



Milk Production

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February Milk Production up 8.3 Percent

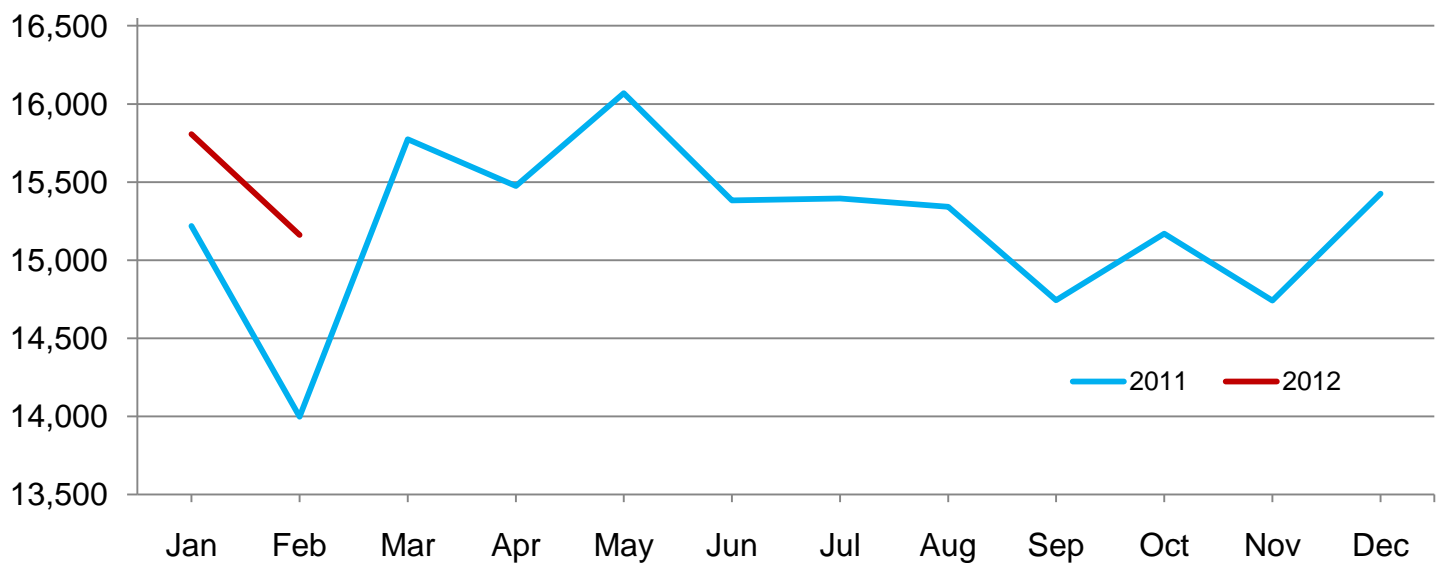
Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 15.2 billion pounds, up 8.3 percent from February 2011. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to leap year causes February milk production to be up 4.6 percent on a per day basis. January revised production at 15.8 billion pounds, was up 3.9 percent from January 2011. The January revision represented an increase of 24 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for February, 117 pounds above February 2011.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.51 million head, 102,000 head more than February 2011, and 8,000 head more than January 2012.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2011-2012

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,168		5,286		48,459		
April-June	9,191		5,489		50,448		
July-September	9,200		5,292		48,684		
October-December	9,216		5,279		48,654		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 23 Selected States, 2011-2012

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,405	8,502	1,811	1,859	15,219	15,806	3.9
February	8,408	8,510	1,665	1,782	13,997	15,162	8.3
March	8,425		1,872		15,773		
April	8,431		1,835		15,475		
May	8,447		1,902		16,069		
June	8,450		1,820		15,382		
July	8,459		1,820		15,395		
August	8,463		1,813		15,342		
September	8,466		1,742		14,744		
October	8,475		1,790		15,170		
November	8,475		1,739		14,742		
December	8,485		1,818		15,426		
Annual	8,449		21,627		182,734		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2011-2012

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,160	9,241	1,790	1,836	16,393	16,970	3.5
February	9,163	9,250	1,645	1,760	15,077	16,280	8.0
March	9,180		1,851		16,989		
April	9,182		1,814		16,652		
May	9,194		1,879		17,278		
June	9,196		1,796		16,518		
July	9,198		1,792		16,479		
August	9,200		1,785		16,422		
September	9,201		1,715		15,783		
October	9,212		1,767		16,278		
November	9,213		1,717		15,820		
December	9,223		1,795		16,556		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2011 and 2012

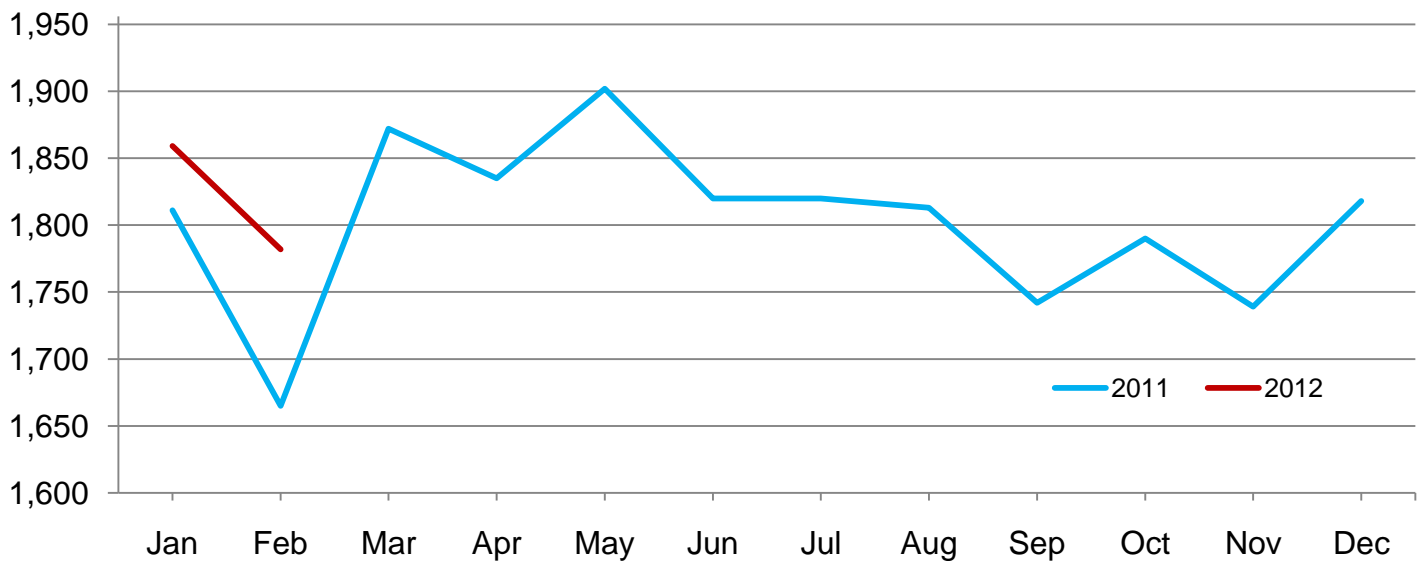
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	185	192	1,915	2,060	354	396	11.9
California	1,756	1,784	1,800	1,965	3,161	3,506	10.9
Colorado	123	133	1,795	1,865	221	248	12.2
Florida	118	122	1,690	1,740	199	212	6.5
Idaho	573	580	1,690	1,800	968	1,044	7.9
Illinois	98	100	1,530	1,630	150	163	8.7
Indiana	171	175	1,585	1,700	271	298	10.0
Iowa	208	205	1,630	1,750	339	359	5.9
Kansas	122	123	1,615	1,710	197	210	6.6
Michigan	364	374	1,790	1,910	652	714	9.5
Minnesota	470	465	1,485	1,585	698	737	5.6
Missouri	95	93	1,140	1,215	108	113	4.6
New Mexico	324	335	1,890	1,985	612	665	8.7
New York	610	610	1,620	1,730	988	1,055	6.8
Ohio	271	270	1,500	1,570	407	424	4.2
Oregon	119	123	1,555	1,600	185	197	6.5
Pennsylvania	543	541	1,510	1,570	820	849	3.5
Texas	425	436	1,720	1,835	731	800	9.4
Utah	86	91	1,590	1,690	137	154	12.4
Vermont	135	133	1,465	1,535	198	204	3.0
Virginia	95	96	1,440	1,510	137	145	5.8
Washington	251	263	1,820	1,895	457	498	9.0
Wisconsin	1,266	1,266	1,585	1,715	2,007	2,171	8.2
23-State Total	8,408	8,510	1,665	1,782	13,997	15,162	8.3

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: January 2011 and 2012

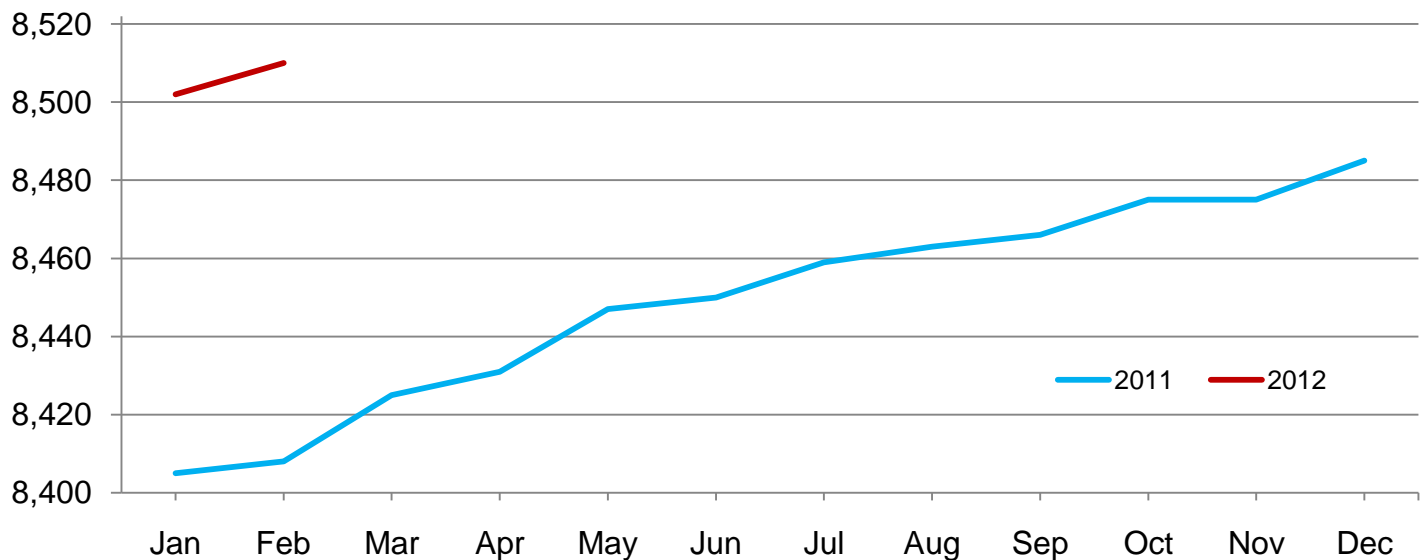
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	185	190	2,015	2,100	373	399	7.0
California	1,752	1,782	1,935	2,030	3,390	3,617	6.7
Colorado	123	133	1,975	1,970	243	262	7.8
Florida	116	122	1,775	1,780	206	217	5.3
Idaho	573	581	1,860	1,920	1,066	1,116	4.7
Illinois	98	100	1,660	1,710	163	171	4.9
Indiana	172	175	1,710	1,775	294	311	5.8
Iowa	210	205	1,775	1,865	373	382	2.4
Kansas	123	123	1,775	1,800	218	221	1.4
Michigan	363	372	1,960	1,980	711	737	3.7
Minnesota	470	465	1,630	1,660	766	772	0.8
Missouri	95	93	1,240	1,270	118	118	
New Mexico	323	335	2,105	2,045	680	685	0.7
New York	610	610	1,775	1,800	1,083	1,098	1.4
Ohio	270	270	1,620	1,640	437	443	1.4
Oregon	120	123	1,685	1,685	202	207	2.5
Pennsylvania	543	540	1,640	1,660	891	896	0.6
Texas	425	435	1,875	1,900	797	827	3.8
Utah	87	91	1,740	1,805	151	164	8.6
Vermont	135	133	1,605	1,625	217	216	-0.5
Virginia	95	96	1,545	1,575	147	151	2.7
Washington	252	263	1,975	1,995	498	525	5.4
Wisconsin	1,265	1,265	1,735	1,795	2,195	2,271	3.5
23-State Total	8,405	8,502	1,811	1,859	15,219	15,806	3.9

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



Statistical Methodology

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. Where feasible, States utilize state and federal administrative data, rather than conduct a monthly survey, to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January and July Cattle Surveys.

Estimation Procedures: State offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of 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 the 23 State milk cow inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 8.51 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 percent.

Reliability of Monthly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.2	0.3	19	1	60	17	7
All milk cows	0.1	0.2	7	1	17	15	9

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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