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February Milk Production up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 15.9 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from February 2017. January revised production, at 17.3 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2017. The January revision represented an increase of 9 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,822 pounds for February, 23 pounds above February 2017.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.75 million head, 49,000 head more than February 2017, and 1,000 head more than January 2018.

February Milk Production in the United States up 1.8 Percent

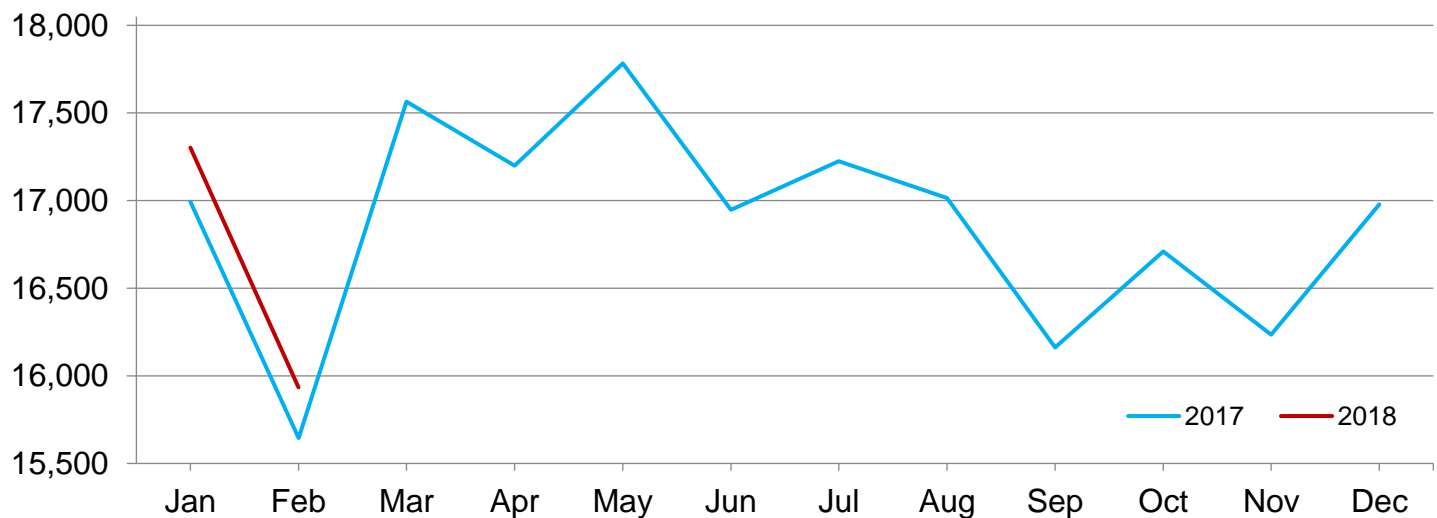
Milk production in the United States during February totaled 17.0 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from February 2017.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,807 pounds for February, 24 pounds above February 2017.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.41 million head, 45,000 head more than February 2017, and 1,000 head more than January 2018.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2017-2018

[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		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change from 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,369		5,717		53,562		
April-June	9,399		5,888		55,344		
July-September	9,402		5,687		53,473		
October-December	9,398		5,649		53,087		
Annual	9,392		22,941		215,466		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2017-2018

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change from 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,691	8,744	1,955	1,979	16,993	17,302	1.8
February	8,696	8,745	1,799	1,822	15,645	15,934	1.8
March	8,714		2,016		17,564		
April	8,722		1,972		17,200		
May	8,730		2,037		17,783		
June	8,733		1,941		16,947		
July	8,734		1,972		17,224		
August	8,741		1,946		17,014		
September	8,737		1,850		16,162		
October	8,731		1,914		16,710		
November	8,734		1,859		16,235		
December	8,736		1,943		16,978		
Annual	8,725		23,204		202,455		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2017-2018

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change from 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,359	9,409	1,937	1,962	18,128	18,459	1.8
February	9,365	9,410	1,783	1,807	16,694	17,000	1.8
March	9,383		1,997		18,740		
April	9,392		1,952		18,332		
May	9,401		2,016		18,952		
June	9,404		1,920		18,060		
July	9,404		1,943		18,268		
August	9,404		1,919		18,049		
September	9,399		1,825		17,156		
October	9,395		1,891		17,769		
November	9,398		1,837		17,260		
December	9,400		1,921		18,058		
Annual	9,392		22,941		215,466		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2017 and 2018

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2017
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	200	206	2,050	2,040	410	420	2.4
California	1,755	1,738	1,780	1,860	3,124	3,233	3.5
Colorado	156	168	2,005	2,005	313	337	7.7
Florida	123	124	1,730	1,670	213	207	-2.8
Idaho	596	605	1,800	1,860	1,073	1,125	4.8
Illinois	93	93	1,640	1,650	153	153	-
Indiana	186	187	1,780	1,780	331	333	0.6
Iowa	216	220	1,830	1,825	395	402	1.8
Kansas	151	155	1,805	1,845	273	286	4.8
Michigan	425	428	2,030	2,035	863	871	0.9
Minnesota	460	455	1,660	1,670	764	760	-0.5
New Mexico	325	334	1,960	1,970	637	658	3.3
New York	621	625	1,860	1,805	1,155	1,128	-2.3
Ohio	262	262	1,640	1,630	430	427	-0.7
Oregon	124	124	1,555	1,565	193	194	0.5
Pennsylvania	525	525	1,635	1,640	858	861	0.3
South Dakota	117	118	1,715	1,705	201	201	-
Texas	499	515	1,860	1,900	928	979	5.5
Utah	92	97	1,730	1,755	159	170	6.9
Vermont	129	128	1,645	1,625	212	208	-1.9
Virginia	87	87	1,585	1,570	138	137	-0.7
Washington	274	276	1,795	1,850	492	511	3.9
Wisconsin	1,280	1,275	1,820	1,830	2,330	2,333	0.1
23-State Total	8,696	8,745	1,799	1,822	15,645	15,934	1.8

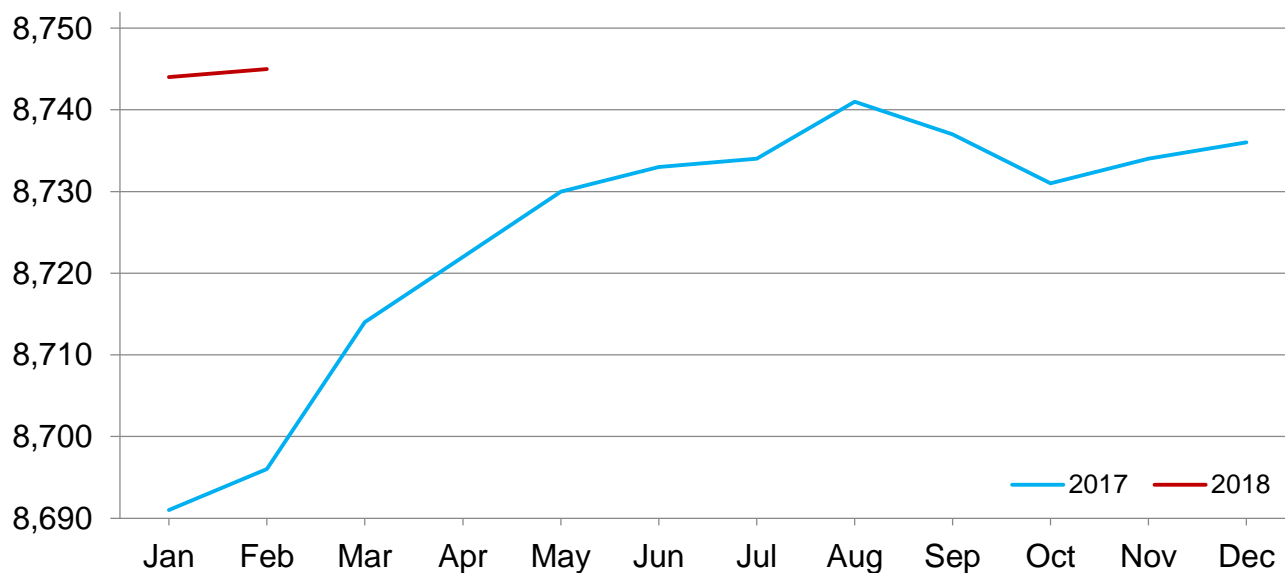
- Represents zero.

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 2017 and 2018

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2017
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	198	205	2,145	2,165	425	444	4.5
California	1,755	1,738	1,945	2,005	3,413	3,485	2.1
Colorado	155	168	2,175	2,220	337	373	10.7
Florida	122	124	1,850	1,775	226	220	-2.7
Idaho	600	605	1,995	2,055	1,197	1,243	3.8
Illinois	93	93	1,765	1,800	164	167	1.8
Indiana	186	187	1,930	1,945	359	364	1.4
Iowa	215	220	2,000	2,015	430	443	3.0
Kansas	151	154	1,935	1,985	292	306	4.8
Michigan	425	428	2,190	2,190	931	937	0.6
Minnesota	460	455	1,805	1,835	830	835	0.6
New Mexico	325	334	2,090	2,135	679	713	5.0
New York	621	625	2,030	1,955	1,261	1,222	-3.1
Ohio	262	262	1,790	1,770	469	464	-1.1
Oregon	124	124	1,685	1,695	209	210	0.5
Pennsylvania	525	525	1,765	1,770	927	929	0.2
South Dakota	117	119	1,880	1,855	220	221	0.5
Texas	494	515	2,015	2,045	995	1,053	5.8
Utah	92	97	1,905	1,945	175	189	8.0
Vermont	129	128	1,805	1,780	233	228	-2.1
Virginia	87	87	1,700	1,700	148	148	-
Washington	275	276	1,960	2,020	539	558	3.5
Wisconsin	1,280	1,275	1,980	2,000	2,534	2,550	0.6
23-State Total	8,691	8,744	1,955	1,979	16,993	17,302	1.8

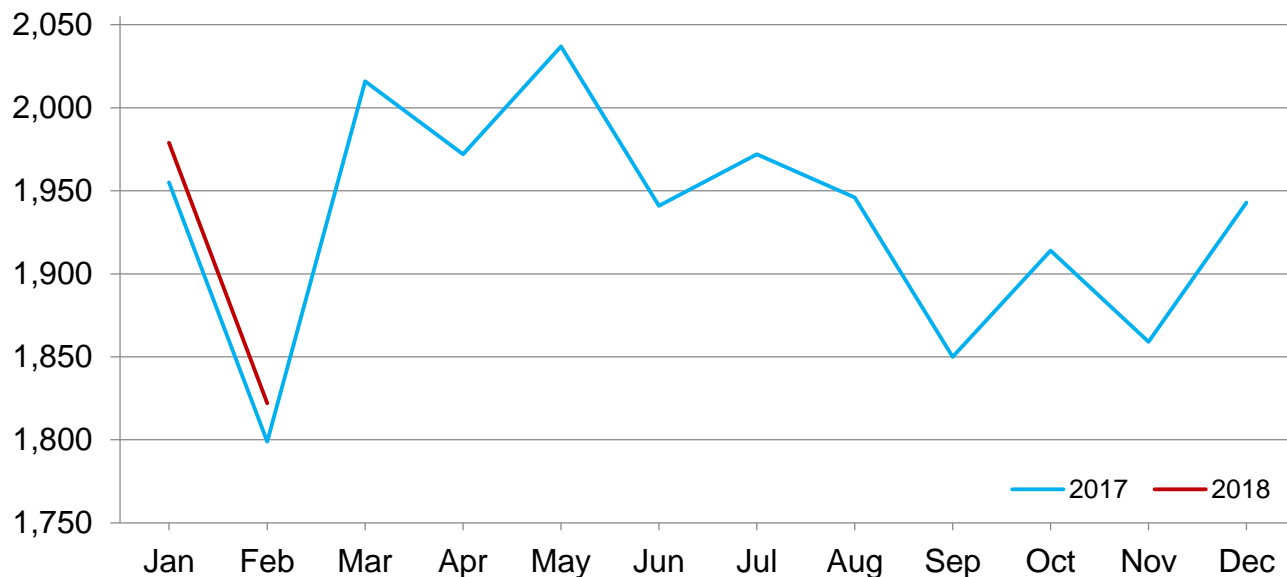
- Represents zero.

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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 such as Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Dairy Market News. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Survey.

Estimation Procedures: Regional Field 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 15.9 billion pounds by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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	18	1	48	16	8
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	10	13	10

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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Heidi Gleich – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

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For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- 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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USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting
Tuesday, April 24, 2018

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312-464-8787

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2018 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php). Contact Tina Hall (NASS) at 202-720-3896 or tina.hall@nass.usda.gov or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (<http://lmic.info/page/meetings>) or contact James Robb at 303-716-9933.