

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

May 10, 1935

MILK PRODUCTION May 1, 1935.

Milk production per cow, when compared with production on the same dates last year, continues to increase gradually in most States outside of the area affected by last year's drought. In the country as a whole crop correspondents were securing between 2 and 3 percent more milk per cow on May 1 than on that date last year, but less than on May 1 in any of the preceding nine years. As the number of milk cows on farms appears to be close to 5 percent less than the number a year ago, total milk production on May 1 appears to have been around 2 percent less than on May 1 last year.

Decreases in production per cow, compared to last year, were largely confined to the West North Central group of States; the bordering States of Illinois and Colorado, and to the Pacific Northwest. In the latter area, pasture conditions were poor, due largely to lateness. In most of the other States reporting decreases, grain and hay supplies were very low and pastures short, but with the exception of Western Kansas, Southwestern Nebraska and Southeastern Colorado, the poor condition of pastures in these States was partially due to the lateness of the spring, and the cows will go on full pasture feed this month. East of the Mississippi, compared with last year, the improvement in pastures and higher prices of dairy products, have largely offset the effects of the shortage and high cost of grain. For the country as a whole, crop correspondents were securing 13.85 pounds of milk per cow on May 1 compared with 13.54 pounds last year, 14.23 pounds in 1933 and a May 1 average of 15.18 pounds during the previous 8 years.

PASTURE CONDITIONS, May 1, 1935

Pastures are the best in years in California and they have started well in the South, east of the drought area. This is tending to increase milk production in these areas. In the Northern two-thirds of the country cold weather during April and extending into the first week of May has tended to retard pasture growth temporarily. A more serious factor is that in some States, particularly from Missouri north to Minnesota, permanent pastures appear to show damage from last year's drought. In the "dust bowl" centering on the Oklahoma panhandle, pastures were bare on May 1 and carrying capacity is likely to be reduced for more than the current season, but that is not an important dairy section. In the Northern Great Plains the shortage of old feed, late storms and the delayed starting of new grass, were causing some losses of cattle and calves in the latter part of April and resulted in very low reports on the condition of pastures on May 1, but most portions of the area expect fair to good grass in a few weeks at most.

Combining reports from all States in proportion to the relative importance of May pasturage for milk cows, the average condition of pastures was 73.5 percent compared with 66.0 on May 1 last year, 71.8 in 1933 and a May 1 average of 78.9 during the preceding 10 years. On the whole, considering recent rains and the reduced number of cattle on farms, prospects for pastures during the remainder of the season, while below average, seem better than they have been at this season for several years.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

State	: May 1 :(Avg.) 1925-1932:	: May 1 1933	: May 1 1934	: May 1 1935
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	15.0	13.3	13.5	13.6
N.H.	16.0	13.6	14.2	15.1
Vt.	16.0	15.0	15.5	15.9
Mass.	18.7	17.9	16.2	17.4
R.I.	18.6	21.6	18.7	19.8
Conn.	18.0	16.9	18.2	18.7
N.Y.	19.0	17.9	18.7	19.1
N.J.	20.0	20.2	19.1	19.8
Pa.	17.9	16.7	16.7	18.1
<u>N.ATL.</u>	<u>18.20</u>	<u>17.01</u>	<u>17.28</u>	<u>18.13</u>
Ohio	16.9	16.2	14.7	15.8
Ind.	15.8	15.2	14.3	14.8
Ill.	16.0	15.8	15.2	14.4
Mich.	18.8	17.5	17.0	17.5
Wis.	19.0	17.8	16.1	17.3
<u>E.N.CENT.</u>	<u>17.67</u>	<u>16.84</u>	<u>15.56</u>	<u>16.25</u>
Minn.	17.6	17.6	15.6	15.2
Iowa	14.9	15.2	14.3	14.2
Mo.	11.2	10.8	10.6	12.2
N.Dak.	14.0	12.4	10.8	10.4
S.Dak.	13.7	13.7	10.1	9.3
Nebr.	15.1	14.7	14.3	13.5
Kans.	15.4	15.0	14.2	14.3
<u>W.N.CENT.</u>	<u>14.75</u>	<u>14.48</u>	<u>13.24</u>	<u>13.06</u>
Del.	15.5	13.5	12.6	13.9
Md.	15.7	14.2	13.2	13.9
Va.	12.3	10.9	10.0	10.5
W.Va.	12.3	10.5	10.3	10.0
N.C.	12.2	10.4	10.0	10.5
S.C.	10.3	10.6	9.5	9.5
Ga.	9.8	8.5	8.0	8.9
Fla.	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.6
<u>S.ATL.</u>	<u>11.70</u>	<u>10.41</u>	<u>9.82</u>	<u>10.31</u>
Ky.	12.8	11.3	10.7	10.8
Tenn.	11.5	10.5	9.2	10.0
Ala.	8.8	7.9	7.1	8.9
Miss.	9.3	8.0	7.8	7.9
Ark.	10.4	9.0	8.7	9.3
La.	7.9	6.9	6.9	6.4
Okla.	13.1	11.2	10.9	12.0
Tex.	10.5	9.8	9.4	9.6
<u>S.CENT.</u>	<u>10.92</u>	<u>9.80</u>	<u>9.52</u>	<u>9.99</u>
Mont.	13.9	12.9	13.1	13.3
Idaho	18.2	17.0	16.3	17.6
Wyo.	12.6	11.2	12.3	12.6
Colo.	14.2	12.8	13.4	11.2
N.Mex.	11.0	11.4	8.8	10.2
Ariz.	16.7	17.7	17.4	18.2
Utah	16.0	17.6	16.8	17.8
Nev.	14.4	12.2	14.4	17.5
Wash.	19.6	16.6	19.5	18.5
Oreg.	19.3	15.6	18.6	17.5
Calif.	19.9	21.0	19.1	21.6
<u>WEST</u>	<u>16.61</u>	<u>15.09</u>	<u>15.76</u>	<u>15.50</u>
<u>U.S.</u>	<u>15.18</u>	<u>14.23</u>	<u>13.54</u>	<u>13.85</u>

1/ These are not estimates but averages obtained by dividing reported daily production of herds kept by reporters by number of milk cows in these herds.