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## August Milk Production Down 0.2 Percent

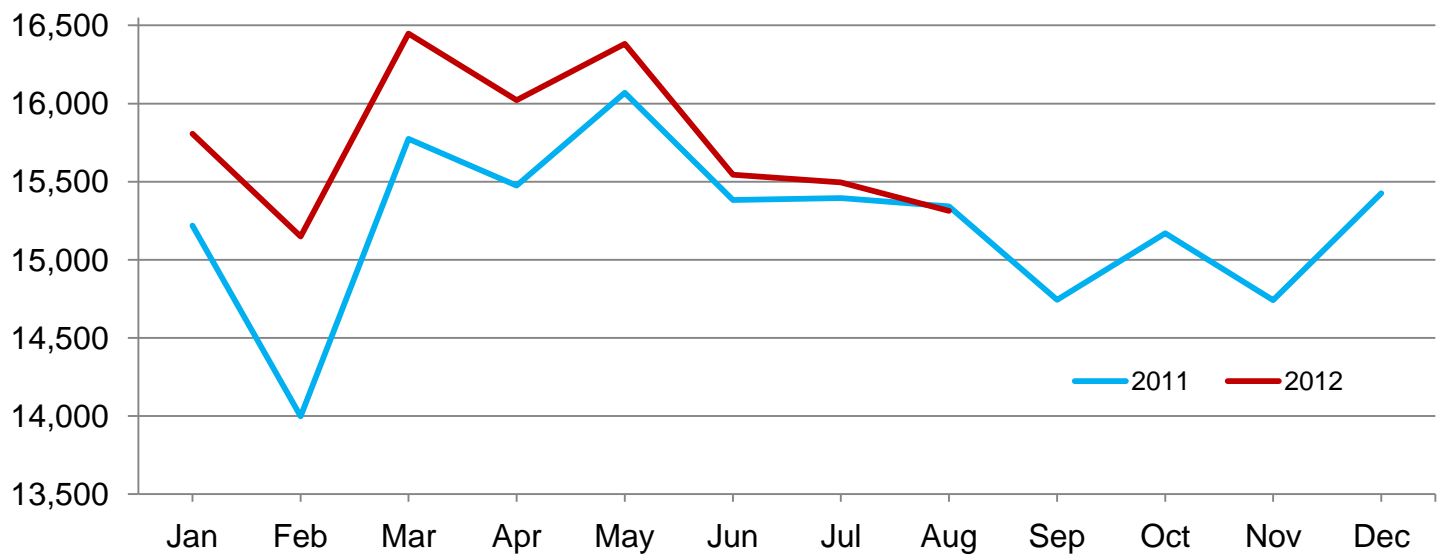
**Milk production** in the 23 major States during August totaled 15.3 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from August 2011. July revised production at 15.5 billion pounds, was up 0.7 percent from July 2011. The July revision represented a decrease of 24 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,803 pounds for August, 10 pounds below August 2011.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 32,000 head more than August 2011, but 4,000 head less than July 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 <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	5,513	48,459	51,017	5.3
April-June .....	9,191	9,257	5,489	5,562	50,448	51,484	2.1
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	8,521	1,872	1,930	15,773	16,447	4.3
April .....	8,431	8,527	1,835	1,879	15,475	16,021	3.5
May .....	8,447	8,521	1,902	1,923	16,069	16,382	1.9
June .....	8,450	8,507	1,820	1,827	15,382	15,545	1.1
July .....	8,459	8,499	1,820	1,823	15,395	15,496	0.7
August .....	8,463	8,495	1,813	1,803	15,342	15,313	-0.2
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	1,841	16,393	17,011	3.8
February .....	9,163	9,254	1,645	1,762	15,077	16,305	8.1
March .....	9,180	9,267	1,851	1,910	16,989	17,701	4.2
April .....	9,182	9,271	1,814	1,857	16,652	17,220	3.4
May .....	9,194	9,260	1,879	1,900	17,278	17,592	1.8
June .....	9,196	9,239	1,796	1,805	16,518	16,672	0.9
July .....	9,198	9,226	1,792	1,797	16,479	16,576	0.6
August .....	9,200	9,220	1,785	1,776	16,422	16,377	-0.3
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: August 2011 and 2012

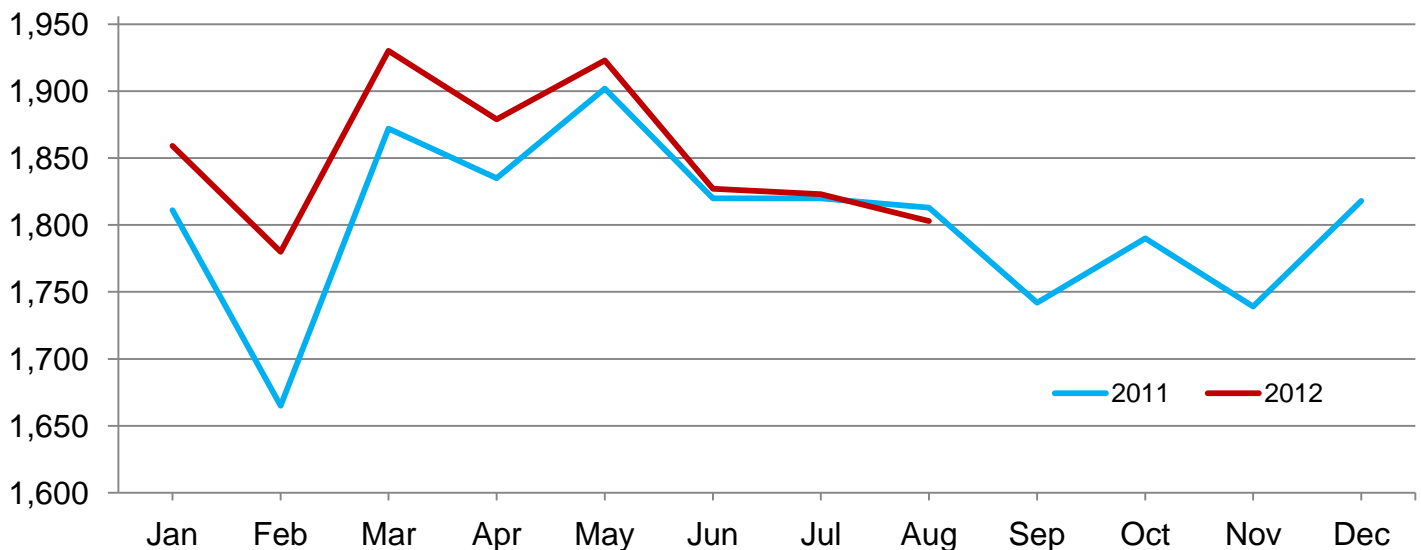
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	187	184	1,815	1,770	339	326	-3.8
California .....	1,773	1,783	1,975	1,850	3,502	3,299	-5.8
Colorado .....	129	133	2,000	2,060	258	274	6.2
Florida .....	119	123	1,400	1,410	167	173	3.6
Idaho .....	582	578	2,030	2,040	1,181	1,179	-0.2
Illinois .....	98	100	1,530	1,560	150	156	4.0
Indiana .....	173	176	1,690	1,725	292	304	4.1
Iowa .....	200	203	1,770	1,790	354	363	2.5
Kansas .....	123	124	1,750	1,790	215	222	3.3
Michigan .....	366	376	1,940	1,990	710	748	5.4
Minnesota .....	467	465	1,570	1,620	733	753	2.7
Missouri .....	95	94	1,105	1,120	105	105	
New Mexico .....	330	328	2,065	2,015	681	661	-2.9
New York .....	610	610	1,785	1,820	1,089	1,110	1.9
Ohio .....	267	270	1,590	1,620	425	437	2.8
Oregon .....	123	123	1,760	1,750	216	215	-0.5
Pennsylvania .....	539	535	1,640	1,625	884	869	-1.7
Texas .....	435	440	1,795	1,740	781	766	-1.9
Utah .....	88	89	1,830	1,850	161	165	2.5
Vermont .....	134	133	1,580	1,610	212	214	0.9
Virginia .....	96	96	1,460	1,440	140	138	-1.4
Washington .....	265	261	2,040	2,005	541	523	-3.3
Wisconsin .....	1,264	1,271	1,745	1,820	2,206	2,313	4.9
23-State Total .....	8,463	8,495	1,813	1,803	15,342	15,313	-0.2

<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

Pounds



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

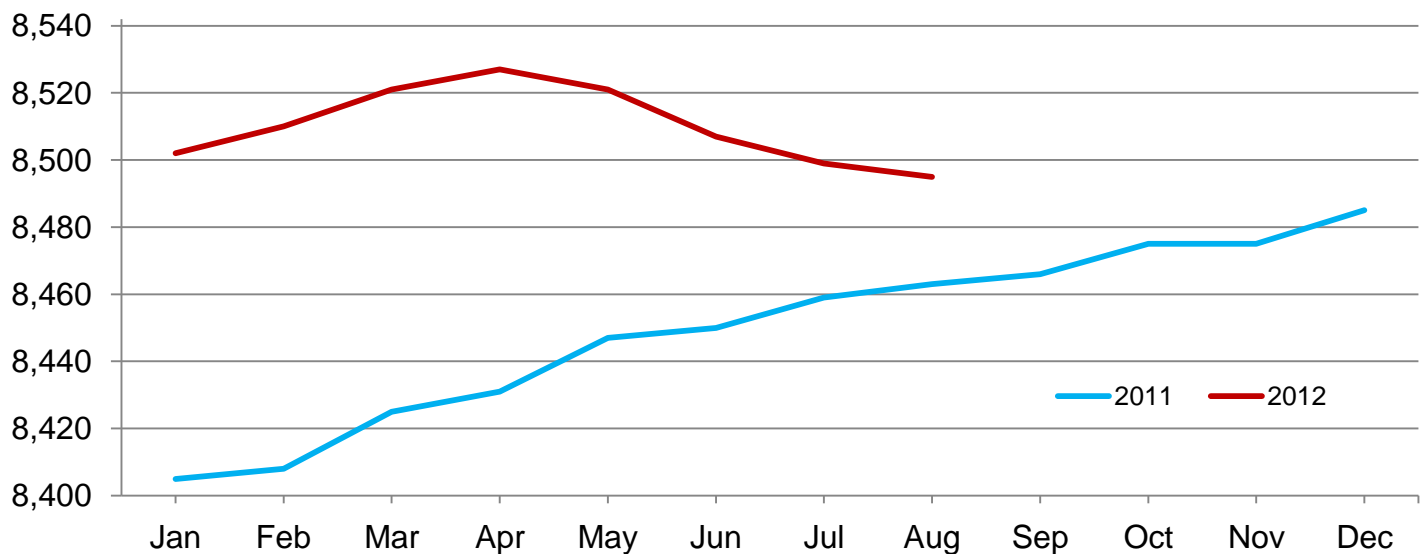
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	186	185	1,885	1,915	351	354	0.9
California .....	1,772	1,785	1,995	1,960	3,535	3,499	-1.0
Colorado .....	128	133	2,010	2,050	257	273	6.2
Florida .....	119	123	1,520	1,520	181	187	3.3
Idaho .....	582	578	2,050	2,050	1,193	1,185	-0.7
Illinois .....	98	100	1,530	1,550	150	155	3.3
Indiana .....	171	176	1,690	1,690	289	297	2.8
Iowa .....	200	203	1,720	1,720	344	349	1.5
Kansas .....	123	124	1,755	1,780	216	221	2.3
Michigan .....	366	376	1,945	1,970	712	741	4.1
Minnesota .....	467	465	1,545	1,580	722	735	1.8
Missouri .....	96	94	1,110	1,170	107	110	2.8
New Mexico .....	330	328	2,105	2,060	695	676	-2.7
New York .....	610	610	1,790	1,825	1,092	1,113	1.9
Ohio .....	266	270	1,580	1,590	420	429	2.1
Oregon .....	123	123	1,790	1,770	220	218	-0.9
Pennsylvania .....	540	535	1,630	1,620	880	867	-1.5
Texas .....	435	440	1,835	1,770	798	779	-2.4
Utah .....	88	90	1,840	1,900	162	171	5.6
Vermont .....	134	133	1,600	1,640	214	218	1.9
Virginia .....	96	96	1,440	1,425	138	137	-0.7
Washington .....	265	261	2,055	2,015	545	526	-3.5
Wisconsin .....	1,264	1,271	1,720	1,775	2,174	2,256	3.8
23-State Total .....	8,459	8,499	1,820	1,823	15,395	15,496	0.7

<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



## 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 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 8.50 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 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 .....	0.1	0.2	16	1	50	13	11
All milk cows .....	0.1	0.1	5	0	12	11	11

## 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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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(515) 284-4340
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
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Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-4751

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS 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).

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