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April Milk Production up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 16.8 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from April 2015. March revised production, at 17.2 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from March 2015. The March revision represented an increase of 7 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,948 pounds for April, 19 pounds above April 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of April since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.65 million head, 21,000 head more than April 2015, and 4,000 head more than March 2016.

April Milk Production in the United States up 1.2 Percent

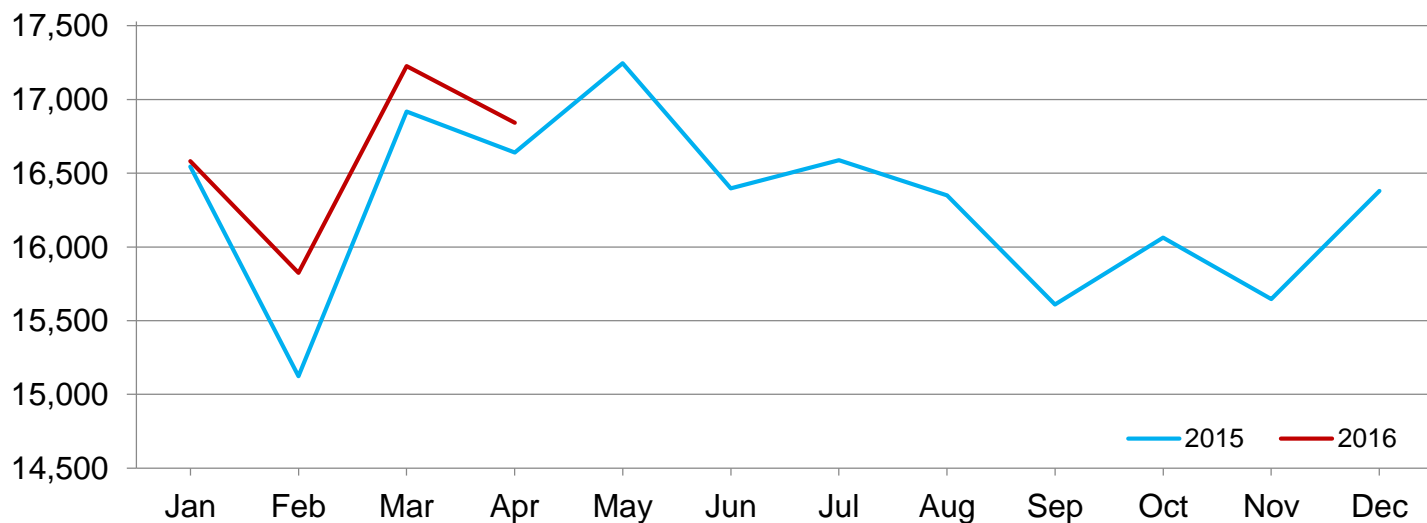
Milk production in the United States during April totaled 18.0 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from April 2015.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,929 pounds for April, 20 pounds above April 2015.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.33 million head, 15,000 head more than April 2015, and 4,000 head more than March 2016.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2015-2016

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	Change from 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,309	9,317	5,579	5,693	51,936	53,045	2.1
April-June	9,321		5,763		53,720		
July-September	9,315		5,549		51,685		
October-December	9,321		5,503		51,292		
Annual	9,317		22,393		208,633		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2015-2016

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	Change from 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,621	8,627	1,919	1,922	16,544	16,581	0.2
February	8,621	8,633	1,754	1,833	15,124	15,824	4.6
March	8,623	8,644	1,962	1,993	16,918	17,227	1.8
April	8,627	8,648	1,929	1,948	16,641	16,843	1.2
May	8,633		1,998		17,246		
June	8,630		1,900		16,397		
July	8,630		1,922		16,589		
August	8,633		1,894		16,349		
September	8,636		1,807		15,609		
October	8,638		1,860		16,063		
November	8,640		1,811		15,646		
December	8,638		1,896		16,381		
Annual	8,631		22,652		195,507		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2015-2016

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	Change from 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,308	9,309	1,900	1,903	17,685	17,719	0.2
February	9,308	9,315	1,737	1,816	16,166	16,913	4.6
March	9,311	9,327	1,942	1,974	18,085	18,413	1.8
April	9,316	9,331	1,909	1,929	17,788	18,000	1.2
May	9,324		1,976		18,428		
June	9,323		1,878		17,504		
July	9,314		1,897		17,665		
August	9,315		1,868		17,403		
September	9,317		1,784		16,617		
October	9,320		1,838		17,130		
November	9,322		1,790		16,689		
December	9,320		1,875		17,473		
Annual	9,317		22,393		208,633		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: April 2015 and 2016

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2015
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	195	198	2,200	2,190	429	434	1.2
California	1,779	1,773	2,025	1,965	3,602	3,484	-3.3
Colorado	145	149	2,170	2,155	315	321	1.9
Florida	125	124	1,895	1,855	237	230	-3.0
Idaho	585	591	2,005	2,025	1,173	1,197	2.0
Illinois	95	94	1,760	1,790	167	168	0.6
Indiana	181	184	1,875	1,900	339	350	3.2
Iowa	212	212	1,940	2,005	411	425	3.4
Kansas	144	144	1,945	1,940	280	279	-0.4
Michigan	404	417	2,100	2,165	848	903	6.5
Minnesota	460	460	1,720	1,765	791	812	2.7
New Mexico	323	311	2,105	2,110	680	656	-3.5
New York	617	620	1,875	1,965	1,157	1,218	5.3
Ohio	268	266	1,730	1,745	464	464	-
Oregon	125	126	1,735	1,745	217	220	1.4
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,745	1,755	925	930	0.5
South Dakota	103	114	1,840	1,840	190	210	10.5
Texas	462	463	1,940	1,965	896	910	1.6
Utah	96	95	1,950	1,945	187	185	-1.1
Vermont	131	131	1,695	1,740	222	228	2.7
Virginia	92	90	1,680	1,665	155	150	-3.2
Washington	277	277	2,020	2,030	560	562	0.4
Wisconsin	1,278	1,279	1,875	1,960	2,396	2,507	4.6
23-State Total	8,627	8,648	1,929	1,948	16,641	16,843	1.2

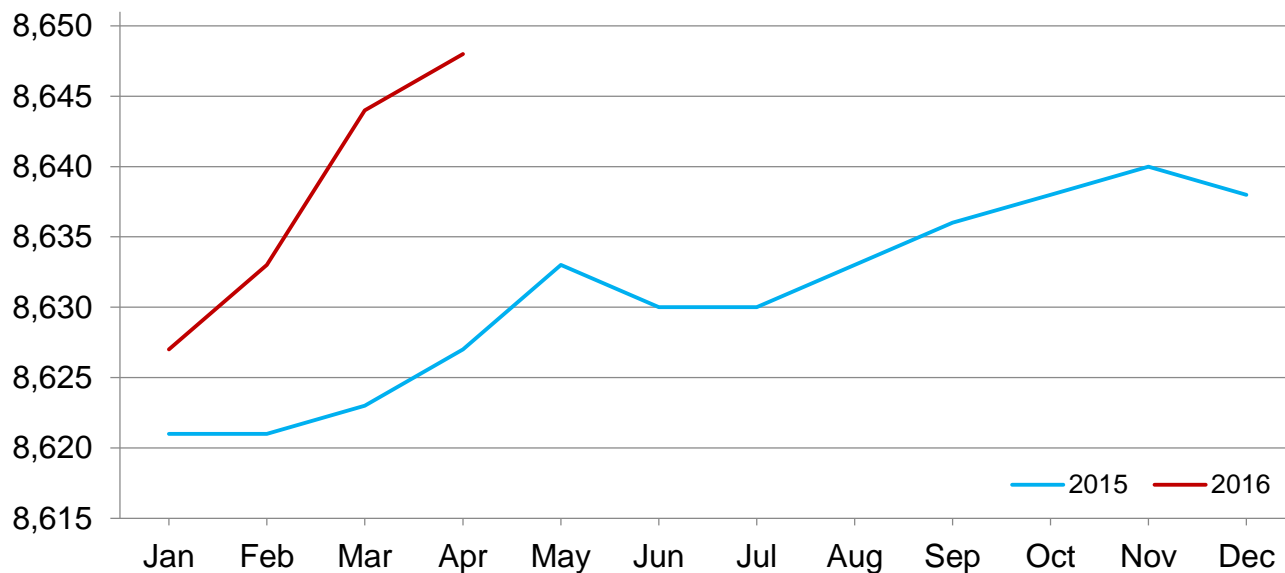
- Represents zero.

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: March 2015 and 2016

[May not add due to rounding]

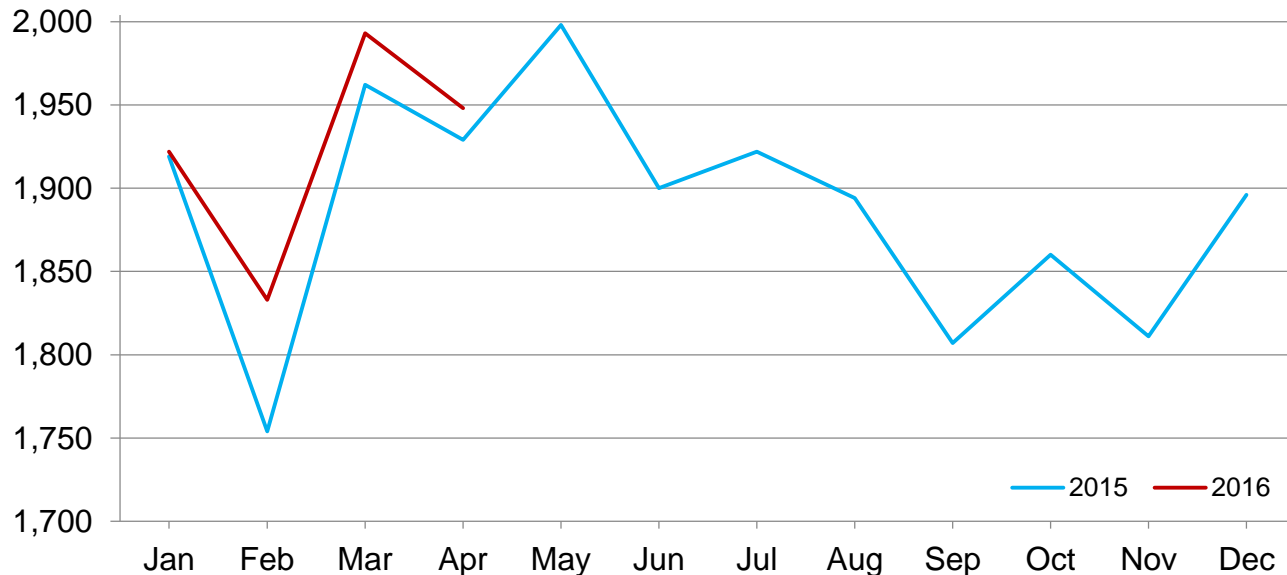
	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2015
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	195	198	2,265	2,265	442	448	1.4
California	1,779	1,773	2,080	2,035	3,700	3,608	-2.5
Colorado	145	149	2,190	2,210	318	329	3.5
Florida	125	125	1,960	1,895	245	237	-3.3
Idaho	583	591	2,035	2,075	1,186	1,226	3.4
Illinois	95	94	1,770	1,830	168	172	2.4
Indiana	181	184	1,895	1,945	343	358	4.4
Iowa	211	211	1,965	2,035	415	429	3.4
Kansas	144	144	1,970	1,990	284	287	1.1
Michigan	403	416	2,130	2,220	858	924	7.7
Minnesota	460	460	1,760	1,810	810	833	2.8
New Mexico	323	311	2,125	2,140	686	666	-2.9
New York	617	620	1,905	1,995	1,175	1,237	5.3
Ohio	268	266	1,745	1,780	468	473	1.1
Oregon	125	126	1,785	1,780	223	224	0.4
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,770	1,780	938	943	0.5
South Dakota	102	114	1,890	1,890	193	215	11.4
Texas	464	458	1,925	1,990	893	911	2.0
Utah	96	95	1,990	1,975	191	188	-1.6
Vermont	132	131	1,720	1,780	227	233	2.6
Virginia	92	91	1,685	1,695	155	154	-0.6
Washington	277	277	2,055	2,065	569	572	0.5
Wisconsin	1,276	1,280	1,905	2,000	2,431	2,560	5.3
23-State Total	8,623	8,644	1,962	1,993	16,918	17,227	1.8

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 Survey.

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 16.8 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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	26	4	71	20	4
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	16	19	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.

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Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

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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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