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February Milk Production down 1.0 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 15.7 billion pounds, down 1.0 percent from February 2016. However, production was 2.5 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production, at 17.0 billion pounds, was up 2.7 percent from January 2016. The January revision represented a decrease of 4 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,801 pounds for February, 32 pounds below February 2016.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.69 million head, 66,000 head more than February 2016, and 3,000 head more than January 2017.

February Milk Production in the United States down 1.2 Percent

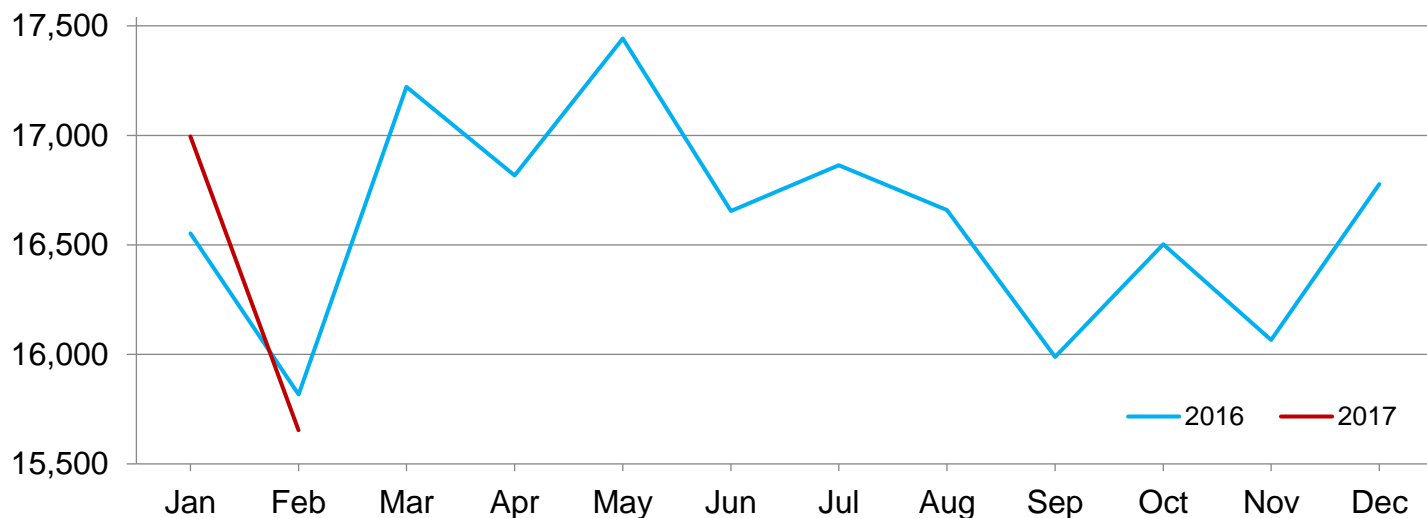
Milk production in the United States during February totaled 16.7 billion pounds, down 1.2 percent from February 2016. However, production was 2.3 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,782 pounds for February, 33 pounds below February 2016.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.37 million head, 56,000 head more than February 2016, and 4,000 head more than January 2017.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2016-2017

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change from 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,312		5,691		52,998		
April-June	9,323		5,828		54,331		
July-September	9,331		5,636		52,590		
October-December	9,344		5,620		52,517		
Annual	9,328		22,774		212,436		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2016-2017

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change from 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,621	8,691	1,920	1,955	16,553	16,995	2.7
February	8,628	8,694	1,833	1,801	15,817	15,654	-1.0
March	8,637		1,994		17,222		
April	8,638		1,947		16,817		
May	8,641		2,019		17,442		
June	8,648		1,926		16,654		
July	8,658		1,948		16,863		
August	8,666		1,922		16,659		
September	8,664		1,845		15,989		
October	8,668		1,904		16,503		
November	8,675		1,852		16,066		
December	8,683		1,932		16,777		
Annual	8,652		23,042		199,362		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2016-2017

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change from 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,304	9,363	1,902	1,936	17,693	18,127	2.5
February	9,311	9,367	1,815	1,782	16,904	16,695	-1.2
March	9,321		1,974		18,401		
April	9,321		1,925		17,947		
May	9,322		1,997		18,613		
June	9,326		1,906		17,771		
July	9,329		1,920		17,908		
August	9,334		1,895		17,692		
September	9,331		1,821		16,990		
October	9,335		1,882		17,565		
November	9,344		1,830		17,100		
December	9,354		1,908		17,852		
Annual	9,328		22,774		212,436		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2016 and 2017

[May not add due to rounding]

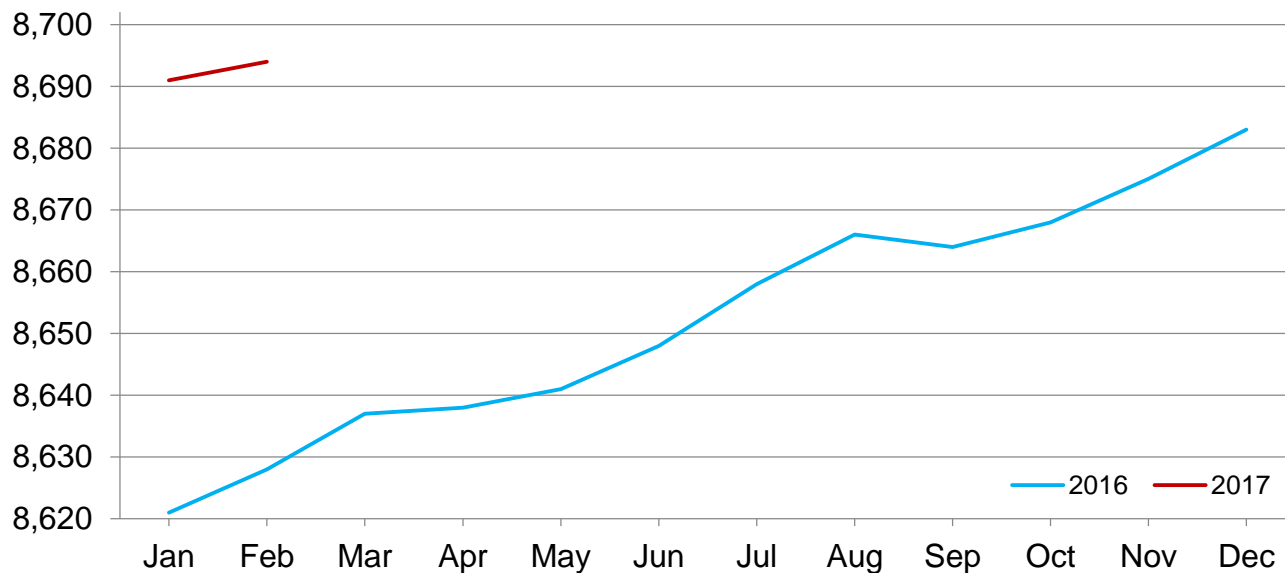
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2016
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	197	199	2,095	2,060	413	410	-0.7
California	1,769	1,754	1,865	1,780	3,299	3,122	-5.4
Colorado	148	156	2,050	2,005	303	313	3.3
Florida	126	122	1,715	1,705	216	208	-3.7
Idaho	589	600	1,910	1,825	1,125	1,095	-2.7
Illinois	94	93	1,660	1,630	156	152	-2.6
Indiana	184	186	1,815	1,780	334	331	-0.9
Iowa	211	216	1,870	1,845	395	399	1.0
Kansas	143	151	1,830	1,800	262	272	3.8
Michigan	414	425	2,050	2,020	849	859	1.2
Minnesota	460	460	1,680	1,670	773	768	-0.6
New Mexico	311	325	1,900	1,960	591	637	7.8
New York	620	621	1,845	1,845	1,144	1,146	0.2
Ohio	266	262	1,640	1,620	436	424	-2.8
Oregon	126	124	1,650	1,580	208	196	-5.8
Pennsylvania	530	525	1,630	1,635	864	858	-0.7
South Dakota	113	117	1,770	1,725	200	202	1.0
Texas	455	495	1,815	1,875	826	928	12.3
Utah	93	92	1,715	1,740	159	160	0.6
Vermont	131	129	1,650	1,645	216	212	-1.9
Virginia	91	87	1,565	1,570	142	137	-3.5
Washington	277	275	1,920	1,825	532	502	-5.6
Wisconsin	1,280	1,280	1,855	1,815	2,374	2,323	-2.1
23-State Total	8,628	8,694	1,833	1,801	15,817	15,654	-1.0

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 2016 and 2017

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2016
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	195	198	2,110	2,145	411	425	3.4
California	1,769	1,755	1,940	1,945	3,432	3,413	-0.6
Colorado	148	155	2,160	2,175	320	337	5.3
Florida	126	122	1,810	1,850	228	226	-0.9
Idaho	588	600	2,005	1,995	1,179	1,197	1.5
Illinois	94	93	1,745	1,765	164	164	-
Indiana	184	186	1,915	1,930	352	359	2.0
Iowa	210	215	1,985	2,000	417	430	3.1
Kansas	142	151	1,905	1,935	271	292	7.7
Michigan	413	425	2,170	2,190	896	931	3.9
Minnesota	460	460	1,770	1,805	814	830	2.0
New Mexico	310	325	1,900	2,090	589	679	15.3
New York	620	621	1,960	2,030	1,215	1,261	3.8
Ohio	266	262	1,765	1,790	469	469	-
Oregon	126	124	1,720	1,685	217	209	-3.7
Pennsylvania	530	525	1,715	1,765	909	927	2.0
South Dakota	112	117	1,890	1,880	212	220	3.8
Texas	455	494	1,835	2,015	835	995	19.2
Utah	94	92	1,845	1,925	173	177	2.3
Vermont	131	129	1,755	1,805	230	233	1.3
Virginia	91	87	1,645	1,700	150	148	-1.3
Washington	277	275	2,005	1,960	555	539	-2.9
Wisconsin	1,280	1,280	1,965	1,980	2,515	2,534	0.8
23-State Total	8,621	8,691	1,920	1,955	16,553	16,995	2.7

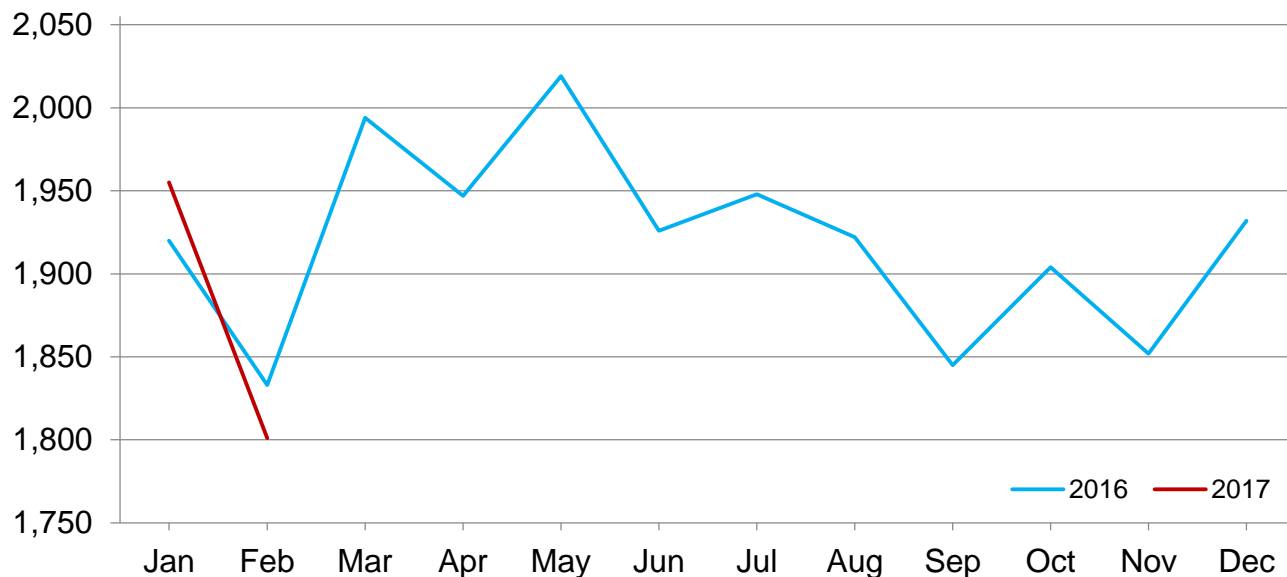
- Represents zero.

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 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 15.7 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	20	1	70	14	10
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	1	10	9	15

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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- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

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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