

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
CROP REPORTING BOARD

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MILK PRODUCTION OF MARCH 1, 1936

Milk production on March 1 was apparently about 4 percent above production on that date last year. The increase in production per cow, which appears to have been about 6 percent, judging from reports of crop correspondents, was partly offset by a decrease of around 2 percent in the number of milk cows on farms.

More moderate weather at the end of February following the unusually cold and snowy conditions earlier in the year which had tended to reduce production resulted in more than the usual seasonal increase in production per cow during February. Daily milk production on March 1 as reported by crop correspondents averaged 12.24 pounds per milk cow in their herd compared with 11.53 pounds on March 1 last year, and a March 1 average of 13.11 pounds for the years 1925 to 1933. All sections of the country showed an increased production per cow compared with March 1 a year ago when production was reduced by short feed supplies, however, the increase was small in the Northeast where production per cow was relatively much higher than the rest of the country on March 1 last year. In the West, production per cow was markedly higher than a year earlier and much above the usual March 1 level but in the Central and Southern areas production was still very low.

The proportion of the milk cows being milked continues at a relatively high level and there are some indications that an increased proportion of heifer calves are being saved in a few of the important dairy sections but in the important butter producing areas the increased price of meat animals, is tending to decrease interest in dairying in those areas. On the other hand with feed prices much lower than last year and dairy product prices slightly higher and with more normal supplies of feeds farmers have been feeding much more grain per milk cow than in the past two years although less than in the years just previous to 1933. This has tended to increase production per cow compared to last year. Hay feeding has also been liberal. It now seems probable that production will continue above last year's low level during the next two months and probably longer although production during the summer will depend largely on pasture conditions and prices of dairy products.

The value per 100 pounds of grains and concentrates being fed to their milk cows, decreased 29 percent compared to a year earlier, according to reports from dairy correspondents on February 1. This decrease is due in part to lower feed prices and in part, to an increased use of home grown feeds in the ration particularly in the 1934 drought areas where it was necessary for farmers to purchase an unusually larger proportion of the feed fed last winter. For the country as a whole, the reported value of grains and concentrates being fed to milk cows on February 1 was \$1.23 per 100 pounds compared with \$1.74 last year and \$1.12 two years ago. In the Western Corn Belt, however, the average value was reported as \$.98 compared with \$1.70 last year, and \$.90 two years ago while in the North Atlantic States the values for the three years were \$1.56, \$1.99, and \$1.48, respectively. Thus the average value per 100 pounds has declined 42 percent in the Western Corn Belt during the past year and only about 22 percent in the north-east. This largely represents a return to the more usual relationship of feed values between the various areas of the country but it means that most farmers are in a better position to feed grain at present prices than they were a year ago. In South Dakota, for example, the value per 100 pounds decreased about 57 percent during the year while prices of butterfat decreased only 6 percent.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS 1/

State	March 1	March 1	March 1	March 1
	(Avg.) 1925-1933	1934	1935	1936
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	13.4	10.9	11.8	11.0
N.H.	15.0	13.7	13.4	13.2
Vt.	14.4	13.5	13.7	12.8
Mass.	17.7	15.7	16.8	15.9
R.I.	19.3	16.8	18.3	16.0
Conn.	17.5	17.5	15.4	17.7
N.Y.	15.1	14.4	15.6	15.1
N.J.	19.0	17.8	18.3	18.5
Pa.	16.4	15.1	15.6	16.2
<u>N. ATL.</u>	<u>15.82</u>	<u>14.78</u>	<u>15.47</u>	<u>15.50</u>
Ohio	14.7	13.3	13.3	14.1
Ind.	13.3	11.5	11.9	12.7
Ill.	13.8	13.6	13.1	13.3
Mich.	16.5	15.4	15.1	15.8
Wis.	16.4	14.7	14.8	15.5
<u>E. N. CENT.</u>	<u>15.28</u>	<u>13.87</u>	<u>13.79</u>	<u>14.41</u>
Minn.	17.1	15.9	14.2	16.1
Iowa	13.5	13.4	12.2	13.3
Mo.	8.5	7.7	7.9	8.3
N. Dak.	12.3	9.9	9.6	11.7
S. Dak.	12.1	9.3	8.6	9.8
Nebr.	13.7	12.2	11.0	11.7
Kans.	13.3	12.9	11.9	12.0
<u>W. N. CENT.</u>	<u>13.26</u>	<u>12.12</u>	<u>11.28</u>	<u>12.11</u>
Del.	14.5	11.5	12.4	14.2
Md.	14.2	12.4	12.0	12.2
Va.	10.1	8.4	8.9	9.6
W. Va.	9.0	7.8	8.3	8.3
N. C.	10.5	9.1	8.7	9.8
S. C.	8.9	8.4	8.0	9.2
Ga.	8.5	6.9	7.1	8.1
Fla.	7.3	7.0	5.9	7.5
<u>S. ATL.</u>	<u>10.15</u>	<u>8.62</u>	<u>8.69</u>	<u>9.50</u>
Ky.	10.3	7.9	8.4	8.6
Tenn.	8.9	7.0	7.1	8.3
Ala.	7.8	6.2	7.0	7.1
Miss.	7.0	5.4	5.6	6.1
Ark.	7.9	6.0	6.1	6.9
La.	6.4	5.5	4.7	4.8
Okla.	10.5	8.3	7.9	8.6
Tex.	8.7	7.2	7.0	9.1
<u>S. CENT.</u>	<u>8.81</u>	<u>7.01</u>	<u>7.06</u>	<u>7.76</u>
Mont.	11.2	11.3	10.9	11.8
Ida.	15.8	13.8	15.9	16.0
Wyo.	11.1	10.7	10.5	11.1
Colo.	12.7	12.1	11.1	13.1
N. Mex.	10.6	8.9	10.1	9.1
Ariz.	15.4	17.3	14.3	18.3
Utah	14.1	14.4	14.5	15.0
Nev.	12.0	13.3	11.4	14.3
Wash.	15.5	14.9	15.5	16.0
Oreg.	14.5	13.1	13.5	14.0
Calif.	16.4	18.2	18.0	17.8
<u>WEST.</u>	<u>13.85</u>	<u>13.76</u>	<u>13.11</u>	<u>14.53</u>
<u>U. S.</u>	<u>13.11</u>	<u>11.75</u>	<u>11.53</u>	<u>12.24</u>

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.