

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

May 11, 1932.

MILK PRODUCTION MAY 1, 1932.

Record seasonal increases in milk production occurred on the farms of crop correspondents during both April and March and total milk production in the United States on May 1 appears to have been the highest for that date during the 14 years for which data are available, it was announced by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In comparison with May 1 of last year the number of milk cows on farms is believed to be about the same or only slightly higher, the percentage of the milk cows being milked was about 2 percent higher, and milk production was up about 8 percent. As a result of the rapid increase this spring, milk production per capita in the United States on May 1 appears to have been about 3 percent above the 1927-36 average per capita production at that season, compared with about average per capita on April 1 and somewhat less than average during the late fall and winter months.

Milk production this spring has been stimulated by the early growth of pastures and by the unusually warm weather which continued through April, with the exception of a cold spell early in the month. Pastures appear to be average or better in the more important dairy sections. In the group of States from North Carolina northward and west to the Rocky Mountains, milk cows were reported to be securing a substantially larger proportion of their feed from pasture than on any May 1 during the previous 7 years for which records have been collected. Feed supplies are plentiful and rather low in price. Prices of dairy products have been declining rather rapidly, but are still relatively high as compared with the prices of farm products in general. Unless these conditions change materially, milk production per cow seems likely to continue fairly heavy during the next month or two. However, the number of milk cows on farms is not large in proportion to population, and milk production per capita for the year to date has probably been below average.

The sharp increase in milk production per cow between April 1 and May 1 was evenly distributed over the country with greater than average increases reported in all major groups of States, except the South Central where early pastures had stimulated milk production prior to April 1. For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 15.79 pounds compared with 14.58 pounds on May 1 last year and an average of 14.37 pounds for that date in the period 1927-36. In these herds, 74.0 percent of the milk cows were reported milked on May 1, as compared with 72.6 percent a year ago and the previous high May 1 record of 72.7 percent reported in 1927.

DAIRY PASTURES MAY 1, 1932.

The condition of pastures in the more important dairy sections on May 1 averaged the best for that date since 1929. With moisture supplies adequate in most areas, the generally warm weather in the latter part of April, following mild temperature in earlier months, hastened the northward advance of the grazing season. In the northern half of the country as far west as Montana pastures were supplying substantially more feed than usual on May 1. Reports from dairy correspondents indicate that milk cows were getting more than half of their feed from pastures as far north as Illinois and Indiana. However, in the extreme northern States from Minnesota eastward the proportion of feed secured from pasture on May 1 was still small, ranging from none in some of the New England States to about 20 percent in Michigan.

On the Pacific Coast pastures were reported in excellent condition. In most of the Mountain States moisture was adequate but cool weather in the early part of April delayed the growth of new grass. In the central Great Plains area pastures showed improvement during April but in Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado, they were still below the 10-year average for May 1. For the country as a whole, the condition of ^{dairy} pastures on May 1 averaged 84 percent of normal compared with 71 percent on the same date a year ago and a 1927-36 average of 76 percent for May 1.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

State	May 1 (Avg.) 1927-36	May 1 1936	May 1 1937	May 1 1938
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	16.40	15.93	16.91	17.07
N.Y.	18.9	18.8	19.8	19.4
N.J.	19.9	19.2	20.4	21.1
Pa.	17.9	18.1	18.1	19.1
N. Atl.	18.02	17.93	18.73	18.89
Ohio	16.5	15.7	16.6	16.8
Ind.	15.4	14.1	14.7	16.6
Ill.	15.8	15.1	15.9	16.7
Mich.	18.4	18.0	18.5	18.8
Wis.	18.5	18.4	19.5	19.3
E. N. Cent.	17.31	16.78	17.15	18.04
Minn.	17.4	18.7	16.6	18.5
Iowa	15.1	15.3	14.1	17.0
Mo.	11.4	11.2	11.2	12.2
N. Dak.	13.4	14.1	11.2	13.8
S. Dak.	13.0	13.1	10.5	13.0
Nebr.	15.2	15.1	13.0	15.2
Kans.	15.2	14.6	15.9	17.0
W. N. Cent.	14.59	14.70	13.53	15.62
Md.	15.0	14.9	14.7	15.7
Va.	11.7	10.6	11.3	12.4
W. Va.	11.7	10.1	10.6	11.4
N. C.	11.5	11.2	11.2	12.1
S. C.	10.1	8.6	10.2	8.6
S. Atl.	11.20	10.34	11.07	11.79
Ky.	12.0	10.5	11.8	13.2
Tenn.	11.0	10.2	10.2	11.5
Miss.	8.8	8.1	7.7	8.6
Ark.	10.0	9.4	9.8	11.1
Okla.	12.5	11.8	13.8	13.9
Tex.	10.7	10.6	10.9	11.2
S. Cent.	10.69	9.98	10.63	11.40
Mont.	13.9	14.4	13.8	16.5
Idaho	17.7	17.9	18.1	19.1
Wyo.	12.8	14.6	11.4	13.4
Colo.	13.9	15.8	13.6	15.4
Wash.	19.5	19.9	19.5	20.3
Oreg.	18.7	19.0	18.7	19.8
Calif.	20.6	21.3	21.2	22.7
West.	16.55	17.00	16.86	18.55
U. S.	14.87	14.48	14.58	15.79

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.