

# MILK PRODUCTION

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April 12, 1960

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**SUMMARY**

APR 15 1960

Milk production on U. S. farms in March totaled 10,862 million pounds-- 1 percent above a year earlier, and 7 percent above the March 1949-58 average. Grain and roughage feeding were heavy over the country as production conditions were generally unfavorable through March. In the first 3 months of 1960, milk production totaled 30.4 billion pounds as compared to 30.0 billion pounds during January - March 1959. Production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 22.13 pounds -- 2 percent above last year's record outturn for the date and almost one-fifth above average for the date. Farmers were feeding grains and concentrates to milk cows at the rate of 7.89 pounds per cow on April 1. This is the highest for any month in the 16 years of record exceeding the quantity fed last April 1 by 6 percent and 21 percent above the 1949-58, April 1 average. Condition of dairy pastures for the entire country averaged 70 percent of normal on April 1. This was 5 percentage points less than on April 1 last year and 4 points below the 1949-58 average. Dairy pasture conditions on April 1 reflect primarily the moisture situation, as actual grazing is usually still limited to parts of the Southeast, South Central, and Pacific Coast sections of the country.

Table 1.-Monthly milk production on farms, United States, 1949-58 average, 1959 and 1960

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average 1949-58	1959	1960	$\frac{1960}{1959}$	Average 1949-58	1959	1960
	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Jan. ....	8,909	9,854	9,862	100	1.79	1.81	1.78
Feb. ....	8,708	9,373	9,679	1/103	1.92	1.90	1.87
Mar. ....	10,189	10,734	10,862	101	2.05	1.97	1.96
Apr. ....	10,802	11,209			2.24	2.12	
May.....	12,500	12,536			2.51	2.29	
June.....	12,257	12,059			2.54	2.27	
July.....	11,382	11,158			2.28	2.03	
Aug. ....	10,466	10,243			2.09	1.86	
Sept. ...	9,281	9,471			1.92	1.78	
Oct. ....	8,939	9,476			1.78	1.72	
Nov. ....	8,265	8,894			1.70	1.66	
Dec. ....	8,682	9,389			1.72	1.70	
Year...	120,380	124,396			2.04	1.93	

1/ Reflects extra day in February. On a daily average basis, percent is 99.7

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States, March 1960 <sup>1/</sup>  
 [In millions of pounds]

State	Mar. av. 1949-58	Mar. 1959	Feb. 1960	Mar. 1960	State	Mar. av. 1949-58	Mar. 1959	Feb. 1960	Mar. 1960
N. Y. ....	823	869	776	885	Ga. ....	101	101	94	97
N. J. ....	102	102	94	106	Ky. ....	176	182	158	180
Pa. ....	525	596	532	622	Tenn. ....	178	173	148	174
Ohio.....	441	426	408	446	Ala. ....	102	86	79	86
Ind. ....	305	280	263	284	Miss. ....	119	112	94	102
Ill. ....	435	408	365	396	Ark. ....	91	79	69	80
Mich. ....	451	441	396	444	Okla.....	146	122	113	121
Wis. ....	1,452	1,643	1,430	1,642	Tex. ....	274	260	227	269
Minn. ....	869	1,038	947	1,036	Mont. ....	41	39	33	38
Iowa.....	512	513	454	515	Idaho.....	112	132	119	141
Mo. ....	304	283	270	288	Wyo. ....	17.3	15.0	13.8	15.0
N. Dak. ...	144	159	134	158	Colo. ....	76	72	67	71
S. Dak. ..	113	124	109	117	Utah.....	58	65	60	68
Nebr. ....	184	171	147	165	Wash. ....	142	155	142	158
Kans. ....	200	175	150	161	Oreg. ....	94	87	72	91
Md. ....	117	124	121	129	Calif. ...	576	676	620	710
Va. ....	149	154	145	154	Other				
W. Va. ...	60	59	54	60	States..	522	626	599	665
N. C. ....	130	137	131	140	U. S. ....	10,189	10,734	9,679	10,862
S. C. ....	48	50	45	48					

<sup>1/</sup> Monthly data for other States not yet available.

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions, March 15, 1960

Region	Milk-feed <sup>1/</sup>				Milkfat-feed <sup>2/</sup>			
	Mar. 15, av. 1949-58	Mar. 15, 1959	Feb. 15, 1960	Mar. 15, 1960	Mar. 15, av. 1949-58	Mar. 15, 1959	Feb. 15, 1960	Mar. 15, 1960
N. Atl. ..	1.21	1.33	1.40	1.34	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ...	1.23	1.29	1.40	1.37	20.4	19.4	20.2	20.3
W.N.C. ...	1.32	1.45	1.53	1.50	24.4	27.0	27.2	27.0
S. Atl. ..	1.52	1.64	1.70	1.66	-	-	-	-
S. Cent. .	1.41	1.50	1.64	1.56	16.1	16.3	16.6	16.4
West. ....	1.30	1.38	1.44	1.39	18.6	18.5	18.9	19.0
U. S. ...	1.27	1.37	1.45	1.41	22.2	24.4	24.7	24.5

<sup>1/</sup> Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of whole milk sold by farmers to plants and dealers.

<sup>2/</sup> Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of milkfat in cream sold by farmers.

Table 4.-Value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows, by regions, March 15, 1960  
 [In dollars]

Region	Mar. 15, av. 1949-58	Mar. 15, 1959	Jan. 15, 1960	Feb. 15, 1960	Mar. 15, 1960
N. Atl. ....	3.82	3.61	3.54	3.54	3.53
E. N. C. ....	3.03	2.71	2.68	2.68	2.69
W. N. C. ....	2.71	2.25	2.25	2.24	2.24
S. Atl. ....	3.69	3.37	3.32	3.34	3.36
S. Cent. ....	3.45	3.07	3.03	3.04	3.06
West. ....	3.48	3.18	3.17	3.17	3.16
U. S.					
Milk-selling areas..	3.32	2.97	2.93	2.94	2.94
Cream-selling areas.	2.90	2.41	2.41	2.40	2.40
Combined milk and cream areas.....	3.25	2.92	2.89	2.89	2.89

## Milk production above March 1959

Milk production on U. S. farms in March totaled 10,862 million pounds -- 1 percent above a year earlier, and 7 percent above the March 1949-58 average. Grain and roughage feeding were heavy over the country as production conditions were generally unfavorable through March. Output was sufficient to provide 1.96 pounds of milk daily to each person in the United States. This compares with 1.97 pounds in the same period a year earlier and the March 10-year average of 2.05 pounds. In the first 3 months of 1960, milk production totaled 30.4 billion pounds compared to 30.0 billion pounds during January - March 1959.

Among the 36 States with monthly milk production estimates available, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Utah, and California recorded new highs in March output. At the same time, production was the lowest of record in the Central Great Plains States of Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Wisconsin, as usual, led all States in March production with 1,642 million pounds, followed by Minnesota, 1,036 million; New York, 885 million; and California with 710 million. Output in these 4 States accounted for almost two-fifths of the Nation's total output.

Production per cow in crop reporters' herds on April 1 averaged 22.13 pounds -- 2 percent above last year's record outturn for the date and almost one-fifth above average for the date. Unseasonably cold weather resulted in less than the usual seasonal gain in production from March 1 to April 1 -- 3 percent compared with the average increase of 6 percent. Production per cow was a record high for April 1 in all regions except the South Central, where it was down one-half percent from last year. In other regions, output per cow ranged from 1 to 4 percent above a year earlier.

Crop reporters were milking 76.8 percent of the cows in their herds on April 1 -- 1 percent above April 1 last year and 6 percent above average for the date. Seasonally, the proportion of cows being milked on April 1 increased 2 percent from March 1 compared with the usual increase of 4 percent.

## Grain and concentrate feeding continues heavy

Farmers were feeding grains and concentrates to milk cows at the rate of 7.89 pounds per cow on April 1. This is the highest for any month in the 16 years of record, exceeding the quantity fed last April 1 by 6 percent and 21 percent above the 1949-58 average for the date. Normally, April 1 grain and concentrate feeding is the heaviest just before cows go on pastures, barely exceeding the February 1 rate. The current April 1 rate was 2 percent above the February 1, 1960 rate of 7.71 pounds, reflecting largely the unseasonably cold and wintry conditions prevailing through March.

## Feeding rates sharply above year ago

The average quantity of grain and concentrates fed set new highs for April 1 in all regions and were the highest for any month of record in all except the South Atlantic and the West. Feeding rates ranged from highs of 8.7 pounds per cow in the North Atlantic and 8.6 pounds in the East North Central to a low of 6.4 pounds in the West. These rates represented increases of 1 to 5 percent over a year earlier. In other regions, feeding rates were up from 9 to 13 percent over April 1 a year ago, averaging 8.4 pounds in the West North Central, 7.1 pounds in the South Atlantic, and 6.9 pounds in the South Central region. On April 1, about 88 percent of the farmers were feeding some grains and concentrates to milk cows, which equals the average for the date.

## Dairy pastures go into season in below-average condition

Condition of dairy pastures for the entire country averaged 70 percent of normal on April 1. This was 5 percentage points less than on April 1 last year and 4 points below the 1949-58 average. Dairy pasture conditions on April 1 reflect primarily the moisture situation, as actual grazing is usually still limited to parts of the Southeast, South Central, and Pacific Coast sections of the country. In general, pastures went into the past winter in good condition. During the winter months, precipitation was heavier than usual in the Northeast, South Atlantic Coast States, and over a wide belt from the Great Lakes into the Southwest covering much of the Central and Southern Great Plains and the lower Rocky Mountain areas. However, most of the country outside of the Northeast and Great Lakes States experienced more than their usual amounts of cold weather and snow in the past winter. The weather was extremely severe in the South Central and Southeastern States.

## April 1 pasture feed well below average in South Atlantic and South Central Regions

Dairy pastures were poor on April 1 in the South Atlantic region. Low temperatures and unusually heavy snow cover during the winter months retarded the development of grass in much of the area. Snow covered much of the region in early March, but warmer temperatures later in the month stimulated growth. By April 1, condition had improved but heavy rains caused soggy pastures in many areas.

In the South Central States, dairy pastures were in the lowest condition for April 1 since 1956. Prolonged cold, snowy, and wet weather caused heavy feeding of roughage for this time of year. Pastures were as good as on April 1 last year in Oklahoma and Texas, but were very poor in other States. Pasture conditions were the lowest on record for April 1 in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

## Pasture conditions above average in the West

Pasture feed conditions in the Pacific Northwest and California were better than on April 1 last year. In other Western States, pastures showed some improvement from a year earlier except in Wyoming and Nevada. Moisture supplies were generally short in these States.

## Pasture outlook good in North Central and Northeastern States

Farmers were optimistic over pasture prospects for milk stock in the North Central and Northeastern sections of the country. Temperatures were below normal for March in the North Atlantic region, but moisture has been ample and pastures should grow rapidly as temperatures warm. In the East North Central States, dairy pasture prospects were average for April 1 although most of the area was blanketed by cold weather and snow during part of March. Pasture prospects were also good on April 1 in the West North Central region as a whole, but only poor to fair in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Missouri. Adverse weather slowed development of grass in these States.

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. 1949-58	April 1, 1959	April 1, 1960	April 1, av. 1949-58	April 1, 1959	April 1, 1960
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me. ....	17.9	21.9	23.5	78.6	80.8	82.1
N. H. ....	20.9	23.2	25.8	81.5	82.7	83.8
Vt. ....	20.6	23.4	23.8	83.3	84.1	85.8
Mass. ....	21.5	23.7	24.2	82.0	80.1	82.2
Conn. ....	22.4	28.5	27.3	83.6	87.7	87.8
N. Y. ....	24.1	27.0	27.2	81.0	83.4	82.8
N. J. ....	24.1	27.2	27.2	82.8	83.6	84.0
Pa. ....	23.0	25.9	26.6	82.7	84.4	84.6
N. Atl. ....	22.87	25.38	25.79	81.6	83.1	83.4
Ohio.....	20.4	24.0	23.3	77.0	81.4	80.3
Ind. ....	18.4	20.4	21.2	73.7	75.4	77.7
Ill. ....	20.1	21.9	23.5	72.1	75.5	77.6
Mich. ....	22.6	26.0	26.6	81.7	85.1	84.4
Wis. ....	23.0	27.3	27.4	81.0	84.3	85.0
E. N. Cent. ....	21.79	25.39	25.72	78.5	82.3	82.8
Minn. ....	24.3	29.1	28.6	81.5	86.3	85.9
Iowa.....	19.8	23.9	24.2	71.6	76.4	78.5
Mo. ....	13.4	15.4	15.8	63.0	68.1	68.0
N. Dak. ....	17.9	23.2	23.2	66.6	70.4	75.6
S. Dak. ....	15.8	19.8	20.4	63.7	68.8	72.1
Nebr. ....	18.4	21.4	19.9	70.5	72.6	71.8
Kans. ....	17.9	19.8	18.5	70.6	72.7	71.6
W. N. Cent. ....	19.08	22.55	22.70	71.4	75.0	76.7
Md. ....	19.4	20.7	21.6	77.4	76.8	80.2
Va. ....	16.2	19.0	18.2	68.8	74.0	73.8
W. Va. ....	12.2	14.8	15.5	64.0	65.1	68.1
N. C. ....	14.7	17.9	16.7	70.4	75.3	73.9
S. C. ....	13.2	15.6	13.5	67.9	70.9	65.8
Ga. ....	11.3	12.3	12.9	60.4	61.2	62.1
S. Atl. ....	14.78	18.06	18.50	68.3	74.7	75.5
Ky. ....	12.8	15.2	15.4	62.9	66.3	65.9
Tenn. ....	12.3	13.0	13.4	65.6	65.8	65.6
Ala. ....	9.8	9.2	9.0	57.5	52.6	49.0
Miss. ....	8.7	8.8	7.6	57.1	56.5	50.5
Ark. ....	9.8	11.3	11.2	54.5	59.1	58.5
La. ....	8.4	10.0	10.3	46.5	59.0	53.3
Okla. ....	12.8	15.5	14.6	60.4	64.4	65.1
Tex. ....	10.3	11.0	12.0	54.8	53.1	55.5
S. Cent. ....	11.34	13.42	13.36	59.3	62.1	62.3
Mont. ....	16.6	18.6	19.1	64.7	65.6	65.8
Idaho.....	21.0	23.5	24.8	76.3	80.0	80.0
Wyo. ....	18.1	18.4	18.9	67.0	64.8	63.6
Colo. ....	18.9	21.3	21.2	72.0	75.7	72.5
Utah.....	21.6	25.5	26.2	77.4	81.7	79.0
Wash. ....	20.7	24.2	23.9	79.2	83.0	82.5
Oreg. ....	18.1	20.0	20.7	72.0	76.4	75.3
Calif. ....	23.4	26.7	30.0	79.0	80.3	82.0
West. ....	20.58	23.88	24.95	75.8	79.1	79.0
U. S. ....	18.59	21.76	22.13	72.5	76.1	76.8

1/ Figures for New England States, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania 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, 1960 <sup>1/</sup>

[Percent]

State and division	April 1, av. 1949-58	April 1, 1958	April 1, 1959	April 1, 1960
Me. ....	92	95	94	89
N. H. ....	95	92	89	94
Vt. ....	94	97	95	97
Mass. ....	94	96	92	92
R. I. ....	91	95	98	92
Conn. ....	92	92	93	87
N. Y. ....	88	89	89	93
N. J. ....	83	81	79	78
Pa. ....	84	81	79	84
N. Atl. ....	-	-	-	-
Ohio.....	84	81	81	81
Ind. ....	84	78	84	83
Ill. ....	84	81	87	84
Mich. ....	90	92	94	94
Wis. ....	88	89	87	90
E. N. Cent. ....	-	-	-	-
Minn. ....	88	90	77	89
Iowa.....	85	89	91	92
Mo. ....	74	72	80	74
N. Dak. ....	76	81	66	65
S. Dak. ....	80	90	67	75
Nebr. ....	80	92	86	87
Kans. ....	75	87	88	84
W. N. Cent. ....	74	80	84	79
Del. ....	84	64	82	71
Md. ....	83	73	80	76
Va. ....	79	59	74	65
W. Va. ....	78	69	71	71
N. C. ....	82	67	84	68
S. C. ....	75	60	78	57
Ga. ....	75	65	78	63
Fla. ....	71	63	82	64
S. Atl. ....	76	65	80	64
Ky. ....	78	66	73	62
Tenn. ....	78	64	77	59
Ala. ....	71	56	72	54
Miss. ....	72	55	67	49
Ark. ....	72	63	76	53
La. ....	74	61	74	55
Okla. ....	68	82	72	70
Tex. ....	63	85	64	69
S. Cent. ....	69	72	70	62
Mont. ....	79	85	78	82
Idaho.....	89	96	87	90
Wyo. ....	76	95	84	82
Colo. ....	67	89	86	88
N. Mex. ....	65	84	73	83
Ariz. ....	83	97	79	89
Utah.....	84	91	81	84
Nev. ....	87	96	80	76
Wash. ....	81	96	83	89
Oreg. ....	82	94	87	88
Calif. ....	78	94	69	73
West. ....	79	94	76	81
U. S. ....	74	80	75	70

<sup>1/</sup> 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, 1960 <sup>1/</sup>

[Pounds]

State and division	April 1, av. 1949-58	April 1, 1958	April 1, 1959	April 1, 1960
Me. ....	6.8	7.8	7.6	8.3
N. H. ....	6.3	7.7	7.2	7.7
Vt. ....	6.6	7.3	7.7	7.7
Mass. ....	6.8	8.0	7.7	7.6
Conn. ....	7.3	8.4	9.0	8.6
N. Y. ....	7.8	8.5	8.7	8.7
N. J. ....	8.3	8.9	8.7	9.1
Pa. ....	8.7	8.8	9.5	9.4
N. Atl. ....	7.7	8.4	8.6	8.7
Ohio.....	7.4	8.7	8.6	8.7
Ind. ....	6.9	7.5	7.5	7.9
Ill. ....	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.2
Mich. ....	7.4	8.1	8.2	8.5
Wis. ....	7.2	8.1	8.4	8.9
E. N. Cent. ....	7.3	8.1	8.2	8.6
Minn. ....	7.4	8.5	8.6	9.1
Iowa.....	8.0	8.5	8.4	9.3
Mo. ....	5.9	6.7	6.9	7.5
N. Dak. ....	5.8	6.6	6.6	7.5
S. Dak. ....	5.1	5.5	4.8	6.8
Nebr. ....	6.3	6.6	7.6	7.7
Kans. ....	6.6	7.7	7.7	8.1
W. N. Cent. ....	6.8	7.6	7.7	8.4
Md. ....	7.9	8.2	7.5	8.4
Va. ....	6.0	7.0	7.1	7.5
W. Va. ....	4.5	5.2	5.1	5.8
N. C. ....	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.3
S. C. ....	4.7	6.6	5.7	7.1
Ga. ....	5.0	6.5	6.6	6.6
S. Atl. ....	5.6	6.7	6.5	7.1
Ky. ....	6.1	7.4	7.1	7.7
Tenn. ....	5.3	5.9	5.9	6.4
Ala. ....	5.3	6.5	6.3	7.3
Miss. ....	4.2	6.2	5.5	6.6
Ark. ....	4.7	5.9	6.0	6.9
La. ....	3.8	4.8	5.5	5.8
Okla. ....	5.1	5.9	6.4	6.9
Tex. ....	5.0	5.5	5.8	7.1
S. Cent. ....	5.0	6.1	6.1	6.9
Mont. ....	4.5	4.8	5.3	5.5
Idaho.....	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.2
Wyo. ....	4.4	4.7	5.0	4.6
Colo. ....	5.8	6.1	6.6	6.5
Utah.....	5.0	5.5	5.5	4.8
Wash. ....	6.4	6.9	6.8	7.0
Oreg. ....	5.2	6.2	5.9	5.6
Calif. ....	5.4	6.0	6.4	7.0
West. ....	5.4	6.0	6.2	6.4
U. S. ....	6.50	7.34	7.42	7.89

<sup>1/</sup> Figures for New England States, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania 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.