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April Milk Production up 1.7 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 16.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from April 2014. March revised production at 16.9 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from March 2014. The March revision represented an increase of 30.0 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,928 pounds for April, 16 pounds above April 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of April 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, 77,000 head more than April 2014, and 2,000 head more than March 2015.

April Milk Production in the United States up 1.7 Percent

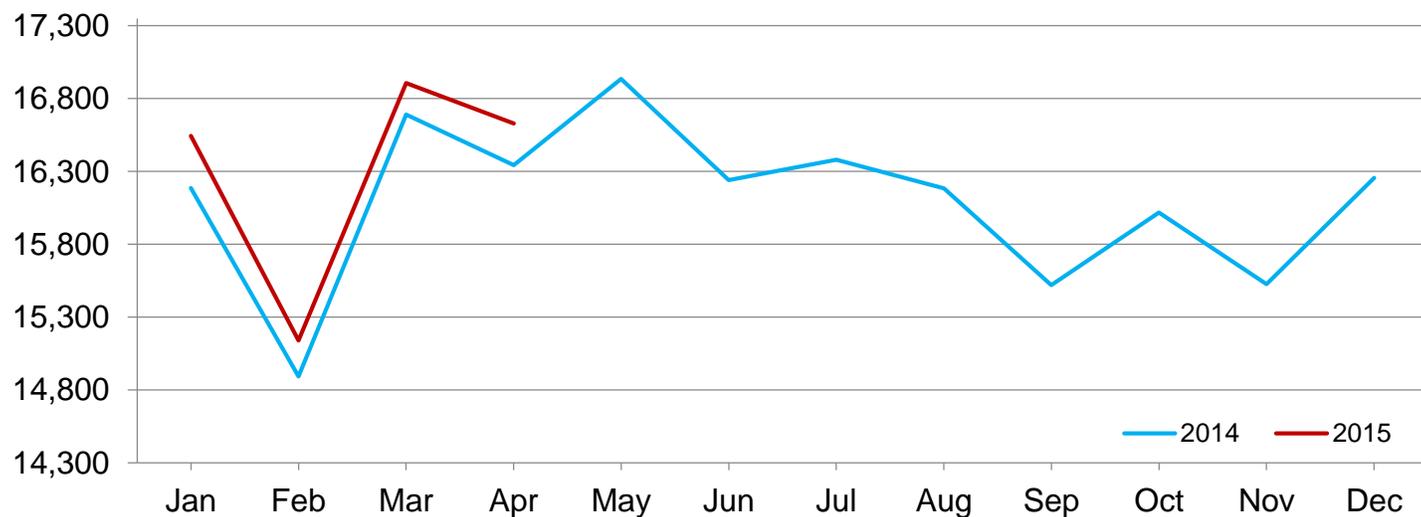
Milk production in the United States during April totaled 17.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from April 2014.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,911 pounds for April, 19 pounds above April 2014.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.31 million head, 65,000 head more than April 2014, and 1,000 head more than March 2015.

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	9,305	5,536	5,581	51,020	51,934	1.8
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	8,622	1,957	1,961	16,690	16,907	1.3
April	8,547	8,624	1,912	1,928	16,344	16,630	1.7
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	9,304	1,933	1,943	17,829	18,080	1.4
April	9,240	9,305	1,892	1,911	17,480	17,785	1.7
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: April 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	2,210	2,225	424	434	2.4
California	1,780	1,778	2,065	2,025	3,676	3,600	-2.1
Colorado	143	145	2,080	2,170	297	315	6.1
Florida	123	125	1,870	1,895	230	237	3.0
Idaho	572	584	1,995	2,000	1,141	1,168	2.4
Illinois	94	95	1,725	1,760	162	167	3.1
Indiana	176	181	1,845	1,855	325	336	3.4
Iowa	206	212	1,880	1,935	387	410	5.9
Kansas	140	145	1,885	1,945	264	282	6.8
Michigan	383	403	2,060	2,085	789	840	6.5
Minnesota	460	459	1,660	1,710	764	785	2.7
New Mexico	323	323	2,135	2,105	690	680	-1.4
New York	615	617	1,845	1,875	1,135	1,157	1.9
Ohio	267	268	1,720	1,730	459	464	1.1
Oregon	125	125	1,770	1,750	221	219	-0.9
Pennsylvania	531	530	1,705	1,755	905	930	2.8
South Dakota	97	103	1,785	1,840	173	190	9.8
Texas	460	462	1,930	1,940	888	896	0.9
Utah	95	96	1,895	1,975	180	190	5.6
Vermont	131	131	1,695	1,695	222	222	-
Virginia	93	92	1,660	1,670	154	154	-
Washington	272	277	2,040	2,015	555	558	0.5
Wisconsin	1,269	1,278	1,815	1,875	2,303	2,396	4.0
23-State Total	8,547	8,624	1,912	1,928	16,344	16,630	1.7

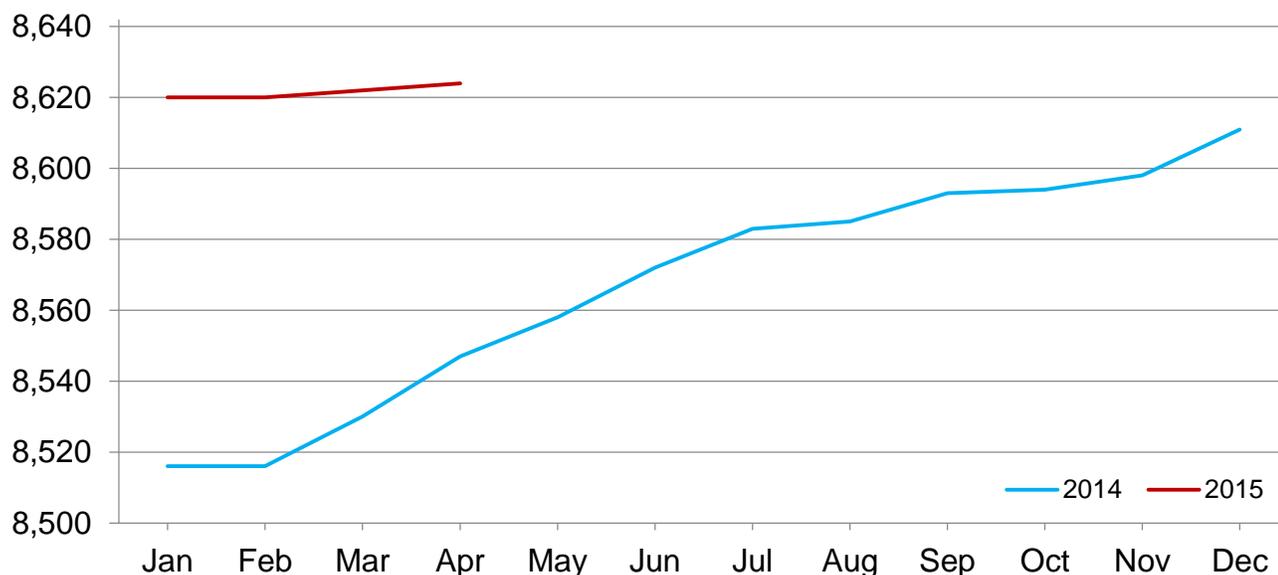
- Represents zero.

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 – 23 Selected States: March 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	2,230	2,245	428	438	2.3
California	1,781	1,779	2,140	2,080	3,811	3,700	-2.9
Colorado	141	145	2,100	2,190	296	318	7.4
Florida	123	125	1,925	1,960	237	245	3.4
Idaho	570	583	2,030	2,035	1,157	1,186	2.5
Illinois	94	95	1,755	1,770	165	168	1.8
Indiana	176	181	1,875	1,895	330	343	3.9
Iowa	205	211	1,920	1,965	394	415	5.3
Kansas	138	144	1,895	1,970	262	284	8.4
Michigan	381	403	2,090	2,115	796	852	7.0
Minnesota	459	459	1,700	1,760	780	808	3.6
New Mexico	323	323	2,210	2,125	714	686	-3.9
New York	615	617	1,885	1,905	1,159	1,175	1.4
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	1,890	177	193	9.0
Texas	455	464	1,965	1,925	894	893	-0.1
Utah	95	96	1,905	1,990	181	191	5.5
Vermont	131	132	1,730	1,720	227	227	-
Virginia	93	92	1,680	1,685	156	155	-0.6
Washington	270	277	2,080	2,050	562	568	1.1
Wisconsin	1,270	1,276	1,850	1,905	2,350	2,431	3.4
23-State Total	8,530	8,622	1,957	1,961	16,690	16,907	1.3

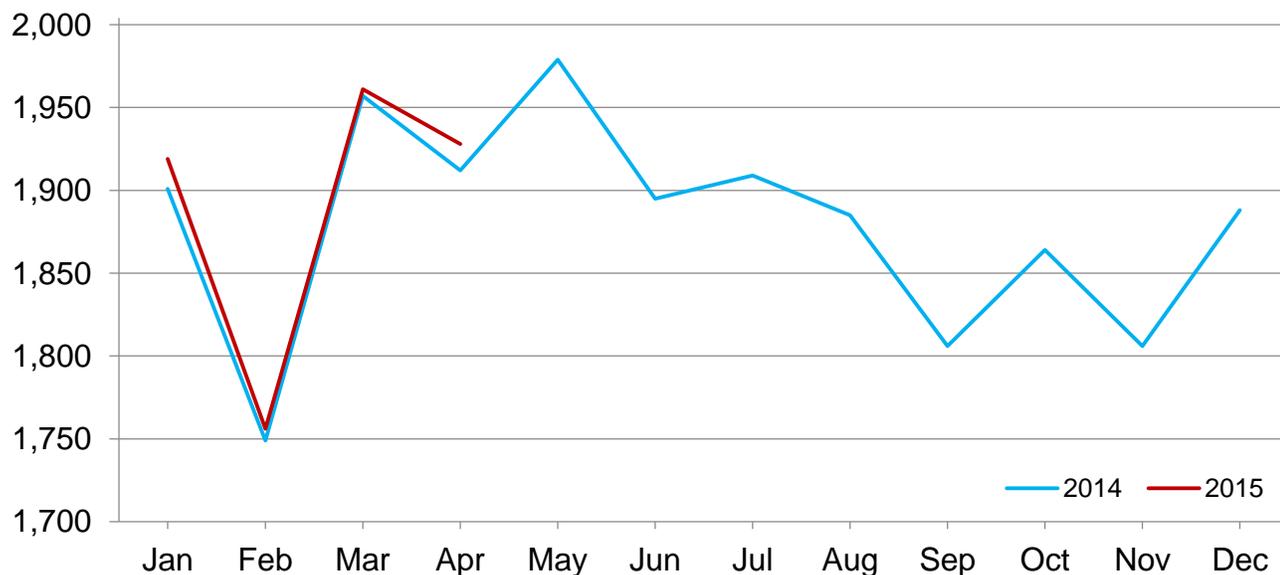
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



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 in the table below. 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 the 23 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 16.6 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 percent.

Reliability of Monthly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.2	0.3	26	0	89	15	7
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	5	0	16	13	8

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.

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