



Released April 21, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

March Milk Production up 1.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 16.9 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from March 2014. February revised production at 15.1 billion pounds, was up 1.7 percent from February 2014. The February revision represented a decrease of 10 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,959 pounds for March, 2 pounds above March 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of March since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.62 million head, 86,000 head more than March 2014, but 4,000 head fewer than February 2015.

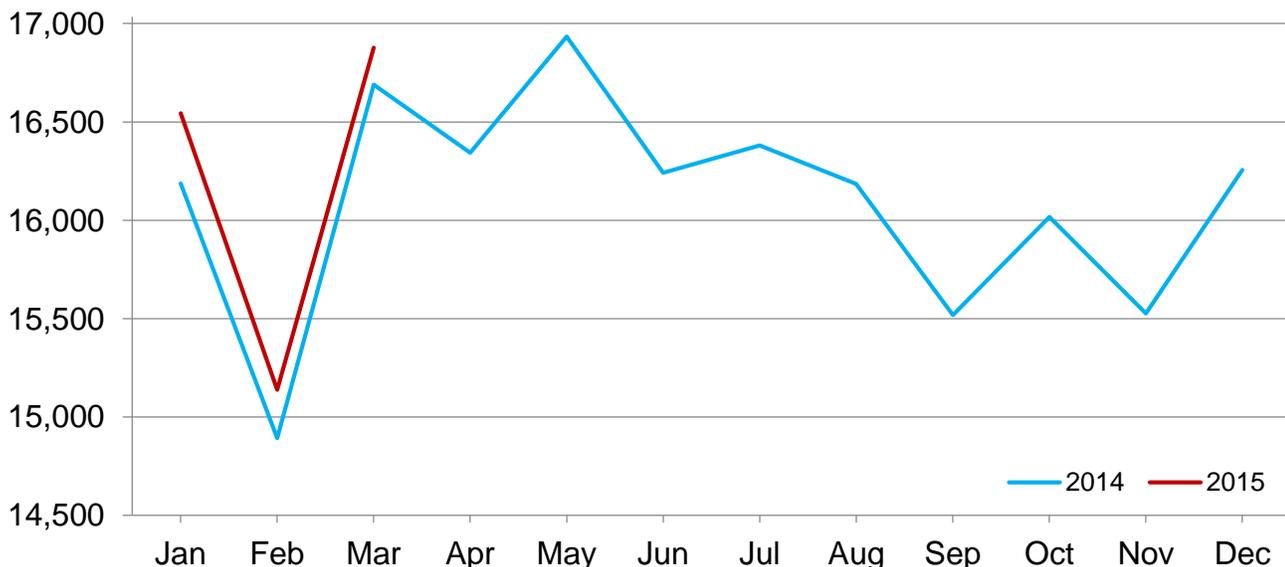
January - March Milk Production up 1.7 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 51.9 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from the January - March quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.30 million head, 17,000 head more than the October - December 2014 quarter, and 88,000 head more than the same period last year.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2014-2015

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Percent)
January-March	9,216	9,304	5,536	5,579	51,020	51,904	1.7
April-June	9,253		5,717		52,897		
July-September	9,270		5,520		51,173		
October-December	9,287		5,487		50,956		
Annual	9,257		22,258		206,046		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,516	8,620	1,901	1,919	16,186	16,544	2.2
February	8,516	8,620	1,749	1,756	14,892	15,139	1.7
March	8,530	8,616	1,957	1,959	16,690	16,877	1.1
April	8,547		1,912		16,344		
May	8,558		1,979		16,934		
June	8,572		1,895		16,241		
July	8,583		1,909		16,381		
August	8,585		1,885		16,184		
September	8,593		1,806		15,519		
October	8,594		1,864		16,017		
November	8,598		1,806		15,527		
December	8,611		1,888		16,256		
Annual	8,567		22,551		193,171		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,212	9,306	1,876	1,899	17,284	17,670	2.2
February	9,212	9,306	1,727	1,739	15,907	16,184	1.7
March	9,223	9,301	1,933	1,941	17,829	18,050	1.2
April	9,240		1,892		17,480		
May	9,252		1,956		18,094		
June	9,267		1,869		17,323		
July	9,268		1,881		17,435		
August	9,268		1,858		17,224		
September	9,274		1,781		16,514		
October	9,277		1,840		17,071		
November	9,284		1,783		16,551		
December	9,299		1,864		17,334		
Annual	9,257		22,258		206,046		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: March 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	192	195	2,230	2,225	428	434	1.4
California	1,781	1,779	2,140	2,080	3,811	3,700	-2.9
Colorado	141	145	2,100	2,165	296	314	6.1
Florida	123	125	1,925	1,965	237	246	3.8
Idaho	570	580	2,030	2,020	1,157	1,172	1.3
Illinois	94	95	1,755	1,770	165	168	1.8
Indiana	176	181	1,875	1,895	330	343	3.9
Iowa	205	209	1,920	1,950	394	408	3.6
Kansas	138	144	1,895	1,945	262	280	6.9
Michigan	381	403	2,090	2,115	796	852	7.0
Minnesota	459	460	1,700	1,770	780	814	4.4
New Mexico	323	323	2,210	2,125	714	686	-3.9
New York	615	617	1,885	1,900	1,159	1,172	1.1
Ohio	266	268	1,730	1,745	460	468	1.7
Oregon	125	125	1,800	1,775	225	222	-1.3
Pennsylvania	531	530	1,750	1,775	929	941	1.3
South Dakota	96	102	1,845	1,900	177	194	9.6
Texas	455	463	1,965	1,920	894	889	-0.6
Utah	95	96	1,905	1,950	181	187	3.3
Vermont	131	132	1,730	1,720	227	227	-
Virginia	93	92	1,680	1,710	156	157	0.6
Washington	270	277	2,080	2,050	562	568	1.1
Wisconsin	1,270	1,275	1,850	1,910	2,350	2,435	3.6
23-State Total	8,530	8,616	1,957	1,959	16,690	16,877	1.1

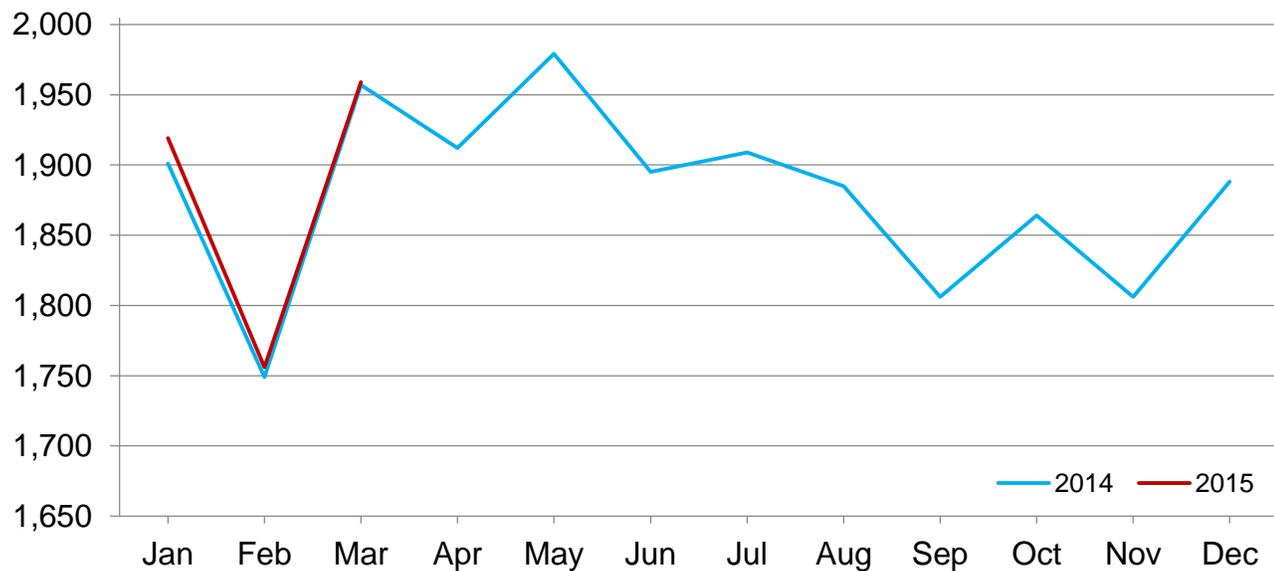
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	192	195	1,965	1,990	377	388	2.9
California	1,780	1,779	1,910	1,845	3,400	3,282	-3.5
Colorado	140	145	1,885	1,970	264	286	8.3
Florida	123	124	1,715	1,780	211	221	4.7
Idaho	567	580	1,820	1,810	1,032	1,050	1.7
Illinois	95	95	1,545	1,580	147	150	2.0
Indiana	176	181	1,660	1,705	292	309	5.8
Iowa	205	210	1,725	1,755	354	369	4.2
Kansas	137	143	1,695	1,740	232	249	7.3
Michigan	381	403	1,880	1,915	716	772	7.8
Minnesota	460	460	1,530	1,595	704	734	4.3
New Mexico	323	323	1,950	1,880	630	607	-3.7
New York	615	616	1,690	1,715	1,039	1,056	1.6
Ohio	266	268	1,545	1,570	411	421	2.4
Oregon	124	125	1,595	1,590	198	199	0.5
Pennsylvania	531	530	1,565	1,600	831	848	2.0
South Dakota	95	101	1,650	1,700	157	172	9.6
Texas	447	468	1,745	1,740	780	814	4.4
Utah	95	97	1,685	1,765	160	171	6.9
Vermont	132	132	1,545	1,545	204	204	-
Virginia	93	93	1,500	1,500	140	140	-
Washington	269	277	1,850	1,840	498	510	2.4
Wisconsin	1,270	1,275	1,665	1,715	2,115	2,187	3.4
23-State Total	8,516	8,620	1,749	1,756	14,892	15,139	1.7

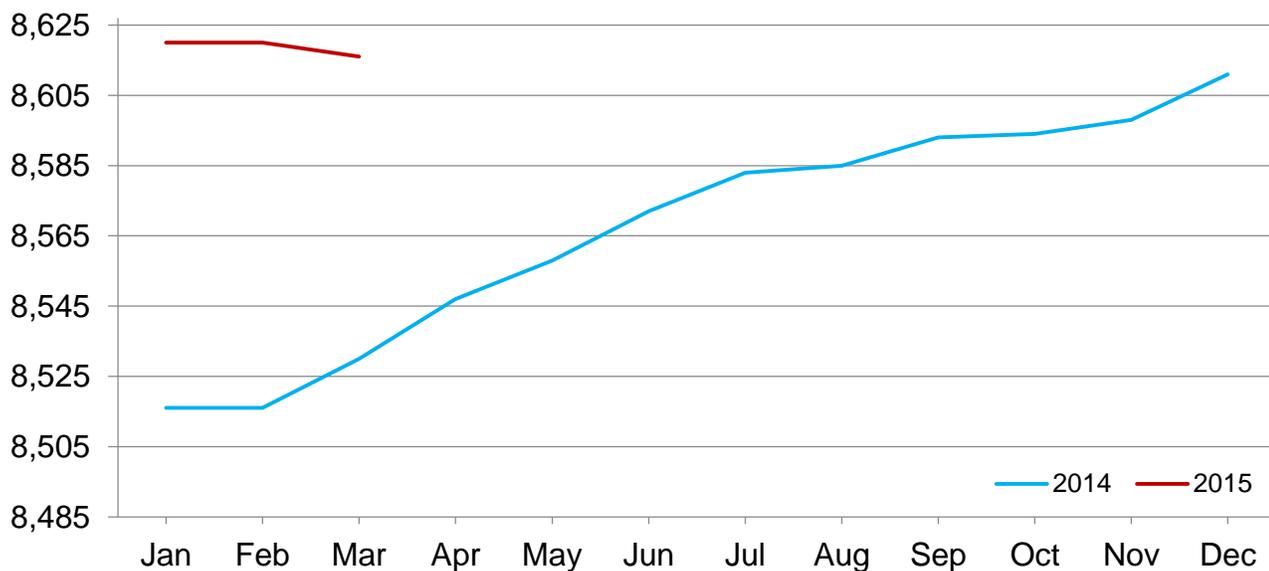
- Represents zero.

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 – States and United States: Revised October - December 2013 and 2014

[May not add due to rounding]

State	October - December milk cows ¹		October - December milk production ²		
	2013	2014	2013	2014	Change from 2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	9.0	8.0	25.0	25.0	-
Alaska	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.9	12.5
Arizona	190.0	194.0	1,089.0	1,155.0	6.1
Arkansas	8.0	7.0	22.0	22.0	-
California	1,780.0	1,780.0	10,086.0	10,259.0	1.7
Colorado	138.0	145.0	843.0	907.0	7.6
Connecticut	18.0	19.0	90.0	95.0	5.6
Delaware	4.7	4.9	22.7	24.3	7.0
Florida	123.0	123.0	553.0	578.0	4.5
Georgia	80.0	81.0	376.0	397.0	5.6
Hawaii	2.2	2.2	7.2	7.2	-
Idaho	567.0	579.0	3,286.0	3,434.0	4.5
Illinois	95.0	93.0	444.0	454.0	2.3
Indiana	178.0	179.0	951.0	980.0	3.0
Iowa	206.0	208.0	1,127.0	1,175.0	4.3
Kansas	135.0	143.0	742.0	788.0	6.2
Kentucky	69.0	62.0	254.0	248.0	-2.4
Louisiana	15.0	14.0	46.0	47.0	2.2
Maine	30.0	30.0	146.0	149.0	2.1
Maryland	50.0	49.0	241.0	243.0	0.8
Massachusetts	12.0	12.5	54.0	55.0	1.9
Michigan	380.0	399.0	2,261.0	2,438.0	7.8
Minnesota	461.0	460.0	2,230.0	2,286.0	2.5
Mississippi	13.0	12.0	44.0	45.0	2.3
Missouri	90.0	88.0	318.0	337.0	6.0
Montana	14.0	14.0	75.0	74.0	-1.3
Nebraska	53.0	54.0	285.0	304.0	6.7
Nevada	29.0	28.0	158.0	174.0	10.1
New Hampshire	13.5	14.0	67.0	69.0	3.0
New Jersey	7.0	7.0	31.0	31.0	-
New Mexico	322.0	323.0	1,955.0	1,965.0	0.5
New York	611.0	615.0	3,298.0	3,428.0	3.9
North Carolina	45.0	47.0	227.0	239.0	5.3
North Dakota	17.0	16.0	80.0	79.0	-1.3
Ohio	268.0	267.0	1,322.0	1,341.0	1.4
Oklahoma	45.0	40.0	177.0	170.0	-4.0
Oregon	123.0	124.0	616.0	616.0	-
Pennsylvania	530.0	530.0	2,571.0	2,650.0	3.1
Rhode Island	0.9	0.9	4.0	4.1	2.5
South Carolina	15.5	15.0	63.0	61.0	-3.2
South Dakota	95.0	98.0	511.0	541.0	5.9
Tennessee	47.0	47.0	182.0	189.0	3.8
Texas	440.0	470.0	2,381.0	2,576.0	8.2
Utah	95.0	96.0	520.0	550.0	5.8
Vermont	132.0	132.0	639.0	662.0	3.6
Virginia	94.0	92.0	432.0	440.0	1.9
Washington	266.0	276.0	1,546.0	1,621.0	4.9
West Virginia	9.0	9.0	34.0	34.0	-
Wisconsin	1,271.0	1,273.0	6,767.0	6,956.0	2.8
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	31.0	32.0	3.2
United States	9,203.0	9,287.0	49,231.0	50,956.0	3.5

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary January - March 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

State	January - March milk cows ¹		January - March milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	9.0	8.0	30.0	29.0	-3.3
Alaska	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.9	12.5
Arizona	192.0	195.0	1,202.0	1,234.0	2.7
Arkansas	7.5	7.0	24.0	24.0	-
California	1,781.0	1,779.0	10,835.0	10,513.0	-3.0
Colorado	140.0	145.0	852.0	910.0	6.8
Connecticut	19.0	19.0	96.0	98.0	2.1
Delaware	4.7	4.9	24.5	25.5	4.1
Florida	123.0	124.0	671.0	700.0	4.3
Georgia	81.0	81.0	443.0	463.0	4.5
Hawaii	2.3	2.2	7.4	8.3	12.2
Idaho	568.0	580.0	3,324.0	3,376.0	1.6
Illinois	95.0	95.0	471.0	482.0	2.3
Indiana	177.0	181.0	944.0	994.0	5.3
Iowa	205.0	210.0	1,139.0	1,187.0	4.2
Kansas	137.0	143.0	750.0	799.0	6.5
Kentucky	64.0	62.0	257.0	273.0	6.2
Louisiana	15.0	14.0	58.0	58.0	-
Maine	30.0	30.0	145.0	144.0	-0.7
Maryland	50.0	49.0	252.0	247.0	-2.0
Massachusetts	12.5	12.0	59.0	55.0	-6.8
Michigan	381.0	403.0	2,291.0	2,470.0	7.8
Minnesota	460.0	460.0	2,261.0	2,351.0	4.0
Mississippi	13.0	12.0	52.0	53.0	1.9
Missouri	90.0	87.0	336.0	345.0	2.7
Montana	14.0	14.0	75.0	74.0	-1.3
Nebraska	53.0	55.0	292.0	311.0	6.5
Nevada	29.0	28.0	164.0	175.0	6.7
New Hampshire	14.0	14.0	71.0	71.0	-
New Jersey	7.0	7.0	32.0	33.0	3.1
New Mexico	323.0	323.0	2,026.0	1,962.0	-3.2
New York	615.0	616.0	3,333.0	3,401.0	2.0
North Carolina	45.0	47.0	245.0	257.0	4.9
North Dakota	17.0	16.0	81.0	79.0	-2.5
Ohio	266.0	268.0	1,325.0	1,358.0	2.5
Oklahoma	40.0	40.0	178.0	180.0	1.1
Oregon	124.0	125.0	638.0	636.0	-0.3
Pennsylvania	531.0	530.0	2,663.0	2,719.0	2.1
Rhode Island	0.9	0.9	4.2	4.1	-2.4
South Carolina	16.0	15.0	71.0	72.0	1.4
South Dakota	95.0	101.0	507.0	554.0	9.3
Tennessee	46.0	46.0	188.0	196.0	4.3
Texas	449.0	467.0	2,531.0	2,598.0	2.6
Utah	95.0	96.0	516.0	545.0	5.6
Vermont	132.0	132.0	654.0	657.0	0.5
Virginia	93.0	93.0	449.0	450.0	0.2
Washington	269.0	277.0	1,603.0	1,632.0	1.8
West Virginia	9.0	9.0	35.0	36.0	2.9
Wisconsin	1,270.0	1,275.0	6,783.0	7,032.0	3.7
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	31.5	32.0	1.6
United States	9,216.0	9,304.0	51,020.0	51,904.0	1.7

- Represents zero.

¹ Excludes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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 Surveys.

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 on the next page. 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 milk cow inventory estimates over the past 20 quarters 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 9.30 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 percent.

Reliability of Quarterly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 20 quarters]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Quarters	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.1	0.2	51	2	141	17	3
All milk cows	0.1	0.1	5	0	13	14	4

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.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Evan Schulz – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-6147

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