little better than usual for the date. Most dairy pastures furnished good grazing in South Carolina and Georgia. In other States of the region, pastures were generally short but making rapid growth. Condition of pastures was slightly above average for April 1 in the South Central States but poorer than a year earlier. In general, moisture was short in much of this region during March and the preceding winter months. Dairy pastures had greened up by April 1, but supplied only a limited amount of feed in local areas.

Prospects favorable in most of North Central and Northeastern States

Pasture prospects for milk cows were excellent in the North Central and Northeastern parts of the country. This high condition is an indication of future prospects as there was very little grazing by April 1. In the North Atlantic region, moisture has been near normal and grass should grow rapidly when the temperature warms. Pastures are greening up in the East North Central States and should furnish a good supply of grass. In the West North Central States, dairy pasture prospects for the region as a whole were good on April 1, but condition was lower than both last year and usual in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, where the moisture supply is still short.

Pasture condition lags behind last year in the West

In the Pacific Northwest, pastures were better than average for April 1, but considerably poorer than a year earlier. Many pastures were too wet to graze, but were growing well and should furnish ample feed. In other Western States, condition was lower than on April 1 last year due primarily to a general short of moisture, which is most pronounced in the southern half of the Western region.

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. 1948-57	April 1, 1958	April 1, 1959	April 1, av. 1948-57	April 1, 1958	April 1, 1959
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	17.0	22.1	21.9	77.9	81.2	80.8
N. H.	20.2	23.5	23.2	81.6	81.2	82.7
Vt.	19.9	23.1	23.4	82.8	85.0	84.1
Mass.	20.8	25.1	23.7	81.9	82.9	80.1
Conn.	21.6	26.4	28.5	82.9	86.0	87.7
N. Y.	23.6	26.1	27.0	80.5	82.9	83.4
N. J.	23.5	27.0	27.2	82.3	84.6	83.6
Pa.	22.2	24.6	25.1	81.2	82.8	83.1
N. Atl.	22.27	25.12	25.38	81.2	83.2	83.1
Ohio.....	19.6	24.0	24.0	76.0	83.2	81.4
Ind.	18.0	20.2	20.4	73.1	76.7	75.4
Ill.	19.5	22.7	21.9	71.5	76.1	75.5
Mich.	22.1	24.4	26.0	81.2	83.9	85.1
Wis.	22.5	25.8	27.3	80.4	83.5	84.3
E. N. Cent.	21.19	24.43	25.39	77.8	81.8	82.3
Minn.	23.7	27.0	29.1	80.7	86.4	86.3
Iowa.....	19.2	23.2	23.9	70.8	77.4	76.4
Mo.	13.2	13.8	15.4	62.7	65.2	68.1
N. Dak.	17.3	20.7	23.2	66.0	69.6	70.4
S. Dak.	15.3	19.2	19.8	62.9	68.0	68.8
Nebr.	18.1	19.1	21.4	70.2	71.3	72.6
Kans.	17.6	19.1	19.8	70.1	73.6	72.7
W. N. Cent.	18.60	21.19	22.55	70.8	75.2	75.0
Md.	19.0	21.0	20.7	76.6	80.4	76.8
Va.	15.6	18.9	19.0	67.9	73.4	74.0
W. Va.	11.8	14.5	14.8	63.4	67.9	65.1
N. C.	14.3	16.6	17.9	70.1	74.2	75.3
S. C.	13.0	13.9	15.6	67.7	70.0	70.9
Ga.	11.0	12.4	12.3	59.9	62.4	61.2
S. Atl.	14.16	18.07	18.06	67.0	76.6	74.7
Ky.	12.5	14.8	15.2	62.5	65.0	66.3
Tenn.	12.1	12.9	13.0	65.0	69.1	65.8
Ala.	9.8	9.3	9.2	58.0	55.0	52.6
Miss.	8.6	9.0	8.8	56.8	58.2	56.5
Ark.	9.4	11.0	11.3	53.6	59.3	59.1
La.	8.3	9.0	10.0	45.3	58.2	59.0
Okla.	12.4	14.7	15.5	59.7	63.7	64.4
Tex.	10.0	11.5	11.0	54.9	54.6	53.1
S. Cent.	11.03	12.82	13.42	58.8	62.0	62.1
Mont.	16.3	18.4	18.6	64.4	66.4	65.6
Idaho.....	20.8	22.4	23.5	76.0	77.9	80.0
Wyo.	17.8	19.4	18.4	67.1	68.5	64.8
Colo.	18.6	19.9	21.3	71.5	72.1	75.7
Utah.....	21.2	24.5	25.5	77.0	80.1	81.7
Wash.	20.4	22.0	24.2	78.7	81.2	83.0
Oreg.	17.7	20.9	20.0	71.9	74.0	76.4
Calif.	22.9	25.6	26.7	78.4	81.6	80.3
West.	20.19	22.66	23.88	75.2	78.6	79.1
U. S.	18.08	20.95	21.76	71.8	76.2	76.1

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, 1959 ^{1/}

[Percent]

State and division	April 1, av. 1948-57	April 1, 1957	April 1, 1958	April 1, 1959
Me.	91	93	95	94
N. H.	95	98	92	89
Vt.	93	94	97	95
Mass.	94	97	96	92
R. I.	91	89	95	98
Conn.	93	96	92	93
N. Y.	88	91	89	89
N. J.	84	86	81	79
Pa.	85	86	81	79
N. Atl.	-	-	-	-
Ohio.....	85	86	81	81
Ind.	85	87	78	84
Ill.	85	84	81	87
Mich.	90	89	92	94
Wis.	88	87	89	87
E. N. Cent.	-	-	-	-
Minn.	89	87	90	77
Iowa.....	85	75	89	91
Mo.	75	65	72	80
N. Dak.	76	70	81	66
S. Dak.	80	66	90	67
Nebr.	79	59	92	86
Kans.	74	55	87	88
W. N. Cent.	75	60	80	84
Del.	86	83	64	82
Md.	84	88	73	80
Va.	82	87	59	74
W. Va.	80	80	69	71
N. C.	84	89	67	84
S. C.	76	84	60	78
Ga.	76	81	65	78
Fla.	73	71	63	82
S. Atl.	78	82	65	80
Ky.	80	84	66	73
Tenn.	80	84	64	77
Ala.	74	75	56	72
Miss.	74	71	55	67
Ark.	73	76	63	76
La.	76	74	61	74
Okla.	67	68	82	72
Tex.	61	69	85	64
S. Cent.	69	72	72	70
Mont.	79	69	85	78
Idaho.....	87	92	96	87
Wyo.	76	64	95	84
Colo.	67	53	89	86
N. Mex.	64	59	84	73
Ariz.	81	79	97	79
Utah.....	84	76	91	81
Nev.	85	86	96	80
Wash.	80	84	96	83
Oreg.	81	90	94	87
Calif.	74	84	94	69
West.	77	84	94	76
U. S.	73.0	75.4	79.5	74.8

^{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, 1959 ^{1/}

[Pounds]

State and division	April 1, av. 1948-57	April 1, 1957	April 1, 1958	April 1, 1959
Me.	6.5	7.5	7.8	7.6
N. H.	6.1	6.7	7.7	7.2
Vt.	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.7
Mass.	6.7	7.1	8.0	7.7
Conn.	7.1	8.2	8.4	9.0
N. Y.	7.7	8.2	8.5	8.7
N. J.	8.3	8.1	8.9	8.7
Pa.	8.2	8.7	8.8	9.2
N. Atl.	7.6	8.2	8.4	8.6
Ohio.....	7.1	8.4	8.7	8.6
Ind.	6.8	7.6	7.5	7.5
Ill.	7.6	8.0	7.9	7.9
Mich.	7.2	7.9	8.1	8.2
Wis.	7.0	7.8	8.1	8.4
E. N. Cent.	7.1	7.9	8.1	8.2
Minn.	7.1	7.9	8.5	8.6
Iowa.....	7.9	8.0	8.5	8.4
Mo.	5.7	6.5	6.7	6.9
N. Dak.	5.6	6.3	6.6	6.6
S. Dak.	5.0	4.9	5.5	4.8
Nebr.	6.2	6.3	6.6	7.6
Kans.	6.3	7.8	7.7	7.7
W. N. Cent.	6.6	7.2	7.6	7.7
Md.	7.8	7.9	8.2	7.5
Va.	5.8	6.8	7.0	7.1
W. Va.	4.4	4.9	5.2	5.1
N. C.	5.8	6.6	7.0	7.0
S. C.	4.4	6.5	6.6	5.7
Ga.	4.8	5.5	6.5	6.6
S. Atl.	5.4	6.3	6.7	6.5
Ky.	5.8	6.4	7.4	7.1
Tenn.	5.2	5.5	5.9	5.9
Ala.	5.1	6.0	6.5	6.3
Miss.	3.9	5.0	6.2	5.5
Ark.	4.4	5.6	5.9	6.0
La.	3.7	4.1	4.8	5.5
Okla.	5.0	6.6	5.9	6.4
Tex.	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.8
S. Cent.	4.8	5.5	6.1	6.1
Mont.	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.3
Idaho.....	4.6	4.7	5.2	5.4
Wyo.	4.3	3.9	4.7	5.0
Colo.	5.7	6.3	6.1	6.6
Utah.....	4.8	5.6	5.5	5.5
Wash.	6.2	6.6	6.9	6.8
Oreg.	5.1	5.5	6.2	5.9
Calif.	5.3	5.5	6.0	6.4
West.	5.2	5.6	6.0	6.2
U. S.	6.31	6.99	7.34	7.42

^{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.