

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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MILK PRODUCTION SEPTEMBER 1, 1937

On September 1 milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was between 5 and 6 percent higher than the rather low production on that date last year but only 1 percent above the September 1 average during the previous ten years. With about one-half percent fewer milk cows on farms than a year ago, total milk production appears to have been about 5 percent above that on September 1, 1936. For the past several months milk production has been considerably heavier than in the summer of 1936, when production was reduced by the drought. This spread will probably not be maintained during the early fall months since production was unusually heavy last year just after the drought was broken. However, with adequate grain supplies in prospect, feeding during the winter months is expected to be moderately heavy and production will probably average higher than last winter.

Milk production per cow on September 1 was most sharply above last year in the West North Central, South Central and Western regions where farmers have been milking an unusually large proportion of their milk cows. Good pastures have aided in maintaining milk production in most of the Eastern dairy areas. In the latter part of the summer, pastures furnished a larger proportion of the feed of milk cows than in any of the last half dozen years except 1935, a year in which summer grain feeding was the lightest on record. The quantity of grain fed per milk cow this summer has been small in the Corn Belt where grain was scarce but elsewhere has been average or above. For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on September 1 averaged 13.29 pounds compared with 12.57 pounds on September 1 last year, 13.53 pounds on September 1, 1935, and a 1925-34 average for that date of 13.08 pounds. In the same herds, 74.5 percent of the milk cows were reported milked on September 1 compared with 73.5 percent last year and 73.7 on September 1, 1935, the highest percent previously reported for that date.

DAIRY PASTURES

Dairy pastures in the eastern part of the United States were unusually good on September 1, but poor pastures in Wisconsin and much of the mid-west brought the condition for the country as a whole down close to the 10-year average. Pasture condition declined sharply during August in Wisconsin, western Tennessee, central Idaho and northern California, while the area which reflected extreme drought conditions a month ago broadened out to include much more of eastern Colorado, northern Kansas, southern Nebraska, central South Dakota, western North Dakota and central Montana. Along the Atlantic coast, pastures on September 1 averaged the highest for that date since 1928 and in all States east of the Mississippi were reported above average except in Wisconsin, Maine, Vermont, and Florida. For the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures on September 1, averaged 70.5 percent of normal compared with 42.3 percent a year earlier and a 1923-32 average of 70.9 percent for September 1.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}

State	: September 1 :(Avg.) 1925-34 Pounds	: September 1 1935 Pounds	: September 1 1936 Pounds	: September 1 1937 Pounds
N. Eng.	14.63	15.77	15.47	15.31
N. Y.	15.7	17.1	16.5	16.2
N. J.	18.7	19.7	18.8	19.2
Pa.	16.0	17.8	17.1	17.0
N. ATL.	15.56	17.15	16.58	16.49
Ohio	15.5	15.9	15.4	15.9
Ind.	14.9	15.1	14.2	14.8
Ill.	14.0	14.4	13.2	13.8
Mich.	16.1	17.1	16.4	16.8
Wis.	15.1	16.8	14.6	14.9
E. N. CENT.	15.10	16.04	14.59	15.05
Minn.	12.7	14.1	13.0	13.3
Iowa	13.0	13.4	12.0	12.8
Mo.	10.7	10.7	8.2	11.0
N. Dak.	12.5	13.5	12.4	12.6
S. Dak.	10.9	11.3	10.5	11.1
Nebr.	12.6	13.6	11.6	12.3
Kans.	12.2	12.3	9.6	11.2
W. N. CENT.	12.20	12.73	11.09	12.11
Md.	15.0	15.9	15.3	15.3
Va.	13.1	13.3	13.0	13.5
W. Va.	13.6	13.5	13.8	13.7
N. C.	12.5	11.6	12.3	12.2
S. C.	10.5	10.4	11.4	11.1
S. ATL.	11.81	11.45	11.92	12.10
Ky.	13.2	13.6	11.9	13.2
Tenn.	11.4	11.7	11.2	11.6
Miss.	7.9	6.3	7.6	8.0
Ark.	9.0	7.9	7.2	8.8
Okla.	10.3	9.2	8.1	10.2
Tex.	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.8
S. CENT.	9.64	9.42	8.97	9.96
Mont.	13.5	13.2	12.5	14.9
Idaho	16.4	17.0	17.6	18.3
Wyo.	13.1	13.1	13.5	13.6
Colo.	13.3	12.8	13.6	12.6
Wash.	17.2	17.7	18.1	18.9
Oreg.	14.9	15.0	15.6	15.7
Calif.	16.7	17.4	17.1	17.1
WEST.	14.83	15.07	15.27	16.08
U. S.	13.08	13.53	12.57	13.29

^{1/} Averages obtained by dividing the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds. The regional averages shown were based in part on records from less important dairy States not shown separately, as follows: South Atlantic, Delaware, Georgia, Florida; South Central, Alabama, Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada.