

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

April 11, 1939

MILK PRODUCTION APRIL 1, 1939

After a much sharper than usual seasonal increase during March, milk production in the United States on April 1 was the highest on record for that date from the standpoint of total milk production, production per cow, and production per unit of population, it was announced by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Abundant supplies of hay and grain have encouraged farmers to feed their milk cows liberally in the late months of the winter feeding period, and in the southern half of the country, pastures, although considerably later than a year ago, are furnishing some feed for milk cows.

Heavy milk flow per cow was in evidence rather generally over most of the country. In the several major geographical divisions, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on April 1 ranged from 5 to 10 percent above the 1928-37 average for that date. In comparison with April 1 a year ago, production per cow this year was higher in all regions except one, the South Central. For the country as a whole, milk production per cow on April 1 averaged 3 percent higher than a year earlier and, with milk cow numbers also increased, total milk production appears to have been more than 4 percent greater. This represents the largest April 1 production on record, and, even taking into account the steadily increasing population, is the largest quantity per capita produced on farms at that season in the 15 years of record.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on April 1 averaged 14.51 pounds compared with a previous high record for that date of 14.42 pounds in 1929 and a 1928-37 average of 13.54 pounds for April 1. In these herds 70.8 percent of the milk cows were reported milked, compared with 69.8 percent a year ago and a range of 64.5 percent to 69.8 percent on April 1 in the previous 13 years for which records are available.

DAIRY PASTURES, APRIL 1, 1939

Dairy pastures appear to have started about normally this year, although growth is not so far advanced as at this time a year ago. The condition of dairy pastures on April 1, considering only states where milk cows are usually on pasture at that season, averaged 75 percent of normal. This was slightly higher than average for that date in the recent 10-year period 1928-37, but was substantially below the April 1 condition a year ago and in the 1924-29 period prior to recent droughts.

With feed from pastures confined largely to the Southern States at this time of the year, the condition on April 1 was adversely influenced to a considerable extent by dry weather in California and along the Gulf, and by cool weather in Texas. In other parts of the South, pasture condition was generally average or above for this season. In the Central Plains area, wheat pastures were supplying considerable feed on April 1.

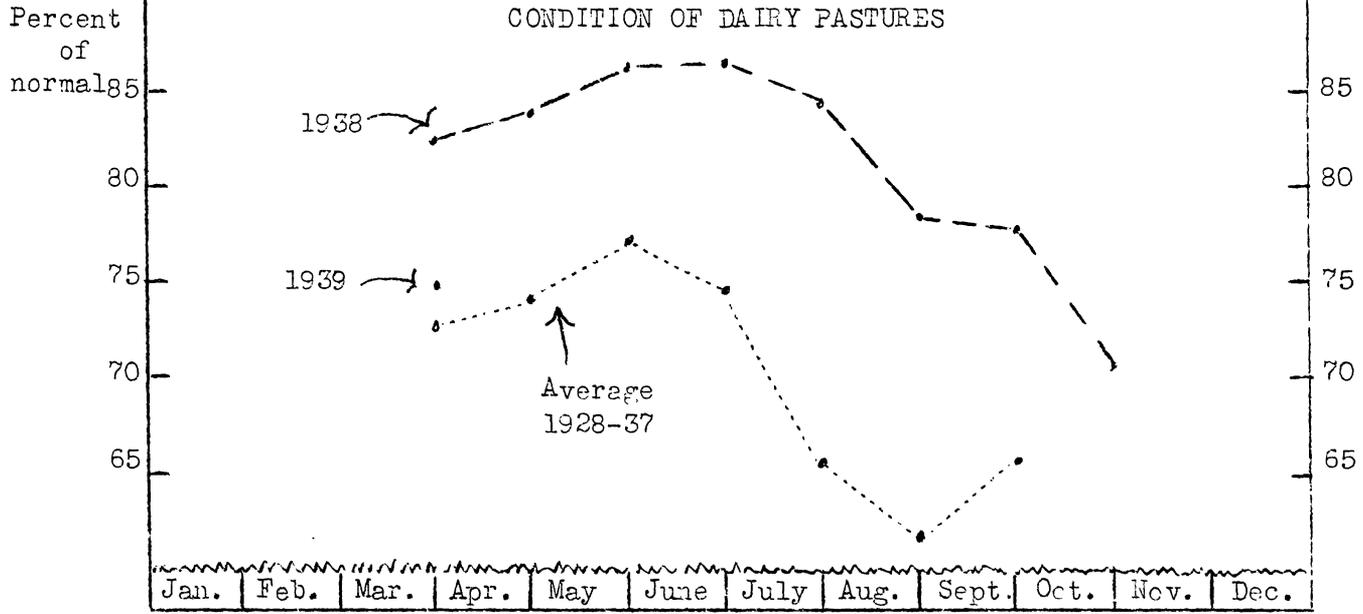
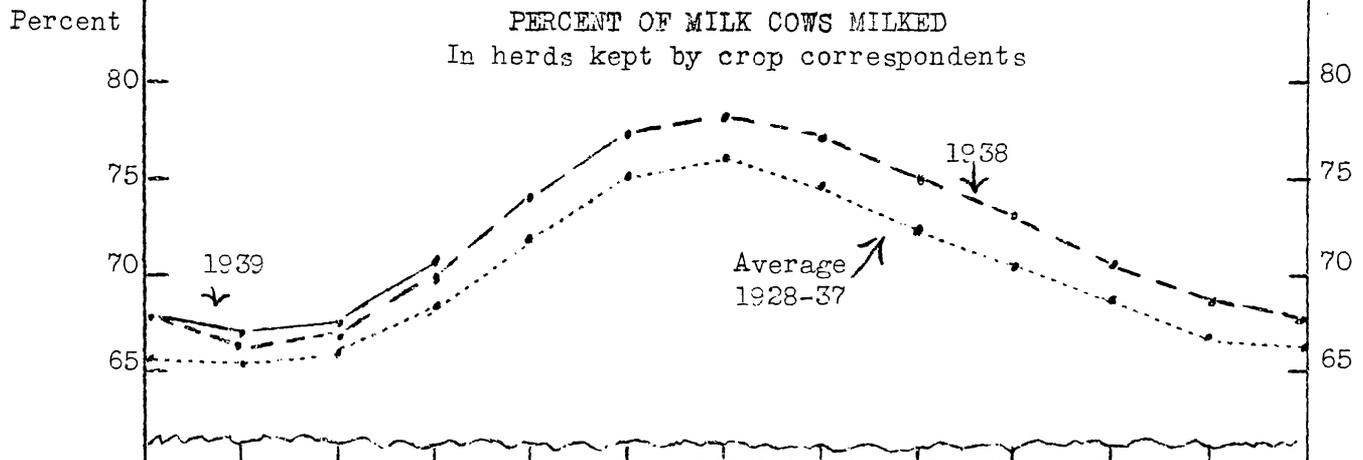
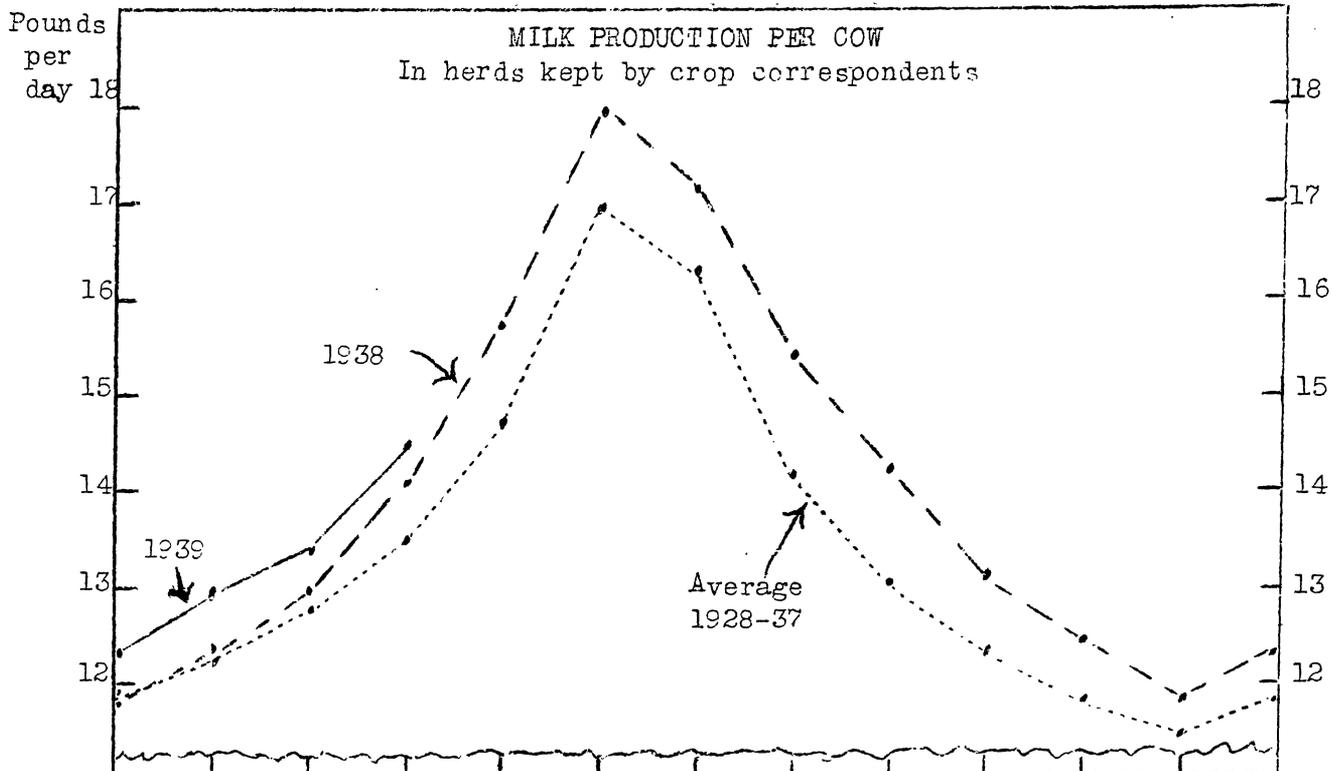
In the northern dairy sections, pastures were still largely dormant on April 1 and, particularly in the Northeast, cool weather in March has had a tendency to delay early growth. From Minnesota and Iowa eastward moisture supplies are generally adequate and a rather high reported condition of pastures reflects potentially good prospects awaiting the northward advance of warm weather.

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

April 10, 1939.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}				
State	April 1 :(Avg.) 1928-37	April 1 1937	April 1 1938	April 1 1939
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	15.59	15.94	15.99	15.96
N. Y.	17.3	18.5	17.6	18.2
N. J.	18.9	19.7	20.3	19.6
Pa.	17.2	17.5	17.3	17.7
N. Atl.	16.93	17.78	17.44	17.76
Ohio	15.0	15.2	15.0	15.4
Ind.	13.5	13.3	14.1	14.5
Ill.	14.4	14.6	15.0	15.9
Mich.	17.4	17.6	17.4	18.6
Wis.	17.3	17.2	17.5	17.8
E. N. Cent.	15.93	15.90	16.23	16.75
Minn.	17.2	16.0	18.4	18.5
Iowa	14.2	13.6	15.4	16.2
Mo.	9.3	8.1	9.6	10.2
N. Dak.	12.2	10.8	11.7	13.8
S. Dak.	11.5	9.1	11.0	12.7
Nebr.	13.6	11.3	13.1	14.8
Kans.	14.3	12.5	15.5	15.5
W. N. Cent.	13.51	12.07	14.06	14.88
Md.	13.6	13.9	14.2	16.4
Va.	9.8	10.2	10.7	10.3
W. Va.	9.5	8.9	9.1	9.3
N. C.	10.2	10.2	10.8	11.1
S. C.	9.8	9.3	10.6	10.1
S. Atl.	9.98	9.96	10.62	11.02
Ky.	9.9	9.3	10.5	10.2
Tenn.	8.9	8.9	9.8	9.8
Miss.	7.0	6.4	7.3	7.5
Ark.	8.0	7.7	9.1	8.6
Okla.	10.8	10.9	12.2	11.7
Tex.	9.3	9.0	10.7	9.6
S. Cent.	8.98	8.69	9.93	9.62
Mont.	12.2	12.1	12.8	14.9
Idaho	16.2	15.6	16.3	16.8
Wyo.	11.3	11.1	12.7	12.7
Colo.	13.4	13.0	14.7	15.1
Wash.	16.7	17.0	17.2	17.6
Oreg.	16.0	15.7	15.4	16.7
Calif.	19.8	17.7	20.1	19.7
West.	15.07	14.71	15.74	16.42
U. S.	13.54	13.11	14.12	14.51

^{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.



Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.