

PERIODIC REPORT

MILK PRODUCTION

April 11, 1962

APR 20 1962 SUMMARY

Milk production in the United States in March is estimated at 11,101 million pounds -- 1.6 percent above the previous record high for March set in 1961 and 7 percent above the 1951-60 average for the month. March milk output was slowed by winter weather which continued later than usual this year in contrast to above-normal March temperatures in 1961. For the first quarter of 1962, production totaled 2 percent more than in 1961. Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters averaged 23.42 pounds on April 1, slightly above the previous record of 23.04 pounds reported a year earlier.

The feeding rate reported by crop correspondents April 1 averaged 8.36 pounds of grain and concentrates per milk cow, one-third of a pound more than was fed a year earlier. Condition of dairy pastures on April 1 averaged 77 percent of normal, according to reports from crop correspondents. This is 7 points below a year earlier but 5 points above the 10-year average for the date. Continued cold weather through most of March delayed spring pasture development, particularly in contrast to the unusually warm March in 1961.

Table 1.-Monthly milk production on farms, United States, 1951-60 average, 1961 and 1962

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average 1951-60	1961	1962	$\frac{1962}{1961}$	Average 1951-60	1961	1962
	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Mil. pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Jan.	9,213	9,862	10,118	102.6	1.79	1.75	1.77
Feb.	8,950	9,438	9,629	102.0	1.91	1.85	1.86
Mar.	10,364	10,931	11,101	101.6	2.01	1.94	1.94
Apr.	10,890	11,200			2.18	2.05	
May.....	12,459	12,375			2.42	2.19	
June.....	12,126	12,039			2.43	2.20	
July.....	11,182	11,057			2.16	1.95	
Aug.	10,285	10,270			1.99	1.81	
Sept. ...	9,276	9,621			1.85	1.75	
Oct.	9,040	9,672			1.74	1.70	
Nov.	8,468	9,219			1.68	1.67	
Dec.	8,958	9,772			1.72	1.71	
Year...	121,211	125,456			1.99	1.88	

Table 2.-Monthly milk production on farms, selected States, March 1962, with comparisons
 [In millions of pounds]

State	Mar. av. 1951-60	Mar. 1961	Feb. 1962	Mar. 1962	State	Mar. av. 1951-60	Mar. 1961	Feb. 1962	Mar. 1962
N. Y.	850	949	817	973	Ga.	96	91	76	88
N. J.	102	105	90	105	Ky.	180	198	161	201
Pa.	549	616	520	634	Tenn.	174	174	143	184
Ohio.....	439	446	408	453	Ala.	95	74	65	74
Ind.	294	271	234	268	Miss.	114	98	87	99
Ill.	417	356	332	368	Ark.	86	68	59	68
Mich.	444	434	404	470	Okla.	140	113	107	112
Wis.	1,510	1,638	1,468	1,701	Tex.	275	271	233	269
Minn.	912	1,063	959	1,075	Mont.	39	36	30	35
Iowa.....	515	520	466	525	Idaho.....	120	143	118	140
Mo.	301	320	261	292	Wyo.	16.5	14.3	12.5	13.7
N. Dak. ..	150	156	144	155	Colo.	75	72	60	65
S. Dak. ..	117	127	116	125	Utah.....	61	67	59	66
Nebr.	182	168	148	166	Wash.	145	163	151	168
Kans.	193	172	141	155	Oreg.	92	90	69	89
Md.	122	126	116	130	Calif.	613	711	617	724
Va.	149	152	142	154	Other				
W. Va. ...	58	50	44	49	States 1/	560	702	611	723
N. C.	128	128	121	136	U. S.	10,364	10,931	9,629	11,101
S. C.	50	49	39	48					

1/ Monthly data for individual States not available.

Table 3.-Dairy product-feed price ratios, by regions, March 15, 1962, with comparisons

Region	Milk-feed 1/				Milkfat-feed 2/			
	Mar. 15, av. 1951-60	Mar. 15, 1961	Feb. 15, 1962	Mar. 15, 1962	Mar. 15, av. 1951-60	Mar. 15, 1961	Feb. 15, 1962	Mar. 15, 1962
N. Atl. ...	1.23	1.30	1.34	1.29	-	-	-	-
E.N.C. ...	1.26	1.40	1.44	1.41	20.1	20.6	20.8	21.1
W.N.C. ...	1.35	1.52	1.52	1.49	24.6	27.2	26.4	26.2
S. Atl. ...	1.55	1.67	1.75	1.72	-	-	-	-
S. Cent. ..	1.44	1.54	1.58	1.52	15.9	17.0	17.0	16.9
West.	1.32	1.42	1.46	1.41	18.5	18.9	18.9	18.9
U. S. ...	1.30	1.42	1.46	1.42	22.5	25.2	24.8	24.7

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, 1962, with comparisons
 [In dollars]

Region	Mar. 15, av. 1951-60	Mar. 15, 1961	Jan. 15, 1962	Feb. 15, 1962	Mar. 15, 1962
N. Atl.	3.81	3.57	3.57	3.57	3.55
E. N. C.	3.00	2.70	2.70	2.69	2.66
W. N. C.	2.67	2.28	2.37	2.36	2.35
S. Atl.	3.65	3.26	3.20	3.18	3.16
S. Cent.	3.43	3.05	3.06	3.07	3.05
West.	3.44	3.12	3.13	3.14	3.14
U. S.					
Milk-selling areas...	3.28	2.94	2.94	2.94	2.92
Cream-selling areas..	2.84	2.39	2.46	2.45	2.44
Combined milk and cream areas.....	3.22	2.90	2.92	2.91	2.90

March milk production 1.6 percent above year earlier

Milk production in the United States in March is estimated at 11,101 million pounds -- 1.6 percent above the previous record high for March set in 1961 and 7 percent above the 1951-60 average for the month. The March increase over 1961 production followed corresponding increases of 2.0 percent for February and 2.6 percent for January. March milk output was slowed by winter weather which continued later than usual this year, in contrast to above-normal March temperatures in 1961. For the first quarter of 1962, production totaled 2 percent more than in 1961. March milk production kept pace with the population gain from a year earlier, with an average of 1.94 pounds per capita daily in both 1962 and 1961.

New record highs in March milk production were set in 9 States -- New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maryland, Kentucky, Washington, and California. March production dropped to record low levels for the month in Kansas, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Milk per cow at record high for April 1

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters averaged 23.42 pounds on April 1, slightly above the previous record high of 23.04 pounds reported a year earlier. The gain from a year ago for the country as a whole was limited by declines in the West North Central and Western Regions, where winter weather persisted later than usual. Increases of about 1 pound per cow from a year ago were reported in the North Atlantic, East North Central, and South Atlantic States. The seasonal gain in milk per cow from March 1 to April 1 was less than usual for the country as a whole. This partly reflects a continued trend toward a leveling out of the spring increase in production. Reporters were milking 77.4 percent of their milk cows on April 1, about the same percentage as a year earlier.

April 1 dairy pasture condition below last year but above average

Condition of dairy pastures in the United States on April 1 averaged 77 percent of normal, according to reports from crop correspondents. Reported condition was 7 points below a year earlier, but 5 points above the 1951-60 average for the date. Pasture condition reported on April 1 reflects primarily effects of winter precipitation and temperatures. Nearly all of the country, except some areas in Texas and Florida, experienced more than normal amounts of precipitation during the winter months. Heavier than usual snow cover in most northern areas helped to avoid damage to pastures from below-normal winter temperatures. Continued cold weather through most of March delayed spring pasture development in contrast to the unusually warm March a year earlier.

In the South Atlantic Region, dairy pastures developed slowly during March but reported condition was above average on April 1. Heavy precipitation during March made pastures generally too wet and muddy for grazing. With normal temperature during April, grass should respond rapidly and supply ample feed by the latter part of the month.

Dairy pasture condition in the South Central Region averaged better than usual on April 1, although below the unusually favorable condition a year earlier. Some grazing was allowed but below normal temperatures slowed pasture growth during March. Heavy rainfall in most of the eastern South Central States limited use of pastures, but farther west more moisture was needed for good growth. Winter grains furnished some grazing during March, but generally the month was not favorable for pasture development.

In the West, condition of dairy pastures on April 1 was below last year but above average for the date. Nearly all of the area received more than the normal amount of precipitation during March, but temperatures were below normal. Pasture condition in Montana, Oregon, and Washington was below the 10-year average. Snow covered most of the mountainous areas of the West on April 1, but was melting rapidly.

In the East North Central and North Atlantic States, April 1 pasture prospects for dairy herds were generally below a year earlier, but about average for the date. Temperatures averaged below normal during March in the southern part of this area, but above normal in Michigan, New York, and New England. In the West North Central Region, pasture prospects were better than usual on April 1 in all States except North Dakota, where pastures were severely damaged by the 1961 drought. Snow covered large areas of some West North Central States, Ohio, New York, and New England on April 1.

Grain feeding continues at heavy rate

Dairymen continued heavy feeding of milk cows through the first quarter of 1962. On April 1, milk cows kept by crop reporters received an average of 8.36 pounds of grain and concentrates. This is slightly below the February 1 record rate of 8.37 pounds per milk cow, but one-third of a pound more than was fed on April 1, 1961. The April 1 quantity of grain fed per cow has increased about one-third in the last 10 years.

The April 1 feeding rate in the South Atlantic Region was up 10 percent from a year earlier, partly because of slower pasture development. Increases of 6 percent in the West and 5 percent in the South Central Region also partly reflect less favorable weather conditions in 1962 with below-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation during March. Grain fed per cow on April 1 in the North Atlantic and North Central Regions averaged about 3 percent more than a year earlier.

Feeding rates were reduced from February 1 to April 1 in the South Atlantic, South Central, and West, but the reduction was less than the average seasonal decline. In the North Atlantic and East North Central Regions, the February 1 to April 1 increase in feeding rate was less than usual. In the West North Central Region, dairymen increased the feeding rate more than usual from February 1 to April 1, partly reflecting abundance of feed grains in this area.

Milk-feed price ratio unchanged from last year

The milk-feed price ratio at 1.42 for mid-March was unchanged from the same date last year, although down 3 percent from February 15 this year. This is about the average seasonal decline due primarily to lower prices received for milk. Ration values averaged \$2.92 per hundredweight in whole milk-selling areas at mid-March -- down 2 cents from that date last year. The milkfat-feed price ratio in cream-selling areas, at 24.7 on March 15, was down 2 percent from a year earlier as a result of higher feed prices. In cream-selling areas, mid-March ration values averaged \$2.44 per hundredweight -- up 5 cents from a year earlier.

Table 5.-Milk produced per milk cow and percent of milk cows milked in herds kept by reporters, April 1, 1962, with comparisons 1/

State and division	Milk produced per milk cow 2/			Percent of milk cows milked		
	April 1, av. 1951-60	April 1, 1961	April 1, 1962	April 1, av. 1951-60	April 1, 1961	April 1, 1962
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent
Me.	19.4	24.1	24.7	79.4	82.1	80.8
N. H.	22.2	24.1	26.2	82.5	83.3	83.8
Vt.	21.5	23.7	24.2	84.2	84.9	84.8
Mass.	22.4	25.2	25.8	82.1	81.0	81.2
Conn.	24.0	26.7	27.0	85.0	83.9	82.8
N. Y.	25.0	27.5	28.4	81.8	83.9	84.0
N. J.	24.9	27.1	28.6	82.9	83.0	83.0
Pa.	23.8	27.1	28.2	83.2	84.8	84.5
N. Atl.	23.72	26.41	27.42	82.2	83.5	83.3
Ohio.	21.6	24.4	25.5	78.5	82.2	81.7
Ind.	19.3	23.0	22.9	74.8	79.5	78.0
Ill.	20.9	24.0	24.0	73.3	78.5	77.9
Mich.	23.6	26.9	28.7	82.4	85.0	86.1
Wis.	24.2	26.7	27.7	81.9	84.3	85.6
E. N. Cent. ...	22.86	25.83	26.82	79.6	83.1	83.6
Minn.	25.5	29.7	29.3	82.9	86.0	85.9
Iowa.	20.9	24.0	23.3	73.0	74.7	75.4
Mo.	14.0	17.4	15.3	64.3	70.2	63.4
N. Dak.	19.3	23.9	23.1	68.2	73.7	73.5
S. Dak.	17.0	21.0	20.3	65.4	70.8	69.5
Nebr.	19.1	21.1	21.8	71.0	70.0	73.0
Kans.	18.5	21.1	20.0	71.3	71.7	70.4
W. N. Cent. ...	20.09	23.72	23.17	72.7	76.4	75.4
Md.	19.9	21.1	21.5	77.6	81.1	79.1
Va.	17.1	21.6	22.0	70.6	75.9	75.2
W. Va.	13.0	16.0	15.6	64.7	65.2	64.8
N. C.	15.4	18.2	20.0	71.6	75.5	75.7
S. C.	13.6	14.8	15.1	68.0	68.4	65.3
Ga.	11.7	14.6	14.5	60.6	63.6	62.6
S. Atl.	15.76	20.41	21.63	70.1	76.6	78.5
Ky.	13.5	16.8	16.3	63.7	66.5	64.6
Tenn.	12.6	15.0	14.5	65.9	66.0	66.4
Ala.	9.6	10.0	10.0	55.6	55.7	53.0
Miss.	8.7	8.8	9.0	55.9	55.4	52.5
Ark.	10.2	11.7	12.1	55.4	56.5	59.6
La.	8.8	11.0	12.0	48.6	52.3	57.3
Okla.	13.6	15.8	15.0	61.9	64.2	61.0
Tex.	10.7	12.6	13.0	54.5	55.0	55.5
S. Cent.	11.91	13.84	14.15	60.0	61.5	62.2
Mont.	17.2	19.6	20.2	64.8	70.1	70.5
Idaho.	21.9	24.5	23.5	77.0	79.4	78.2
Wyo.	18.4	20.5	19.8	66.0	71.7	67.7
Colo.	19.7	21.6	20.8	73.0	77.8	74.6
Utah.	22.6	26.7	24.8	77.8	81.3	77.9
Wash.	21.7	24.1	24.7	80.3	82.5	82.0
Oreg.	18.7	20.7	20.9	72.9	74.5	75.2
Calif.	24.9	31.5	31.5	80.0	83.3	84.3
West.	21.65	26.18	25.10	76.8	80.3	79.5
U. S.	19.54	23.04	23.42	73.6	77.2	77.4

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, 1962, with comparisons 1/

[Percent]

State and division	April 1, av. 1951-60	April 1, 1960	April 1, 1961	April 1, 1962
Me.	91	89	94	95
N. H.	94	94	96	98
Vt.	95	97	100	95
Mass.	94	92	99	97
R. I.	93	92	100	90
Conn.	92	87	91	92
N. Y.	88	93	89	90
N. J.	82	78	83	83
Pa.	83	84	87	82
N. Atl.	-	-	-	-
Ohio.....	83	81	89	80
Ind.	84	83	91	86
Ill.	84	84	91	85
Mich.	91	94	94	93
Wis.	89	90	91	94
E. N. Cent.	-	-	-	-
Minn.	88	89	89	93
Iowa	85	92	95	93
Mo.	74	74	85	81
N. Dak.	73	65	65	56
S. Dak.	78	75	76	80
Nebr.	80	87	87	88
Kans.	75	84	89	88
W. N. Cent.	74	79	87	84
Del.	81	71	89	85
Md.	82	76	87	83
Va.	75	65	85	80
W. Va.	75	71	82	77
N. C.	79	68	87	84
S. C.	73	57	81	77
Ga.	73	63	82	78
Fla.	71	64	80	73
S. Atl.	74	64	83	79
Ky.	74	62	88	78
Tenn.	74	59	86	80
Ala.	68	54	79	72
Miss.	68	49	76	64
Ark.	70	53	82	73
La.	71	55	77	64
Okla.	67	70	89	77
Tex.	62	69	85	63
S. Cent.	67	62	84	70
Mont.	80	82	64	63
Idaho.....	88	90	92	88
Wyo.	77	82	64	84
Colo.	70	88	83	85
N. Mex.	66	83	88	82
Ariz.	82	89	79	94
Utah.....	83	84	79	92
Nev.	86	76	64	86
Wash.	81	89	93	80
Oreg.	84	88	92	77
Calif.	77	73	77	84
West.	79	81	84	82
U. S.	72	70	84	77

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, 1962, with comparisons ^{1/}
 [Pounds]

State and division	April 1, av. 1951-60	April 1, 1960	April 1, 1961	April 1, 1962
Me.	7.2	8.3	9.0	9.4
N. H.	6.6	7.7	8.0	8.9
Vt.	6.9	7.7	8.4	8.3
Mass.	7.1	7.6	8.2	9.3
Conn.	7.7	8.6	10.0	10.1
N. Y.	8.1	8.7	8.8	9.0
N. J.	8.4	9.1	9.8	10.3
Pa.	8.9	9.4	10.0	10.4
N. Atl.	8.0	8.7	9.0	9.3
Ohio.....	7.7	8.7	9.7	9.5
Ind.	7.2	7.9	9.0	9.3
Ill.	7.8	8.2	8.5	8.4
Mich.	7.6	8.5	9.3	10.2
Wis.	7.6	8.9	8.6	9.0
E. N. Cent.	7.6	8.6	8.9	9.2
Minn.	7.7	9.1	9.2	10.0
Iowa.....	8.1	9.3	9.2	9.5
Mo.	6.3	7.5	8.2	7.3
N. Dak.	6.1	7.5	7.8	7.8
S. Dak.	5.2	6.8	7.0	7.2
Nebr.	6.5	7.7	7.9	8.6
Kans.	7.0	8.1	7.8	8.1
W. N. Cent.	7.1	8.4	8.6	8.9
Md.	7.9	8.4	7.8	9.0
Va.	6.3	7.5	7.7	8.1
W. Va.	4.7	5.8	5.9	5.4
N. C.	6.3	7.3	7.7	8.4
S. C.	5.1	7.1	6.0	7.0
Ga.	5.5	6.6	6.4	8.0
S. Atl.	5.9	7.1	7.1	7.8
Ky.	6.4	7.7	7.5	7.8
Tenn.	5.6	6.4	6.5	7.0
Ala.	5.7	7.3	6.7	7.0
Miss.	4.7	6.6	4.8	5.1
Ark.	5.2	6.9	6.0	6.4
La.	4.2	5.8	5.1	5.9
Okla.	5.6	6.9	7.5	7.4
Tex.	5.5	7.1	6.0	6.3
S. Cent.	5.4	6.9	6.3	6.6
Mont.	4.8	5.5	5.6	6.2
Idaho.....	4.8	5.2	6.1	5.7
Wyo.	4.4	4.6	6.7	5.9
Colo.	6.0	6.5	6.6	6.3
Utah.....	5.0	4.8	7.5	7.1
Wash.	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.6
Oreg.	5.4	5.6	5.4	6.2
Calif.	5.7	7.0	7.0	7.6
West.	5.6	6.4	6.6	7.0
U. S.	6.78	7.89	8.02	8.36

^{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.