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April Milk Production up 2.0 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 17.2 billion pounds, up 2.0 percent from April 2016. March revised production, at 17.6 billion pounds, was up 1.9 percent from March 2016. The March revision represented an increase of 30 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,967 pounds for April, 20 pounds above April 2016. 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 8.72 million head, 81,000 head more than April 2016, and 8,000 head more than March 2017.

April Milk Production in the United States up 2.0 Percent

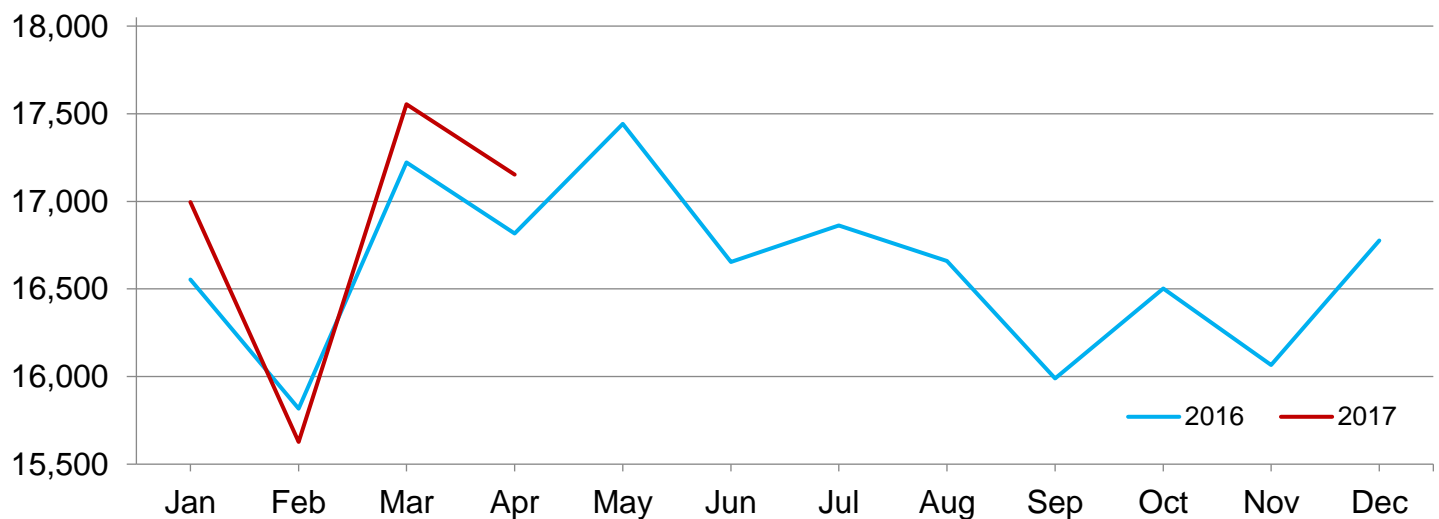
Milk production in the United States during April totaled 18.3 billion pounds, up 2.0 percent from April 2016.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,949 pounds for April, 24 pounds above April 2016.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.39 million head, 69,000 head more than April 2016, and 8,000 head more than March 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. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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	9,370	5,691	5,717	52,998	53,570	1.1
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

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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	1,797	15,817	15,627	-1.2
March	8,637	8,711	1,994	2,015	17,222	17,554	1.9
April	8,638	8,719	1,947	1,967	16,817	17,153	2.0
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

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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	9,362	1,902	1,938	17,693	18,145	2.6
February	9,311	9,365	1,815	1,782	16,904	16,685	-1.3
March	9,321	9,382	1,974	1,997	18,401	18,740	1.8
April	9,321	9,390	1,925	1,949	17,947	18,305	2.0
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: April 2016 and 2017

[May not add due to rounding]

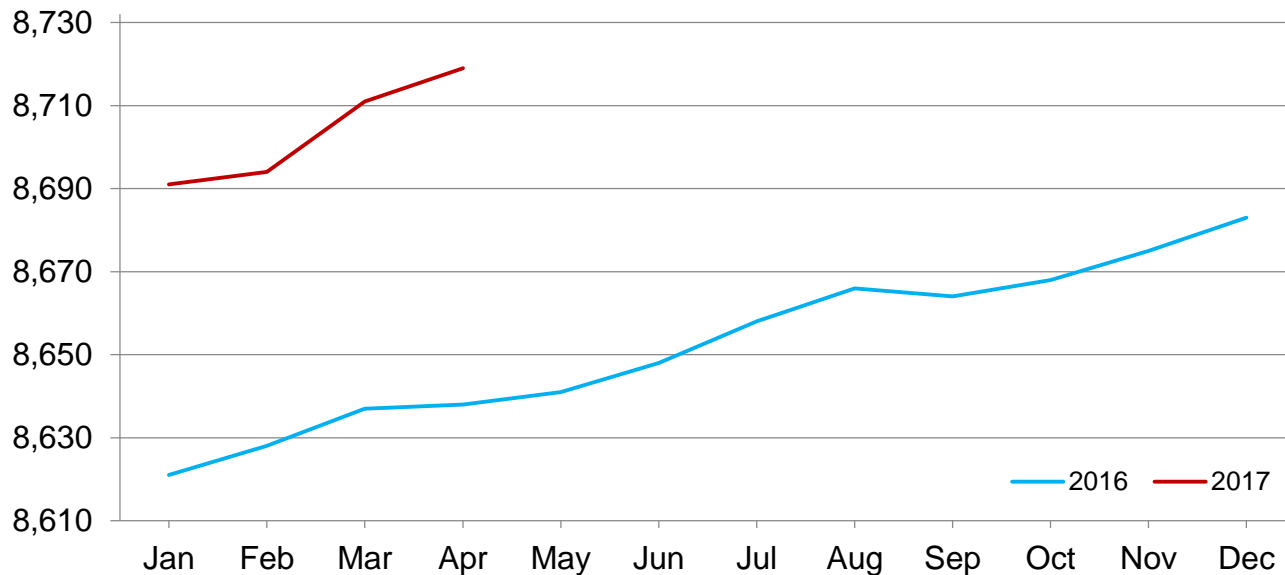
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2016 (percent)
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	
Arizona	197	201	2,160	2,200	426	442	3.8
California	1,766	1,755	1,970	1,960	3,479	3,440	-1.1
Colorado	149	159	2,155	2,165	321	344	7.2
Florida	124	125	1,855	1,865	230	233	1.3
Idaho	591	596	2,025	1,995	1,197	1,189	-0.7
Illinois	94	93	1,780	1,790	167	166	-0.6
Indiana	184	186	1,920	1,955	353	364	3.1
Iowa	212	217	1,990	1,990	422	432	2.4
Kansas	144	153	1,940	1,955	279	299	7.2
Michigan	417	425	2,165	2,215	903	941	4.2
Minnesota	460	459	1,760	1,800	810	826	2.0
New Mexico	311	328	2,110	2,150	656	705	7.5
New York	620	623	1,965	2,030	1,218	1,265	3.9
Ohio	266	262	1,770	1,810	471	474	0.6
Oregon	126	124	1,760	1,720	222	213	-4.1
Pennsylvania	530	525	1,745	1,805	925	948	2.5
South Dakota	114	117	1,840	1,860	210	218	3.8
Texas	465	510	1,955	2,010	909	1,025	12.8
Utah	92	92	1,885	1,925	173	177	2.3
Vermont	131	129	1,740	1,785	228	230	0.9
Virginia	90	87	1,665	1,755	150	153	2.0
Washington	276	273	2,010	1,980	555	541	-2.5
Wisconsin	1,279	1,280	1,965	1,975	2,513	2,528	0.6
23-State Total	8,638	8,719	1,947	1,967	16,817	17,153	2.0

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: March 2016 and 2017

[May not add due to rounding]

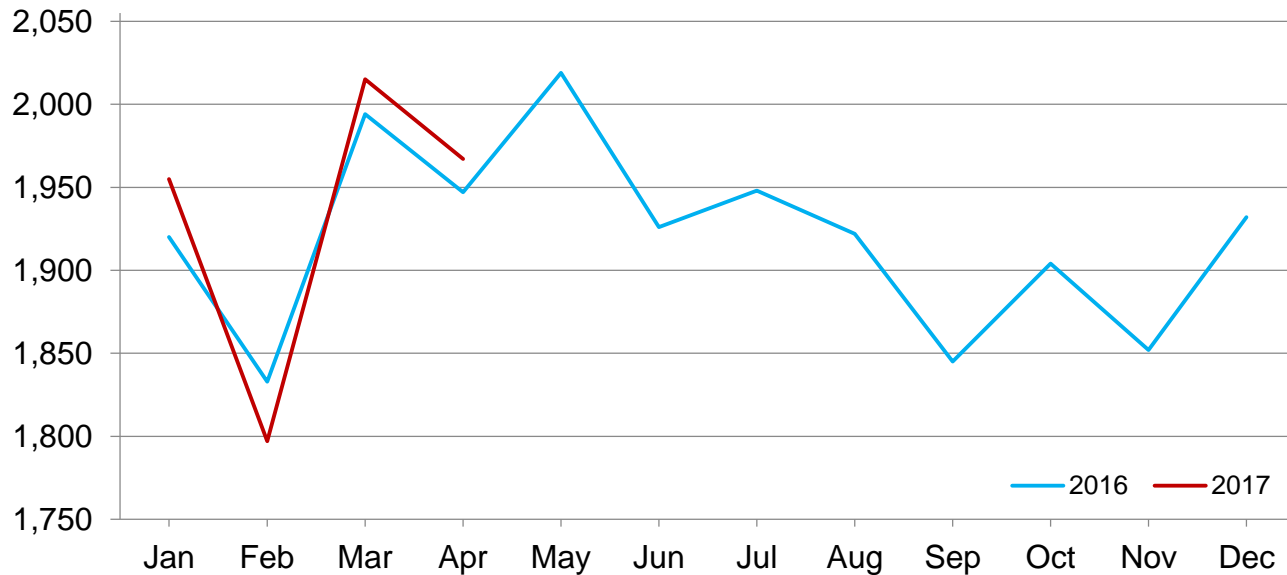
	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2016
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	197	201	2,260	2,300	445	462	3.8
California	1,767	1,755	2,040	1,995	3,605	3,501	-2.9
Colorado	149	158	2,210	2,235	329	353	7.3
Florida	125	124	1,895	1,925	237	239	0.8
Idaho	591	596	2,075	2,025	1,226	1,207	-1.5
Illinois	94	93	1,830	1,860	172	173	0.6
Indiana	184	186	1,960	1,980	361	368	1.9
Iowa	212	216	2,045	2,045	434	442	1.8
Kansas	144	153	1,990	2,030	287	311	8.4
Michigan	416	425	2,220	2,265	924	963	4.2
Minnesota	460	459	1,810	1,855	833	851	2.2
New Mexico	311	327	2,140	2,220	666	726	9.0
New York	620	622	1,995	2,060	1,237	1,281	3.6
Ohio	266	262	1,790	1,855	476	486	2.1
Oregon	126	124	1,800	1,750	227	217	-4.4
Pennsylvania	530	525	1,770	1,840	938	966	3.0
South Dakota	114	117	1,890	1,915	215	224	4.2
Texas	460	507	1,990	2,100	915	1,065	16.4
Utah	92	92	1,915	1,945	176	179	1.7
Vermont	131	129	1,780	1,820	233	235	0.9
Virginia	91	87	1,695	1,795	154	156	1.3
Washington	277	273	2,065	2,020	572	551	-3.7
Wisconsin	1,280	1,280	2,000	2,030	2,560	2,598	1.5
23-State Total	8,637	8,711	1,994	2,015	17,222	17,554	1.9

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 17.2 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	19	1	70	14	10
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	10	9	14

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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Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
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Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

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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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