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February Milk Production up 1.7 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 15.1 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2014. January revised production, at 16.5 billion pounds, was up 2.2 percent from January 2014. The January revision represented an increase of 17 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,757 pounds for February, 8 pounds above February 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of February since the 23 State series began in 2003. This comparison is based upon all months of February being adjusted to 28 days.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.62 million head, 106,000 head more than February 2014, and 2,000 head more than January 2015.

February Milk Production in the United States up 1.7 Percent

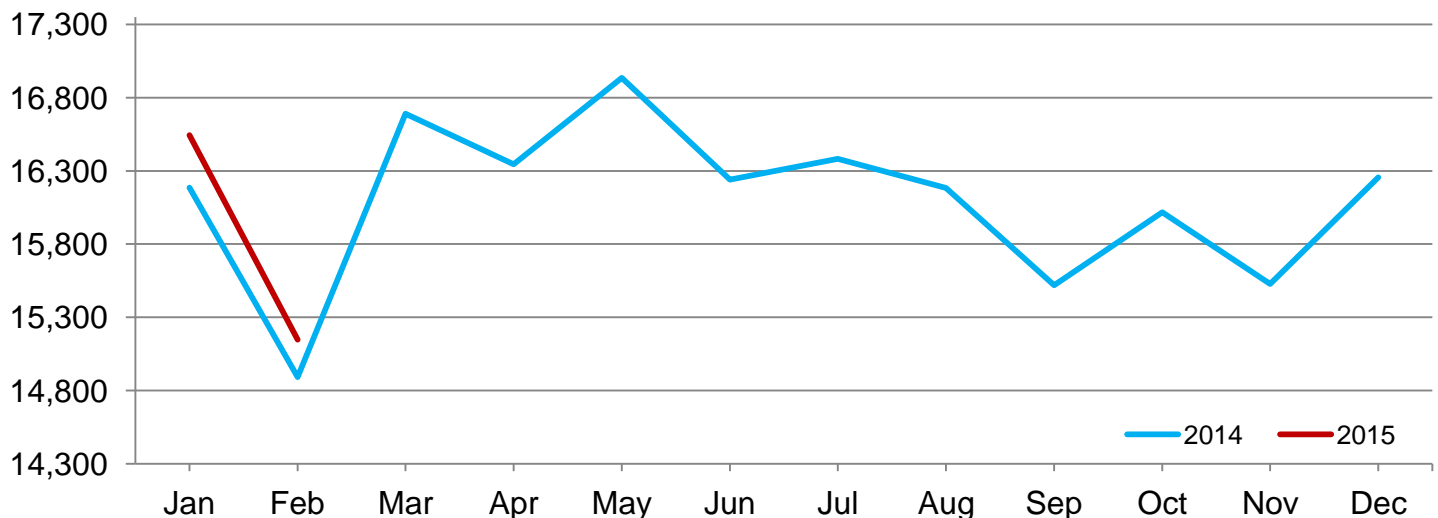
Milk production in the United States during February totaled 16.2 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2014.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,736 pounds for February, 9 pounds above February 2014.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.31 million head, 100,000 head more than February 2014, and 3,000 head more than January 2015.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2014-2015

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Percent)
January-March	9,216		5,536		51,020		
April-June	9,253		5,717		52,897		
July-September	9,270		5,520		51,173		
October-December	9,287		5,487		50,956		
Annual	9,257		22,258		206,046		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,516	8,620	1,901	1,919	16,186	16,544	2.2
February	8,516	8,622	1,749	1,757	14,892	15,149	1.7
March	8,530		1,957		16,690		
April	8,547		1,912		16,344		
May	8,558		1,979		16,934		
June	8,572		1,895		16,241		
July	8,583		1,909		16,381		
August	8,585		1,885		16,184		
September	8,593		1,806		15,519		
October	8,594		1,864		16,017		
November	8,598		1,806		15,527		
December	8,611		1,888		16,256		
Annual	8,567		22,551		193,171		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,212	9,309	1,876	1,897	17,284	17,658	2.2
February	9,212	9,312	1,727	1,736	15,907	16,170	1.7
March	9,223		1,933		17,829		
April	9,240		1,892		17,480		
May	9,252		1,956		18,094		
June	9,267		1,869		17,323		
July	9,268		1,881		17,435		
August	9,268		1,858		17,224		
September	9,274		1,781		16,514		
October	9,277		1,840		17,071		
November	9,284		1,783		16,551		
December	9,299		1,864		17,334		
Annual	9,257		22,258		206,046		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	192	195	1,965	1,990	377	388	2.9
California	1,780	1,778	1,910	1,840	3,400	3,272	-3.8
Colorado	140	145	1,885	1,960	264	284	7.6
Florida	123	124	1,715	1,775	211	220	4.3
Idaho	567	580	1,820	1,805	1,032	1,047	1.5
Illinois	95	95	1,545	1,580	147	150	2.0
Indiana	176	181	1,660	1,705	292	309	5.8
Iowa	205	210	1,725	1,765	354	371	4.8
Kansas	137	143	1,695	1,730	232	247	6.5
Michigan	381	403	1,880	1,915	716	772	7.8
Minnesota	460	460	1,530	1,595	704	734	4.3
New Mexico	323	323	1,950	1,880	630	607	-3.7
New York	615	616	1,690	1,725	1,039	1,063	2.3
Ohio	266	268	1,545	1,570	411	421	2.4
Oregon	124	125	1,595	1,590	198	199	0.5
Pennsylvania	531	530	1,565	1,600	831	848	2.0
South Dakota	95	101	1,650	1,700	157	172	9.6
Texas	447	470	1,745	1,730	780	813	4.2
Utah	95	97	1,685	1,765	160	171	6.9
Vermont	132	132	1,545	1,545	204	204	-
Virginia	93	93	1,500	1,500	140	140	-
Washington	269	277	1,850	1,840	498	510	2.4
Wisconsin	1,270	1,276	1,665	1,730	2,115	2,207	4.3
23-State Total	8,516	8,622	1,749	1,757	14,892	15,149	1.7

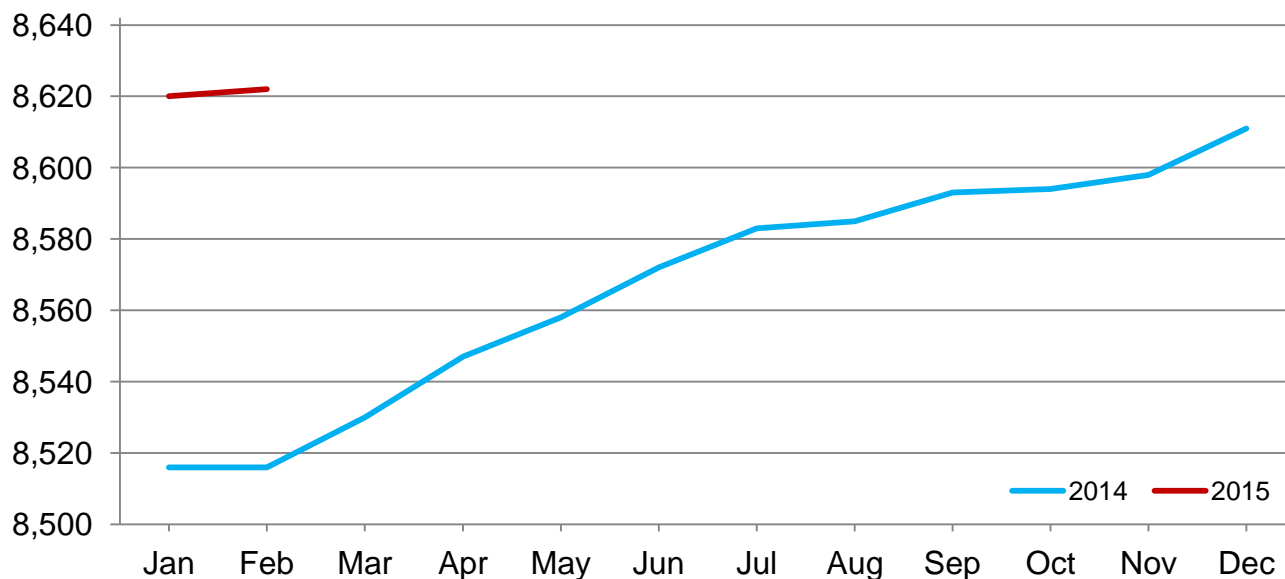
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: January 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	192	195	2,070	2,115	397	412	3.8
California	1,781	1,779	2,035	1,985	3,624	3,531	-2.6
Colorado	140	145	2,085	2,140	292	310	6.2
Florida	123	124	1,810	1,875	223	233	4.5
Idaho	566	580	2,005	1,990	1,135	1,154	1.7
Illinois	95	95	1,675	1,725	159	164	3.1
Indiana	178	181	1,810	1,890	322	342	6.2
Iowa	205	210	1,905	1,950	391	410	4.9
Kansas	137	143	1,870	1,890	256	270	5.5
Michigan	381	403	2,045	2,100	779	846	8.6
Minnesota	460	460	1,690	1,745	777	803	3.3
New Mexico	323	323	2,110	2,070	682	669	-1.9
New York	615	616	1,845	1,905	1,135	1,173	3.3
Ohio	267	268	1,700	1,750	454	469	3.3
Oregon	124	125	1,735	1,720	215	215	-
Pennsylvania	531	530	1,700	1,755	903	930	3.0
South Dakota	95	100	1,820	1,880	173	188	8.7
Texas	445	470	1,925	1,905	857	895	4.4
Utah	95	96	1,840	1,950	175	187	6.9
Vermont	132	132	1,690	1,710	223	226	1.3
Virginia	93	93	1,650	1,650	153	153	-
Washington	268	277	2,025	2,000	543	554	2.0
Wisconsin	1,270	1,275	1,825	1,890	2,318	2,410	4.0
23-State Total	8,516	8,620	1,901	1,919	16,186	16,544	2.2

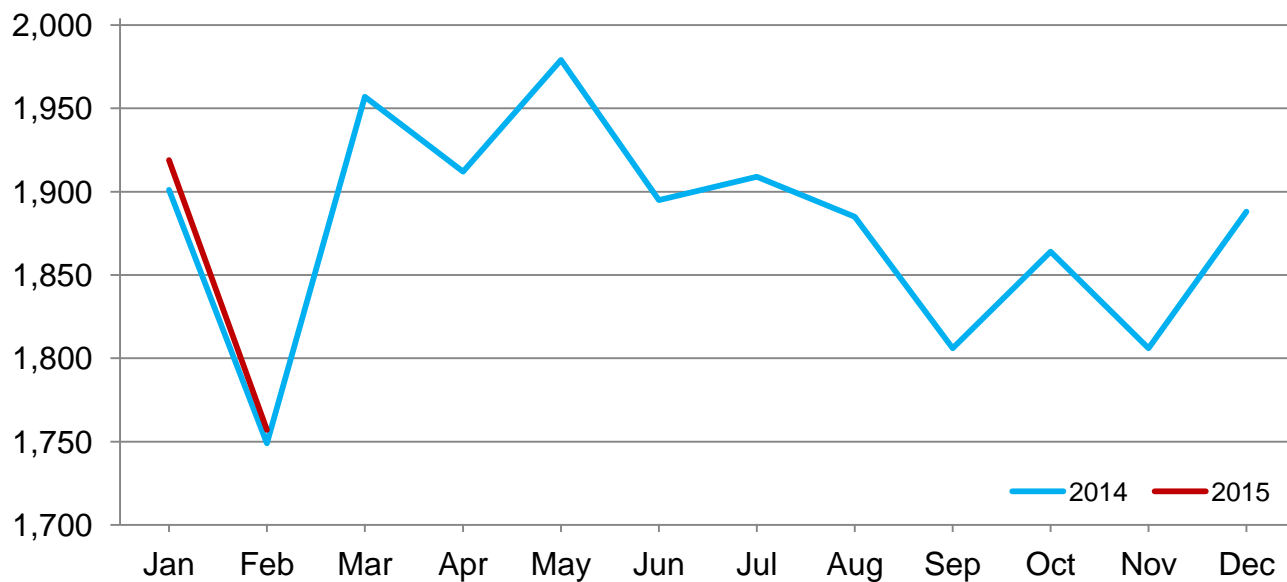
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



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 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, milk per cow, and number of milk cows are subject to revision the following month after initial publication for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, administrative data from Federal Market Orders, State Departments of Agriculture, or other sources are the main basis for revisions. However, administrative data for all States may not be available in time for these revisions. 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 in the table below. 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 production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 15.1 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.4 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	0.4	27	0	89	16	6
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	5	0	16	14	7

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.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Evan Schulz – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-6147

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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.

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