

# Milk Production



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

---

Released November 14, 1997, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Milk Production" call James Hand at 202-690-3236, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

## October Milk Production Up 1.8 Percent

**Milk production** in the 20 major States during October totaled 11.0 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from production in these same States in October 1996. September revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds was up 2.2 percent from September 1996.

**Production per cow** in the 20 major States averaged 1,426 pounds for October, 35 pounds above October 1996.

**The number of cows** on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 51,000 head less than October 1996 but 1,000 head more than September 1997.

**Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 1996-97**

Quarter	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk Per Cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	Change From 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan-Mar	9,397	9,267	4,156	4,200	39,053	38,922	-0.3
Apr-Jun	9,369	9,254	4,231	4,393	39,638	40,648	2.5
Jul-Sep	9,338	9,245	4,035	4,209	37,674	38,917	3.3
Oct-Dec	9,300		4,083		37,966		
Annual	9,351		16,505		154,331		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 20 Selected States, 1996-97**

Month	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk Per Cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	Change From 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	7,846	7,757	1,415	1,439	11,103	11,163	0.5
Feb	7,828	7,743	1,348	1,331	10,549	10,309	-2.3
Mar	7,822	7,736	1,469	1,501	11,487	11,611	1.1
Apr	7,818	7,731	1,441	1,481	11,265	11,452	1.7
May	7,816	7,733	1,479	1,532	11,560	11,847	2.5
Jun	7,818	7,738	1,398	1,475	10,926	11,410	4.4
Jul	7,815	7,747	1,400	1,477	10,944	11,443	4.6
Aug	7,802	7,744	1,382	1,450	10,786	11,227	4.1
Sep	7,795	7,736	1,342	1,381	10,459	10,686	2.2
Oct	7,788	7,737	1,391	1,426	10,831	11,030	1.8
Nov	7,775		1,350		10,499		
Dec	7,765		1,418		11,013		
Annual	7,807		16,833		131,422		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**Estimated Milk Production: United States, 1996-97**

Month	By Month			Cumulative		
	1996	1997	Change From 1996	1996	1997	Change From 1996
	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	13,085	13,133	0.4	13,085	13,133	0.4
Feb	12,431	12,129	-2.4	25,516	25,262	-1.0
Mar	13,537	13,660	0.9	39,053	38,922	-0.3
Apr	13,230	13,411	1.4	52,283	52,333	0.1
May	13,576	13,874	2.2	65,859	66,207	0.5
Jun	12,832	13,363	4.1	78,691	79,570	1.1
Jul	12,809	13,346	4.2	91,500	92,916	1.5
Aug	12,624	13,095	3.7	104,124	106,011	1.8
Sep	12,241	12,471	1.9	116,365	118,482	1.8
Oct	12,714	12,948	1.8	129,079	131,430	1.8
Nov	12,324			141,403		
Dec	12,928			154,331		

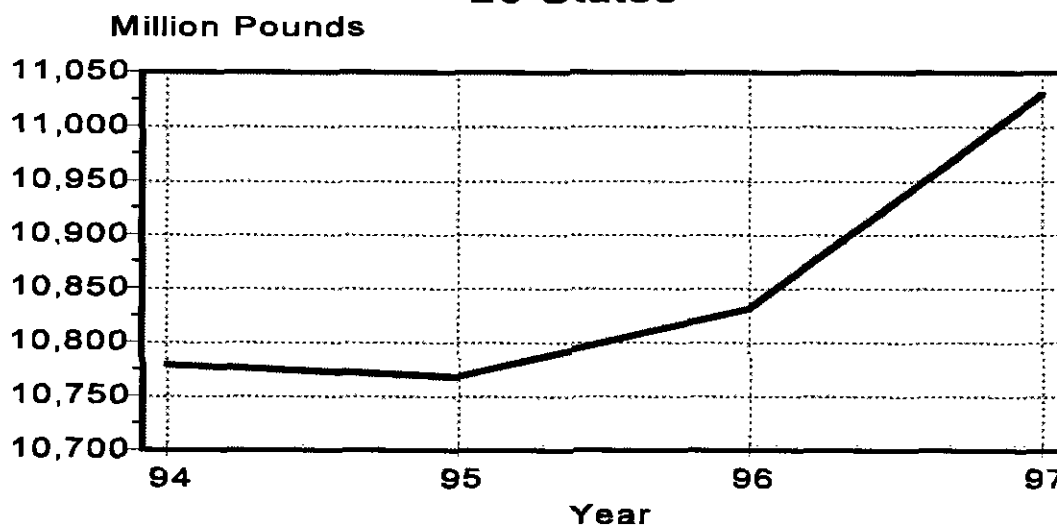
**Milk Cows and Production: By State, October 1996-97**

Month	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk Per Cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		Change From 1996
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	122	126	1,620	1,595	198	201	1.5
CA	1,268	1,314	1,750	1,790	2,219	2,352	6.0
FL	156	160	1,160	1,095	181	175	-3.3
ID	265	280	1,580	1,620	419	454	8.4
IL	152	146	1,230	1,280	187	187	0.0
IN	140	140	1,280	1,310	179	183	2.2
IA	250	244	1,280	1,370	320	334	4.4
KY	151	143	1,020	1,050	154	150	-2.6
MI	317	303	1,415	1,460	449	442	-1.6
MN	595	580	1,275	1,285	759	745	-1.8
MO	175	170	1,105	1,090	193	185	-4.1
NM	195	205	1,570	1,615	306	331	8.2
NY	702	699	1,325	1,350	930	944	1.5
OH	285	275	1,250	1,290	356	355	-0.3
PA	645	640	1,345	1,395	868	893	2.9
TX	395	387	1,185	1,150	468	445	-4.9
VT	155	155	1,375	1,400	213	217	1.9
VA	126	120	1,200	1,290	151	155	2.6
WA	266	262	1,675	1,665	446	436	-2.2
WI	1,428	1,388	1,285	1,330	1,835	1,846	0.6
20-State Total	7,788	7,737	1,391	1,426	10,831	11,030	1.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**October Milk Production, 1994-1997  
20 States**



**Milk Cows and Production: By State, September 1996-97<sup>1</sup>**

State	Milk Cows <sup>2</sup>		Milk per Cow <sup>3</sup>		Milk Production <sup>3</sup>		Change From 1996
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	122	126	1,475	1,429	180	180	0.0
CA	1,267	1,308	1,685	1,735	2,135	2,269	6.3
FL	155	160	1,045	1,000	162	160	-1.2
ID	263	279	1,550	1,590	408	444	8.8
IL	153	146	1,220	1,270	187	185	-1.1
IN	140	140	1,250	1,275	175	179	2.3
IA	250	245	1,250	1,345	313	330	5.4
KY	151	144	965	985	146	142	-2.7
MI	317	304	1,365	1,430	433	435	0.5
MN	600	580	1,220	1,235	732	716	-2.2
MO	175	170	1,050	1,040	184	177	-3.8
NM	195	205	1,505	1,545	293	317	8.2
NY	703	697	1,300	1,330	914	927	1.4
OH	285	277	1,190	1,230	339	341	0.6
PA	642	639	1,305	1,350	838	863	3.0
TX	395	388	1,090	1,050	431	407	-5.6
VT	156	156	1,325	1,370	207	214	3.4
VA	126	120	1,140	1,240	144	149	3.5
WA	265	262	1,650	1,640	437	430	-1.6
WI	1,435	1,390	1,255	1,310	1,801	1,821	1.1
20-State Total	7,795	7,736	1,342	1,381	10,459	10,686	2.2

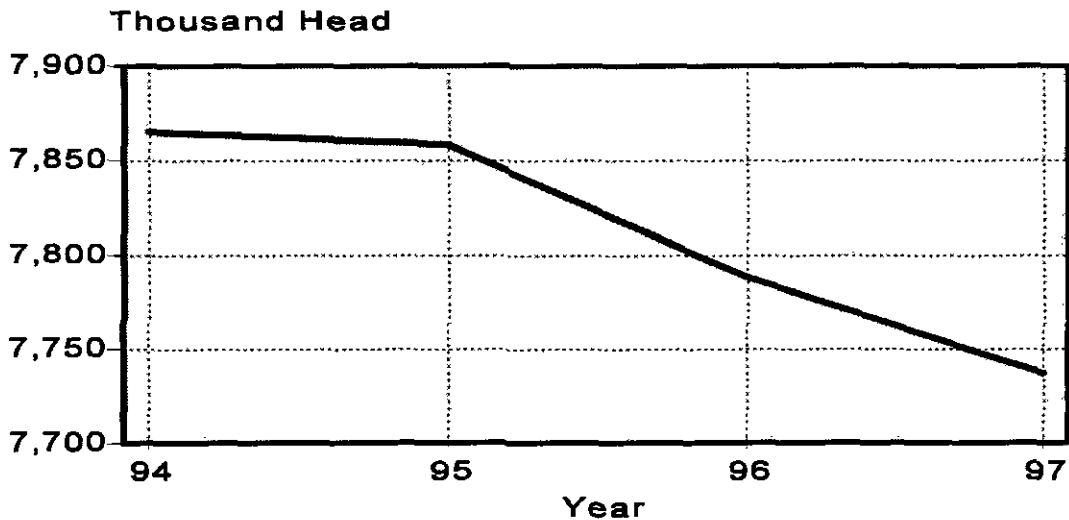
<sup>1</sup> 1997 revised.

<sup>2</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## October Milk Cows, 1994-1997

### 20 States



## Reliability Statement

**Survey Procedures:** Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. Individual States maintain a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. States use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. Generally, all large producers and a sample of small producers are included in the survey. Questionnaires are mailed to producers near the end of the month to obtain data for the first day of the month. Additional reports are obtained by telephone, as needed, to supplement the mail response.

**Estimation Procedures:** State offices prepare these estimates using survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Milk production, rate per cow, and number of cows are subject to revision the following month for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, Federal Market Order sales are the main basis for revisions. However, data for all orders are not available in time for this revision. Estimates are again subject to revisions in February each year based on additional administrative data. In the event that additional changes are necessary, a third revision is possible in February the following year. Estimates are again reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions are made after that date.

**Reliability:** Since all operations with dairy animals are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items on the next page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for milk cow inventory estimates over the past 10 quarters is 1.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final July-September estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.25 million head by more than 1.3 percent, or about 120,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.3 percent, or about 213,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

**Reliability of July-September Milk Estimates <sup>1</sup>**

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Final Estimates <sup>1</sup>			Number of Quarters	
		Percent	Estimate	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Final	First Below Final
Milk Production	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
	0.7	1.4	546	255	139	456	10	0
All Milk Cows	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
	1.3	2.3	213	109	7	179	10	0

<sup>1</sup> Based on records for the past 10 July-September quarters.

The next "Milk Production" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on December 15, 1997.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

## **ACCESS TO REPORTS!!**

---

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

### **INTERNET ACCESS**

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports by Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

### **E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION**

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Send an e-mail message to: [usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu](mailto:usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu). In the body of the message type the word: **list**.

### **AUTOFAX ACCESS**

NASSFax service is available for some reports from your fax machine. Please call 202-720-2000, using the handset attached to your fax. Respond to the voice prompts. Document 0411 is a list of available reports.

---

### **PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS**

**CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)**  
**Other areas, please call 703-834-0125      FAX: 703-834-0110**  
**(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)**

---

### **ASSISTANCE**

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

## **USDA Announces Data Users Meeting**

**Embassy Suites (near KCI Airport)**

**Kansas City, Missouri**

**January 7, 1998**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be organizing an open forum for Data Users. The purpose will be to provide updates on pending changes in the USDA statistical and information programs including the status of the 1997 Census of Agriculture, and to seek comments and input from data users. Other agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board.

For registration details

NASS home page: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

Bob Milton (NASS) at (202) 720-3570

[rmilton@nass.usda.gov](mailto:rmilton@nass.usda.gov)

## **USDA Announces Agricultural Outlook Forum '98**

**February 23 and 24, 1998**

**Washington, D.C.**

Presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

### **Survey the New Frontiers.**

Survey the frontiers of agriculture at USDA's seventy-fourth outlook forum. Catch the latest commodity prospects for 1998 and beyond and receive new long-term projections to the year 2007. Hear noted experts and farm leaders tackle front line issues: managing risk, selling bio-engineered products, ensuring food safety, marketing organic foods, honing export strategies, and more.

**Act Now To Attend.** For program and registration details check the Forum home page, call (202) 720-3050, or dial (202) 694-5700 from your fax machine handset and retrieve document 66666. Call (202) 401-9421 to register.

Ag Forum home page: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/agforum.htm>

e-mail: [agforum@oce.usda.gov](mailto:agforum@oce.usda.gov)