



# Milk Production

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## March Milk Production Up 4.3 Percent

**Milk production** in the 23 major States during March totaled 16.5 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from March 2011. February revised production at 15.1 billion pounds, was up 8.2 percent from February 2011. The February revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Adjusting February production for the additional day due to leap year causes February revised production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,931 pounds for March, 59 pounds above March 2011.

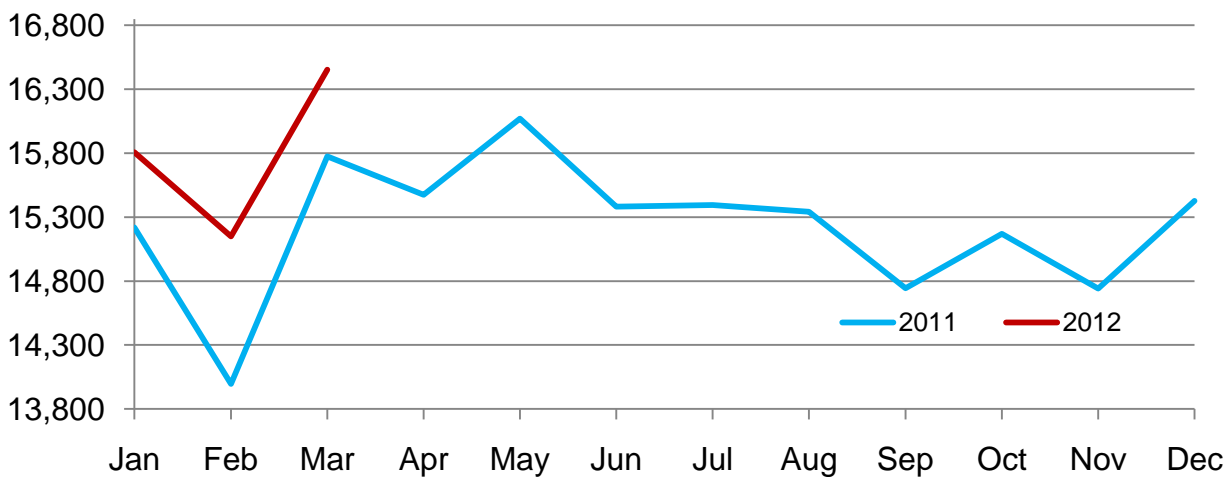
**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.52 million head, 94,000 head more than March 2011, and 9,000 head more than February 2012.

## January - March Milk Production Up 5.2 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 51.0 billion pounds, up 5.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.25 million head, 86,000 head more than the same period last year.

## 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 <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	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	9,254	5,286	5,511	48,459	50,995	5.2
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		

<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, 23 Selected States, 2011-2012

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	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	1,780	13,997	15,149	8.2
March .....	8,425	8,519	1,872	1,931	15,773	16,452	4.3
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		

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

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

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

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	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	9,242	1,790	1,840	16,393	17,001	3.7
February .....	9,163	9,254	1,645	1,761	15,077	16,297	8.1
March .....	9,180	9,266	1,851	1,910	16,989	17,697	4.2
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		

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

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

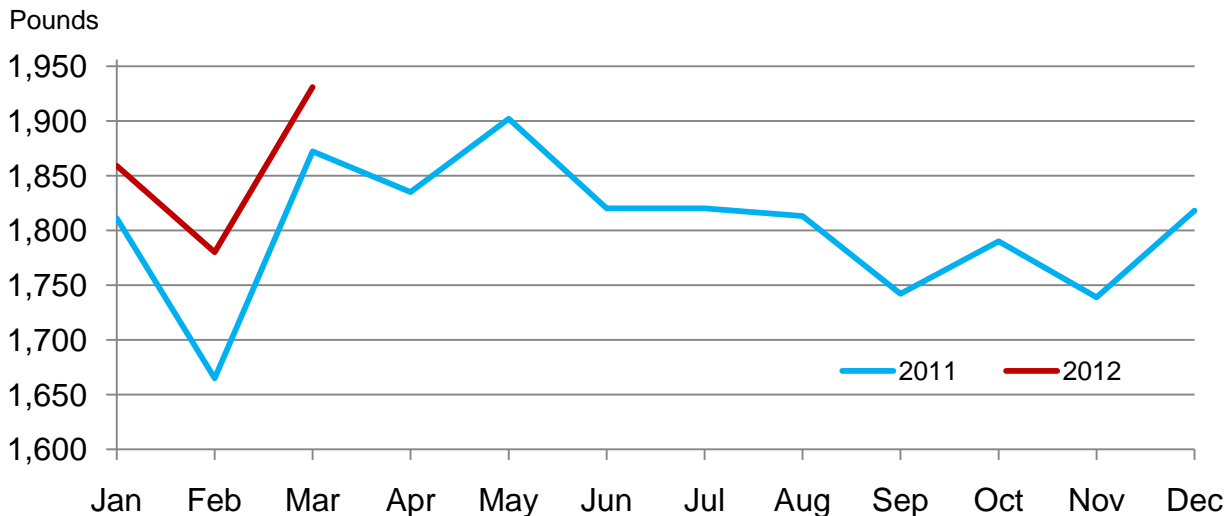
## Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: March 2011 and 2012

State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	187	194	2,180	2,240	408	435	6.6
California .....	1,760	1,785	2,040	2,135	3,590	3,811	6.2
Colorado .....	125	132	2,015	2,045	252	270	7.1
Florida .....	119	122	1,865	1,830	222	223	0.5
Idaho .....	576	580	1,880	1,930	1,083	1,119	3.3
Illinois .....	98	100	1,715	1,770	168	177	5.4
Indiana .....	172	176	1,795	1,845	309	325	5.2
Iowa .....	209	204	1,825	1,900	381	388	1.8
Kansas .....	122	123	1,830	1,870	223	230	3.1
Michigan .....	364	375	1,985	2,070	723	776	7.3
Minnesota .....	469	465	1,660	1,710	779	795	2.1
Missouri .....	94	93	1,365	1,395	128	130	1.6
New Mexico .....	325	336	2,150	2,190	699	736	5.3
New York .....	610	610	1,810	1,865	1,104	1,138	3.1
Ohio .....	269	270	1,660	1,710	447	462	3.4
Oregon .....	119	123	1,750	1,750	208	215	3.4
Pennsylvania .....	543	540	1,710	1,710	929	923	-0.6
Texas .....	426	439	1,945	1,995	829	876	5.7
Utah .....	87	91	1,770	1,825	154	166	7.8
Vermont .....	135	133	1,635	1,660	221	221	
Virginia .....	96	96	1,615	1,645	155	158	1.9
Washington .....	254	263	2,025	2,040	514	537	4.5
Wisconsin .....	1,266	1,269	1,775	1,845	2,247	2,341	4.2
23-State Total .....	8,425	8,519	1,872	1,931	15,773	16,452	4.3

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

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

## Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States



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

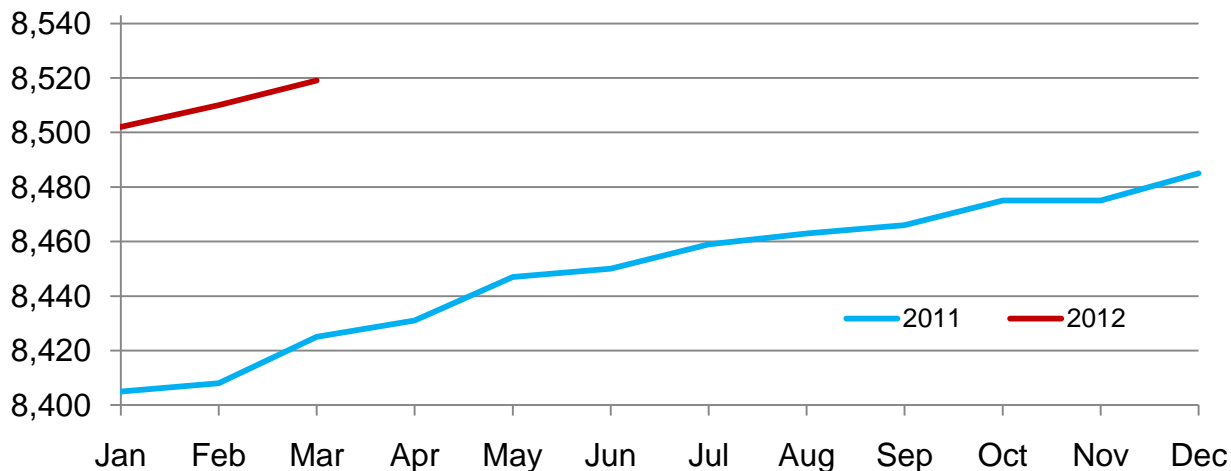
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	185	192	1,915	2,060	354	396	11.9
California .....	1,756	1,784	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	1,720	199	210	5.5
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	1,755	339	360	6.2
Kansas .....	122	123	1,615	1,725	197	212	7.6
Michigan .....	364	374	1,790	1,910	652	714	9.5
Minnesota .....	470	465	1,485	1,580	698	735	5.3
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	1,705	2,007	2,159	7.6
23-State Total .....	8,408	8,510	1,665	1,780	13,997	15,149	8.2

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

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

## Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Revised October-December 2010 and 2011

[May not add due to rounding]

State	October-December milk cows <sup>1</sup>		October-December milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	11.0	10.0	35.0	32.0	-8.6
Alaska .....	0.5	0.5	1.6	1.7	6.3
Arizona .....	183.0	192.0	1,032.0	1,090.0	5.6
Arkansas .....	12.0	11.0	35.0	33.0	-5.7
California .....	1,751.0	1,778.0	9,979.0	10,267.0	2.9
Colorado .....	122.0	131.0	719.0	757.0	5.3
Connecticut .....	19.0	18.5	89.0	88.0	-1.1
Delaware .....	5.0	5.0	21.0	22.0	4.8
Florida .....	114.0	120.0	508.0	533.0	4.9
Georgia .....	78.0	78.0	329.0	358.0	8.8
Hawaii .....	2.0	1.9	6.2	6.4	3.2
Idaho .....	573.0	580.0	3,224.0	3,294.0	2.2
Illinois .....	98.0	98.0	466.0	478.0	2.6
Indiana .....	171.0	173.0	849.0	890.0	4.8
Iowa .....	206.0	201.0	1,071.0	1,088.0	1.6
Kansas .....	121.0	123.0	638.0	648.0	1.6
Kentucky .....	77.0	75.0	276.0	261.0	-5.4
Louisiana .....	19.0	18.0	53.0	54.0	1.9
Maine .....	32.0	32.0	145.0	149.0	2.8
Maryland .....	53.0	52.0	244.0	236.0	-3.3
Massachusetts .....	13.5	12.0	57.0	52.0	-8.8
Michigan .....	360.0	369.0	2,050.0	2,120.0	3.4
Minnesota .....	470.0	465.0	2,204.0	2,185.0	-0.9
Mississippi .....	16.0	14.0	50.0	47.0	-6.0
Missouri .....	96.0	94.0	344.0	339.0	-1.5
Montana .....	14.0	14.0	70.0	73.0	4.3
Nebraska .....	58.0	57.0	288.0	294.0	2.1
Nevada .....	28.0	29.0	161.0	163.0	1.2
New Hampshire .....	15.0	14.0	71.0	68.0	-4.2
New Jersey .....	7.5	7.5	33.0	32.0	-3.0
New Mexico .....	319.0	333.0	1,949.0	2,046.0	5.0
New York .....	611.0	610.0	3,149.0	3,148.0	
North Carolina .....	44.0	45.0	213.0	225.0	5.6
North Dakota .....	20.0	18.0	93.0	83.0	-10.8
Ohio .....	270.0	269.0	1,288.0	1,288.0	
Oklahoma .....	54.0	52.0	234.0	227.0	-3.0
Oregon .....	121.0	122.0	600.0	609.0	1.5
Pennsylvania .....	542.0	538.0	2,645.0	2,611.0	-1.3
Rhode Island .....	1.1	1.1	4.8	4.8	
South Carolina .....	16.0	16.0	66.0	69.0	4.5
South Dakota .....	90.0	90.0	463.0	469.0	1.3
Tennessee .....	51.0	50.0	202.0	200.0	-1.0
Texas .....	417.0	435.0	2,238.0	2,412.0	7.8
Utah .....	85.0	88.0	451.0	470.0	4.2
Vermont .....	136.0	134.0	622.0	623.0	0.2
Virginia .....	95.0	96.0	421.0	424.0	0.7
Washington .....	253.0	264.0	1,458.0	1,530.0	4.9
West Virginia .....	10.0	10.0	39.0	38.0	-2.6
Wisconsin .....	1,265.0	1,265.0	6,343.0	6,488.0	2.3
Wyoming .....	6.0	6.0	30.9	30.0	-2.9
United States .....	9,132.0	9,216.0	47,559.0	48,654.0	2.3

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

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

# Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary January-March 2011 and 2012

[May not add due to rounding]

State	January-March milk cows <sup>1</sup>		January-March milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	11.0	10.0	43.0	39.0	-9.3
Alaska .....	0.6	0.5	1.8	1.7	-5.6
Arizona .....	186.0	192.0	1,135.0	1,230.0	8.4
Arkansas .....	12.0	11.0	39.0	38.0	-2.6
California .....	1,756.0	1,784.0	10,141.0	10,934.0	7.8
Colorado .....	124.0	133.0	716.0	780.0	8.9
Connecticut .....	18.5	18.5	92.0	93.0	1.1
Delaware .....	5.0	5.0	24.3	25.0	2.9
Florida .....	118.0	122.0	627.0	650.0	3.7
Georgia .....	80.0	80.0	380.0	406.0	6.8
Hawaii .....	1.9	1.9	6.9	7.2	4.3
Idaho .....	574.0	580.0	3,117.0	3,279.0	5.2
Illinois .....	98.0	100.0	481.0	511.0	6.2
Indiana .....	172.0	175.0	874.0	934.0	6.9
Iowa .....	209.0	205.0	1,093.0	1,130.0	3.4
Kansas .....	122.0	123.0	638.0	663.0	3.9
Kentucky .....	76.0	75.0	285.0	296.0	3.9
Louisiana .....	19.0	18.0	69.0	70.0	1.4
Maine .....	32.0	32.0	147.0	151.0	2.7
Maryland .....	53.0	52.0	253.0	255.0	0.8
Massachusetts .....	13.5	12.0	57.0	55.0	-3.5
Michigan .....	364.0	374.0	2,086.0	2,227.0	6.8
Minnesota .....	470.0	465.0	2,243.0	2,302.0	2.6
Mississippi .....	15.0	14.5	59.0	58.0	-1.7
Missouri .....	95.0	93.0	354.0	361.0	2.0
Montana .....	14.0	14.0	69.0	74.0	7.2
Nebraska .....	57.0	56.0	290.0	295.0	1.7
Nevada .....	29.0	29.0	160.0	162.0	1.3
New Hampshire .....	15.0	14.0	75.0	71.0	-5.3
New Jersey .....	8.0	7.5	35.0	35.0	
New Mexico .....	324.0	335.0	1,991.0	2,086.0	4.8
New York .....	610.0	610.0	3,175.0	3,291.0	3.7
North Carolina .....	45.0	45.0	230.0	249.0	8.3
North Dakota .....	20.0	18.0	88.0	84.0	-4.5
Ohio .....	270.0	270.0	1,291.0	1,329.0	2.9
Oklahoma .....	54.0	52.0	241.0	251.0	4.1
Oregon .....	119.0	123.0	595.0	619.0	4.0
Pennsylvania .....	543.0	540.0	2,640.0	2,668.0	1.1
Rhode Island .....	1.1	1.1	4.8	4.9	2.1
South Carolina .....	16.0	16.0	75.0	80.0	6.7
South Dakota .....	91.0	92.0	460.0	492.0	7.0
Tennessee .....	50.0	52.0	216.0	225.0	4.2
Texas .....	425.0	437.0	2,357.0	2,503.0	6.2
Utah .....	87.0	91.0	442.0	484.0	9.5
Vermont .....	135.0	133.0	636.0	641.0	0.8
Virginia .....	95.0	96.0	439.0	454.0	3.4
Washington .....	252.0	263.0	1,469.0	1,560.0	6.2
West Virginia .....	10.0	10.0	39.0	40.0	2.6
Wisconsin .....	1,266.0	1,267.0	6,449.0	6,771.0	5.0
Wyoming .....	6.0	6.0	30.4	29.8	-2.0
United States .....	9,168.0	9,254.0	48,459.0	50,995.0	5.2

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

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

## 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 milk cow inventory estimates over the past 20 quarters is 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.25 million head by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 percent.

## Reliability of Quarterly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 20 quarters]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Quarters	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production .....	0.1	0.2	39	0	96	16	3
All milk cows .....	0.3	0.5	19	0	52	15	2

## 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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Lorie Warren – Dairy Products, Sheep .....	(202) 690-3236



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