

# MILK PRODUCTION

April 11, 1961

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## SUMMARY

APR 2 1961

Milk production in the United States in March is estimated at 10,843 million pounds -- 2 percent above a year earlier, 6 percent above the 1950-59 average, and slightly above the previous record high for the month set in 1956. Mild March weather in most of the Nation favored milk production, in contrast to cold, snowy weather during March a year ago. For the first quarter of the year, milk production on a daily basis averaged 1 percent more than in 1960, with adjustment for the extra day in February 1960. Production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters averaged 23.04 pounds on April 1 -- 4 percent above the previous record high for the date set in 1960.

The feeding rate of grain and concentrates on April 1 averaged 8.02 pounds per milk cows -- 2 percent above the previous record high for the date set last year and 21 percent above the 1950-59 average. Condition of dairy pastures in the United States averaged 84 percent of normal on April 1, the highest for the date since 1945. April 1 condition was 14 percentage points above that reported at the beginning of the 1960 pasture season and 11 points above the 10-year average for April 1. Pasture feed was unusually good for April 1 in the South, compared with retarded growth a year earlier.

Table 1.-Monthly milk production on farms, United States, 1950-59 average, 1960 and 1961

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average 1950-59	1960	1961	$\frac{1961}{1960}$	Average 1950-59	1960	1961
	<u>Mil. pounds</u>	<u>Mil. pounds</u>	<u>Mil. pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Jan. ....	9,069	9,820	9,859	100.4	1.79	1.77	1.75
Feb. ....	8,808	9,580	9,381	1/97.9	1.92	1.85	1.84
Mar. ....	10,276	10,663	10,843	101.7	2.03	1.92	1.92
Apr. ....	10,828	11,020			2.21	2.05	
May.....	12,440	12,206			2.46	2.19	
June.....	12,167	11,689			2.48	2.17	
July.....	11,259	10,750			2.22	1.93	
Aug. ....	10,344	10,006			2.03	1.79	
Sept. ....	9,267	9,352			1.88	1.73	
Oct. ....	8,972	9,365			1.76	1.67	
Nov. ....	8,354	8,974			1.68	1.66	
Dec. ....	8,807	9,495			1.72	1.69	
Year.....	120,591	122,920			2.01	1.87	

1/ Extra day in February 1960. On a daily average basis, percent is 101.4

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Statistical Reporting Service  
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Crop Reporting Board  
Washington, D. C.

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States, March 1961, with comparisons 1/  
[In millions of pounds]

State	Mar. av. 1950-59	Mar. 1960	Feb. 1961	Mar. 1961	State	Mar. av. 1950-59	Mar. 1960	Feb. 1961	Mar. 1961
N. Y. ....	838	905	790	944	Ga. ....	97	81	76	86
N. J. ....	102	106	93	107	Ky. ....	177	184	156	199
Pa. ....	538	605	498	614	Tenn. ....	175	159	130	168
Ohio.....	438	431	397	450	Ala. ....	98	74	65	73
Ind. ....	296	262	233	270	Miss. ....	116	94	84	93
Ill. ....	424	356	306	348	Ark. ....	89	67	59	66
Mich. ....	446	425	360	423	Okla. ....	145	120	107	119
Wis. ....	1,482	1,648	1,440	1,660	Tex. ....	277	269	225	265
Minn. ....	891	1,036	934	1,055	Mont. ....	40	36	30	35
Iowa.....	515	520	463	518	Idaho.....	116	138	122	139
Mo. ....	302	288	267	306	Wyo. ....	16.9	15.1	13.0	15.0
N. Dak. ...	147	154	137	151	Colo. ....	75	72	66	72
S. Dak. ...	116	123	113	126	Utah.....	60	67	59	67
Nebr. ....	184	157	145	164	Wash. ....	144	160	140	160
Kans. ....	197	158	146	165	Oreg. ....	93	90	72	90
Md. ....	120	127	113	123	Calif. ...	595	700	594	707
Va. ....	149	146	148	160	Other				
W. Va. ....	59	53	44	51	States..	541	669	599	677
N. C. ....	127	121	118	128	U. S. ....	10,276	10,663	9,381	10,843
S. C. ....	50	47	39	49					

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions, March 15, 1961, with comparisons

Region	Milk-feed 1/				Milkfat-feed 2/			
	Mar. 15, av. 1950-59	Mar. 15, 1960	Feb. 15, 1961	Mar. 15, 1961	Mar. 15, av. 1950-59	Mar. 15, 1960	Feb. 15, 1961	Mar. 15, 1961
N. Atl. ...	1.22	1.35	1.37	1.31	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ....	1.24	1.38	1.43	1.40	20.3	20.3	20.7	20.5
W.N.C. ....	1.33	1.51	1.52	1.49	24.5	27.0	27.3	27.2
S. Atl. ....	1.53	1.70	1.72	1.70	-	-	-	-
S. Cent. ...	1.42	1.60	1.67	1.58	16.0	16.4	17.0	17.0
West. ....	1.31	1.39	1.47	1.43	18.6	19.0	19.0	18.9
U. S. ...	1.28	1.43	1.46	1.42	22.4	24.5	24.9	24.8

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 milkfat in cream sold by farmers.

Table 4.-Value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows, by regions, March 15, 1961, with comparisons

[In dollars]

Region	Mar. 15, av. 1950-59	Mar. 15, 1960	Jan. 15, 1961	Feb. 15, 1961	Mar. 15, 1961
N. Atl. ....	3.81	3.53	3.53	3.56	3.57
E. N. Cent. ....	3.00	2.69	2.68	2.72	2.72
W. N. Cent. ....	2.69	2.24	2.28	2.29	2.28
S. Atl. ....	3.66	3.36	3.25	3.27	3.26
S. Cent. ....	3.43	3.06	3.03	3.05	3.05
West. ....	3.45	3.16	3.12	3.12	3.12
U. S.					
Milk-selling areas..	3.29	2.94	2.92	2.95	2.95
Cream-selling areas.	2.86	2.40	2.43	2.44	2.43
Combined milk and cream areas.....	3.23	2.89	2.88	2.91	2.90

### March milk production at record high

Milk production in the United States in March is estimated at 10,843 million pounds, or about 2 percent above a year earlier. This is 6 percent larger than the 1950-59 average and slightly above the previous record high for the month set in 1956. Mild March weather in most of the Nation favored milk production, in contrast to cold, snowy, weather during March a year ago. Relative to population, March production was equal to 1.92 pounds of milk per capita, the same as in 1960, but 5 percent below the 10-year average for the month. For the first quarter of the year, milk production on a daily basis averaged 1 percent more than in 1960, with adjustment for the extra day in February 1960.

New record highs in March milk production were set in 8 States -- New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Virginia, Kentucky, Idaho, and California. In contrast, milk output dropped to new record lows for March in Illinois, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Montana, and Wyoming.

### April 1 milk per cow up 4 percent from 1960

Production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters averaged 23.04 pounds on April 1 -- 4 percent above the previous record high for the date set in 1960. All regions reported gains over the April 1, 1960 rate, ranging from only 0.4 percent in the East North Central to 10 percent in the South Atlantic. The seasonal gain in rate per cow from March 1 to April 1 averaged 5 percent for the Nation, or the same as the 10-year average change between these dates. Reporters were milking 77.2 percent of their milk cows on April 1, compared with 76.8 percent a year earlier and the 10-year average of 73.0 percent for the date.

### April 1 feeding rate exceeds 8 pounds for first time

The feeding rate of grain and concentrates on April 1 averaged 8.02 pounds per milk cow -- 2 percent above the previous record high for the date set last year and 21 percent above the April 1, 1950-59 average. The feeding rate advanced 1 percent from February 1 compared with a 2-percent increase from February 1 to April 1 last year and a fractional gain in the usual seasonal trend. Grain and concentrates were fed at heavier rates than on February 1 in the Northeast and North Central sections of the country, but at lower rates in the South and West.

Grain and concentrates were fed in record quantities on April 1 in all regions except the South Central, where the feeding rate dropped 9 percent below the record high set last year when farmers were feeding their milk cows heavy during the unseasonably cold and wintery weather. Feeding rates on April 1 ranged from 9.0 pounds per cow in the North Atlantic to 6.3 pounds in the South Central region. By regions, feeding rates increased 3 percent from April 1 last year in the North Atlantic, East North Central, and the West and increased 2 percent in the West North Central. The South Atlantic region showed no change from a year earlier, and the South Central decreased 9 percent. On April 1, about 86 percent of the dairy farmers in the Nation fed some grain and concentrates to their milk cows. This compares with 88 percent in 1960 and 87 percent in the preceding year.

### Feed price ratios continue high

The value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows averaged \$2.90 per hundred-weight at mid-March. This was 1 cent above a year earlier but 2 cents below the value of 2 years ago. Ration values on March 15 averaged \$2.95 in milk-selling areas and \$2.43 in cream-selling areas. The milk-feed price ratio at mid-March was only slightly below a year earlier, but among the highest for the date since 1945. The milkfat-feed price ratio was equaled on March 15, 1958, but otherwise it was the most favorable for mid-March since 1946.

Condition of dairy pastures generally good at start of 1961 season

Condition of dairy pastures in the United States averaged 84 percent of normal on April 1, the highest for the date since 1945. April 1 condition was 14 percentage points above that reported at the beginning of the 1960 dairy pasture season and 11 points above the April 1, 1950-59 average. Pasture condition on April 1 reflects primarily the moisture situation, as actual grazing of grass by milk cow is usually still limited to parts of the Southeast, South Central, and Pacific Coast areas of the country. Pastures went into the past winter in generally good condition, except that condition lagged in the West. During the winter months precipitation was heavier than usual in the Pacific Northwest, part of the Northern Great Plains, and in a wide belt from the middle Atlantic States southward to the Gulf Coast and across the South into the Southern Great Plains. In general, winter temperatures have averaged above normal north and west of a line from Lake Michigan to the Texas Panhandle and on into the Southwest, but below normal in the remainder of the country. The East and South had more than the usual amount of severe weather -- low temperatures and heavy precipitation with a considerable amount of it arriving as snow.

In the South Atlantic region, dairy pastures were good on April 1 and furnished more than the usual amount of grazing. Conditions were considerably better than at this time last year when low temperatures and unusually late snow cover retarded the development of grass. Pastures on April 1 this year supplied ample green feed for milk cows in much of the region, but were still short in the northernmost States due to cold and wet weather.

Dairy pastures were good on April 1 in the South Central region, where condition was one-third higher than on the same date last year when prolonged bad weather slowed growth of grass. Compared with the April 1 average, pastures were about one-fourth better. Dairy pasture conditions were well above April 1, 1960 in all States of the region. Feed from grass was plentiful in Alabama and some oat and wheat fields furnished good grazing in Mississippi. Ample moisture gave pastures an excellent start in Oklahoma, and grazing varied widely in Texas.

Condition of dairy pastures was excellent on April 1 in the Pacific Northwest but only fair in California. Due to relatively warm, wet weather during the winter in the Pacific Northwest, grass made good growth during March and was well above average on April 1. In California, pastures for milk stock were only average for April 1 although they were better than a year earlier. Moisture supplies were generally short in most other Western States.

Pasture prospects are excellent in the North Central and Northeastern sections of the country. Temperatures were slightly below normal during March in the New England States, but were above average in the rest of the area and favorable for development of pastures. In the East North Central region, warm weather encouraged grass to green up but dairy pastures have furnished little grazing as yet in most States. In the West North Central region, pasture prospects were better than usual for April 1 in all States except North and South Dakota. Condition of pastures was considerably above average for the date in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri.

Table 5.-Milk produced per milk cow and percent of milk cows milked in herds kept by reporters, April 1, 1961, with comparisons 1/

State and division	Milk produced per milk cow 2/			Percent of milk cows milked		
	April 1, av. 1950-59	April 1, 1960	April 1, 1961	April 1, av. 1950-59	April 1, 1960	April 1, 1961
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Me. ....	18.5	23.5	24.1	79.0	82.1	82.1
N. H. ....	21.4	25.8	24.1	81.7	83.8	83.3
Vt. ....	21.1	23.8	23.7	83.7	85.8	84.9
Mass. ....	22.0	24.2	25.2	82.0	82.2	81.0
Conn. ....	23.3	27.3	26.7	84.4	87.8	83.9
N. Y. ....	24.6	27.2	27.5	81.5	82.8	83.9
N. J. ....	24.5	27.2	27.1	82.9	84.0	83.0
Pa. ....	23.4	26.6	27.1	82.0	84.6	84.8
N. Atl. ....	23.34	25.79	26.41	82.0	83.4	83.5
Ohio. ....	21.1	23.3	24.4	77.7	80.3	82.2
Ind. ....	18.8	21.2	23.0	74.1	77.7	79.5
Ill. ....	20.4	23.5	24.0	72.6	77.6	78.5
Mich. ....	23.1	26.6	26.9	82.2	84.4	85.0
Wis. ....	23.6	27.4	26.7	81.4	85.0	84.3
E. N. Cent. ....	22.32	25.72	25.83	79.0	82.8	83.1
Minn. ....	25.0	28.6	29.7	82.4	85.9	86.0
Iowa. ....	20.3	24.2	24.0	72.2	78.5	74.7
Mo. ....	13.7	15.8	17.4	63.6	68.0	70.2
N. Dak. ....	18.6	23.2	23.9	67.2	75.6	73.7
S. Dak. ....	16.4	20.4	21.0	64.3	72.1	70.8
Nebr. ....	18.9	19.9	21.1	70.8	71.8	70.0
Kans. ....	18.3	18.5	21.1	71.0	71.6	71.7
W. N. Cent. ....	19.62	22.70	23.72	72.0	76.7	76.4
Md. ....	19.6	21.6	21.1	77.4	80.2	81.1
Va. ....	16.7	18.2	21.6	69.8	73.8	75.9
W. Va. ....	12.5	15.5	16.0	64.3	68.1	65.2
N. C. ....	15.1	16.7	18.2	71.0	73.9	75.5
S. C. ....	13.5	13.5	14.8	68.3	65.8	68.4
Ga. ....	11.4	12.9	14.6	60.3	62.1	63.6
S. Atl. ....	15.25	18.50	20.41	69.2	75.5	76.6
Ky. ....	13.1	15.4	16.8	63.2	65.9	66.5
Tenn. ....	12.4	13.4	15.0	65.7	65.6	66.0
Ala. ....	9.7	9.0	10.0	56.9	49.0	55.7
Miss. ....	8.8	7.6	8.8	56.7	50.5	55.4
Ark. ....	10.0	11.2	11.7	55.1	58.5	56.5
La. ....	8.6	10.3	11.0	47.6	53.3	52.3
Okla. ....	13.2	14.6	15.8	61.0	65.1	64.2
Tex. ....	10.5	12.0	12.6	54.6	55.5	55.0
S. Cent. ....	11.62	13.36	13.84	59.6	62.3	61.5
Mont. ....	16.8	19.1	19.6	64.8	65.8	70.1
Idaho ....	21.4	24.8	24.5	76.7	80.0	79.4
Wyo. ....	18.2	18.9	20.5	66.6	63.6	71.7
Colo. ....	19.3	21.2	21.6	72.7	72.5	77.8
Utah ....	22.1	26.2	26.7	77.6	79.0	81.3
Wash. ....	21.3	23.9	24.1	79.9	82.5	82.5
Oreg. ....	18.4	20.7	20.7	72.4	75.3	74.5
Calif. ....	24.0	30.0	31.5	79.5	82.0	83.3
West. ....	21.11	24.95	26.18	76.3	79.0	80.3
U. S. ....	19.07	22.13	23.04	73.0	76.8	77.2

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, 1961, with comparisons 1/

[Percent]

State and division	April 1, av. 1950-59	April 1, 1959	April 1, 1960	April 1, 1961
Me. ....	91	94	89	94
N. H. ....	94	89	94	96
Vt. ....	94	95	97	100
Mass. ....	94	92	92	99
R. I. ....	92	98	92	100
Conn. ....	92	93	87	91
N. Y. ....	88	89	93	89
N. J. ....	82	79	78	83
Pa. ....	83	79	84	87
N. Atl. ....	-	-	-	-
Ohio. ....	83	81	81	89
Ind. ....	84	84	83	91
Ill. ....	84	87	84	91
Mich. ....	90	94	94	94
Wis. ....	88	87	90	91
E. N. Cent. ....	-	-	-	-
Minn. ....	87	77	89	89
Iowa. ....	85	91	92	95
Mo. ....	74	80	74	85
N. Dak. ....	74	66	65	65
S. Dak. ....	78	67	75	76
Nebr. ....	80	86	87	87
Kans. ....	75	88	84	89
W. N. Cent. ....	74	84	79	87
Del. ....	83	82	71	89
Md. ....	82	80	76	87
Va. ....	77	74	65	85
W. Va. ....	76	71	71	82
N. C. ....	81	84	68	87
S. C. ....	75	78	57	81
Ga. ....	74	78	63	82
Fla. ....	72	82	64	80
S. Atl. ....	76	80	64	83
Ky. ....	76	73	62	88
Tenn. ....	77	77	59	86
Ala. ....	70	72	54	79
Miss. ....	70	67	49	76
Ark. ....	72	76	53	82
La. ....	74	74	55	77
Okla. ....	67	72	70	89
Tex. ....	62	64	69	85
S. Cent. ....	68	70	62	84
Mont. ....	79	78	82	64
Idaho. ....	88	87	90	92
Wyo. ....	77	84	82	64
Colo. ....	68	86	88	83
N. Mex. ....	64	73	83	88
Ariz. ....	82	79	89	79
Utah. ....	83	81	84	79
Nev. ....	86	80	76	64
Wash. ....	80	83	89	93
Oreg. ....	83	87	88	92
Calif. ....	77	69	73	77
West. ....	79	76	81	84
U. S. ....	73	75	70	84

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, 1961, with comparisons 1/

[Pounds]

State and division	April 1, av. 1950-59	April 1, 1959	April 1, 1960	April 1, 1961
Me. ....	6.9	7.6	8.3	9.0
N. H. ....	6.4	7.2	7.7	8.0
Vt. ....	6.7	7.7	7.7	8.4
Mass. ....	7.0	7.7	7.6	8.2
Conn. ....	7.6	9.0	8.6	10.0
N. Y. ....	8.0	8.7	8.7	8.8
N. J. ....	8.4	8.7	9.1	9.8
Pa. ....	8.8	9.5	9.4	10.0
N. Atl. ....	7.9	8.6	8.7	9.0
Ohio.....	7.5	8.6	8.7	9.7
Ind. ....	7.1	7.5	7.9	9.0
Ill. ....	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.5
Mich. ....	7.5	8.2	8.5	9.3
Wis. ....	7.4	8.4	8.9	8.6
E. N. Cent. ....	7.4	8.2	8.6	8.9
Minn. ....	7.6	8.6	9.1	9.2
Iowa.....	8.0	8.4	9.3	9.2
Mo. ....	6.1	6.9	7.5	8.2
N. Dak. ....	5.9	6.6	7.5	7.8
S. Dak. ....	5.1	4.8	6.8	7.0
Nebr. ....	6.4	7.6	7.7	7.9
Kans. ....	6.8	7.7	8.1	7.8
W. N. Cent. ....	6.9	7.7	8.4	8.6
Md. ....	7.8	7.5	8.4	7.8
Va. ....	6.1	7.1	7.5	7.7
W. Va. ....	4.5	5.1	5.8	5.9
N. C. ....	6.1	7.0	7.3	7.7
S. C. ....	4.8	5.7	7.1	6.0
Ga. ....	5.2	6.6	6.6	6.4
S. Atl. ....	5.8	6.5	7.1	7.1
Ky. ....	6.2	7.1	7.7	7.5
Tenn. ....	5.4	5.9	6.4	6.5
Ala. ....	5.5	6.3	7.3	6.7
Miss. ....	4.4	5.5	6.6	4.8
Ark. ....	4.9	6.0	6.9	6.0
La. ....	4.0	5.5	5.8	5.1
Okla. ....	5.3	6.4	6.9	7.5
Tex. ....	5.2	5.8	7.1	6.0
S. Cent. ....	5.2	6.1	6.9	6.3
Mont. ....	4.6	5.3	5.5	5.6
Idaho.....	4.7	5.4	5.2	6.1
Wyo. ....	4.5	5.0	4.6	6.7
Colo. ....	6.0	6.6	6.5	6.6
Utah.....	5.0	5.5	4.8	7.5
Wash. ....	6.4	6.8	7.0	7.2
Oreg. ....	5.3	5.9	5.6	5.4
Calif. ....	5.5	6.4	7.0	7.0
West. ....	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.6
U. S. ....	6.62	7.42	7.89	8.02

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. Includes grain, millfeeds, and other concentrates.