

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

July 12, 1938

MILK PRODUCTION JULY 1, 1938

Milk production in the United States turned down rather sharply from the high seasonal peak reached early in June, it was reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. However, on July 1 production per cow was still reported quite generally higher than on the same date last year, except in some of the North Atlantic States and in some limited areas west of the Rockies. For the country as a whole, the July 1 reports from crop correspondents showed milk production per cow to average nearly 3 percent higher than on the same date last year and above the July 1 averages for other recent years, except 1927, 1928, and 1929. As the number of milk cows on farms in the United States seems to be about the same or only slightly more than the number a year ago, total milk production on the first of the month was probably 3 percent higher than at the same season last year. Milk production per capita in the United States on July 1, when compared with production on the same date in previous years, appears to have been slightly lower than in 1935, 4 to 5 percent higher than in the drought years, 1934 and 1936, and 1 to 4 percent higher than in other years since 1929.

The somewhat greater than average decrease in milk production during June cannot be fully explained at this time. Dairymen have had an unusually favorable combination of good pastures and an abundant supply of feed grains and feedstuffs available at low prices. Reports from a few commercial dairymen do not show any unusual decrease in the quantity of grain being fed to the cows. Meanwhile the percentage of the milk cows reported being milked has continued above previous records in nearly all parts of the country.

Part of the decrease may have been due to the earliness of the season which put the June peak of milk production earlier in the month than usual. Also it seems probable that, as in 1931 and 1932, the low prices of dairy products are causing various changes in methods of production. Thus there is probably some shifting towards reduced purchases of feeds high in price and greater reliance on home raised grain, even though this results in some decrease in production. Furthermore, in contrast to conditions last winter and spring, beef cattle, hogs, and poultry products are now relatively higher in price than butterfat and they are being rather substantially increased, whereas signs of an expansion in dairying appear lacking except in quite limited areas.

During the remainder of the current season, milk production will probably be determined largely by prices. Pastures are good nearly everywhere and no immediate decline seems in prospect. Present feed supplies are ample and the prospective crops of hay and grain are large in proportion to prospective numbers of livestock. With favorable prices, milk production could be better maintained than usual, but with current production rather high in relation to population, prices of dairy products are likely to cause about the usual seasonal decrease in production.

Milk production per cow in the herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 17.19 pounds for the country as a whole on July 1 this year compared with 16.76 pounds on the same date in 1937 and a 1927-36 average of 16.40 pounds for that date. The proportion of milk cows reported milked in these herds averaged 78.3 percent on July 1 compared with 77.8 percent a year earlier and a range from 73.6 percent to 77.0 percent on July 1 in the 12 preceding years.

DAIRY PASTURES, JULY 1, 1938

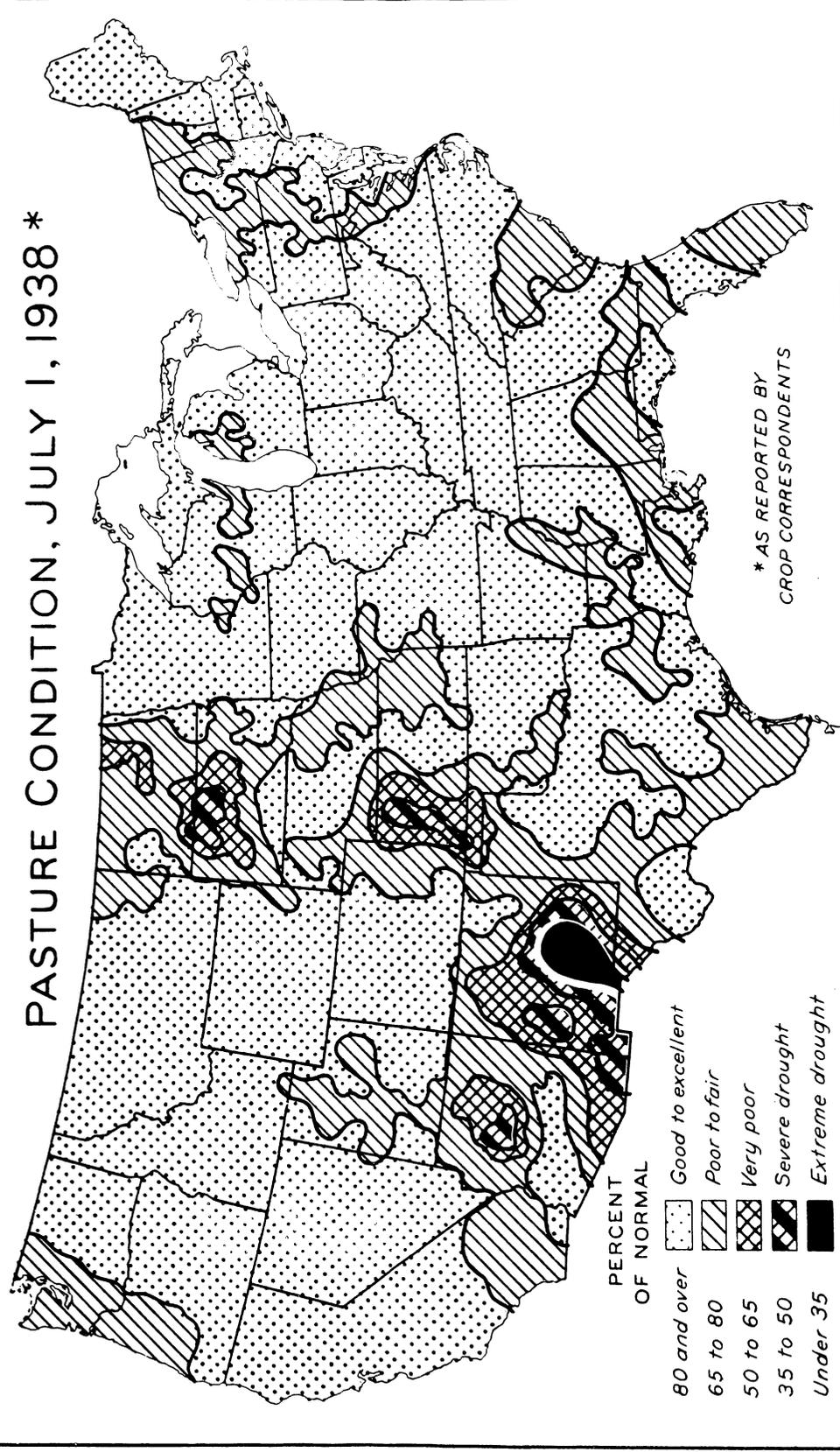
Good to excellent pastures on July 1 were reported in most of the more important dairy areas and for the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures averaged the best for that date since 1929. Some declines during June were noted in Vermont, northern New York and the western parts of Washington and Oregon. For the United States the condition of dairy pastures on July 1 averaged 86.5 percent compared with 83.9 percent at the same time in 1937 and a 1927-36 average of 75.5 percent for that date.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD  
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS <sup>1/</sup>				
STATE	: July 1 : (Avg.) 1927-36 Pounds	: July 1 : 1936 Pounds	: July 1 : 1937 Pounds	: July 1 : 1938 Pounds
N. Eng.	17.52	18.03	18.29	17.81
N. Y.	21.4	21.6	22.0	21.7
N. J.	20.5	20.6	19.8	20.1
Pa.	19.6	20.5	19.9	19.8
N. ATL.	19.77	20.19	20.35	20.16
Ohio	18.7	18.3	19.0	19.4
Ind.	17.0	16.2	16.5	17.6
Ill.	16.6	16.4	17.1	18.2
Mich.	21.3	21.6	21.1	21.4
Wis.	21.4	22.3	22.3	22.2
E. N. CENT.	19.54	19.57	19.99	20.34
Minn.	19.2	20.3	20.5	21.2
Iowa	17.2	17.6	17.3	18.3
Mo.	12.2	10.6	11.6	12.8
N. Dak.	17.5	16.7	18.2	19.2
S. Dak.	16.0	14.8	16.5	16.5
Nebr.	16.4	15.7	16.2	16.2
Kans.	15.3	13.9	13.9	15.7
W. N. CENT.	16.46	16.06	16.79	17.56
Md.	16.1	15.9	15.8	16.8
Va.	13.9	12.0	14.1	14.0
W. Va.	15.1	13.2	14.8	15.1
N. C.	12.7	12.6	13.8	13.6
S. C.	10.5	11.1	11.3	11.3
S. ATL.	12.40	11.95	12.99	13.38
Ky.	14.1	11.9	14.1	14.3
Tenn.	11.8	9.6	12.3	13.1
Miss.	8.6	9.0	8.6	8.5
Ark.	10.3	9.4	10.3	10.6
Okla.	12.5	11.2	11.9	13.5
Tex.	10.4	11.1	10.3	11.7
S. CENT.	10.86	9.85	10.77	11.22
Mont.	16.9	16.0	18.4	20.2
Idaho	20.8	20.6	22.8	21.5
Wyo.	16.2	16.2	17.1	16.4
Colo.	16.5	16.5	17.1	18.0
Wash.	21.3	21.9	22.5	22.4
Oreg.	19.4	20.6	20.3	20.4
Calif.	18.9	17.5	20.7	21.0
WEST.	18.01	18.30	19.46	19.30
U. S.	16.40	16.00	16.76	17.19

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

# PASTURE CONDITION, JULY 1, 1938 \*



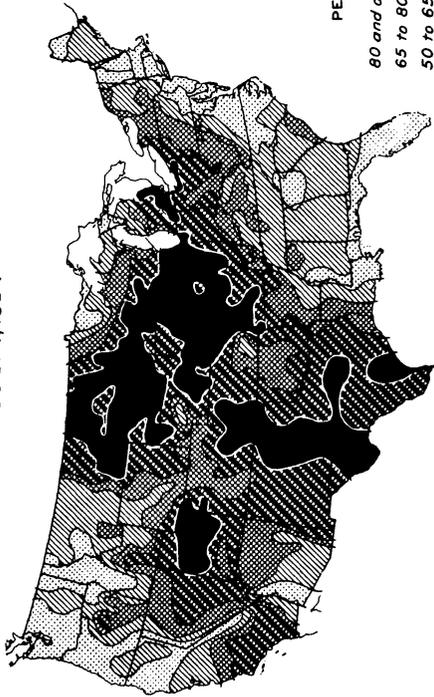
PERCENT OF NORMAL

- 80 and over Good to excellent
- 65 to 80 Poor to fair
- 50 to 65 Very poor
- 35 to 50 Severe drought
- Under 35 Extreme drought

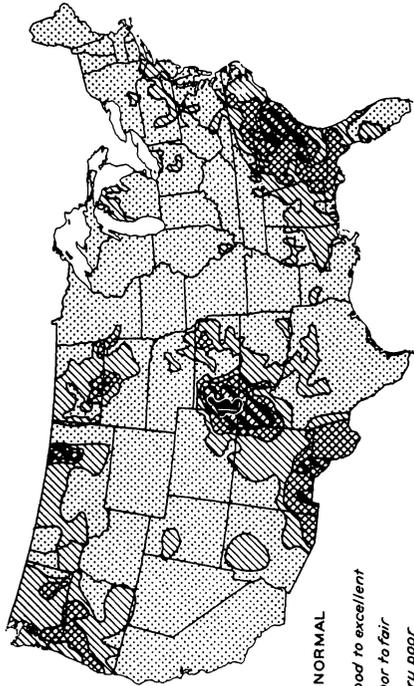
\* AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS

PASTURE CONDITION \*

JULY 1, 1934



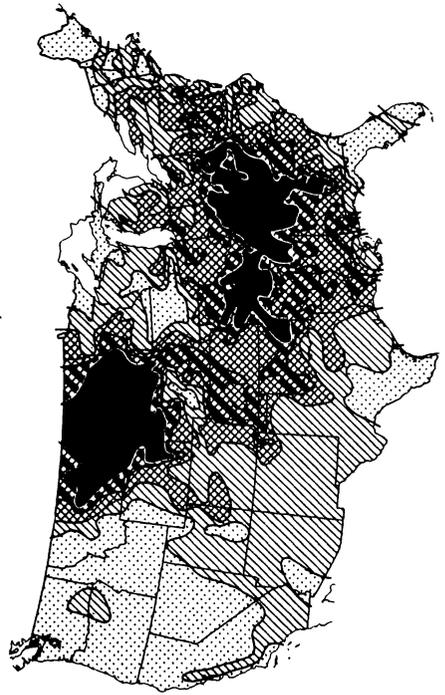
JULY 1, 1935



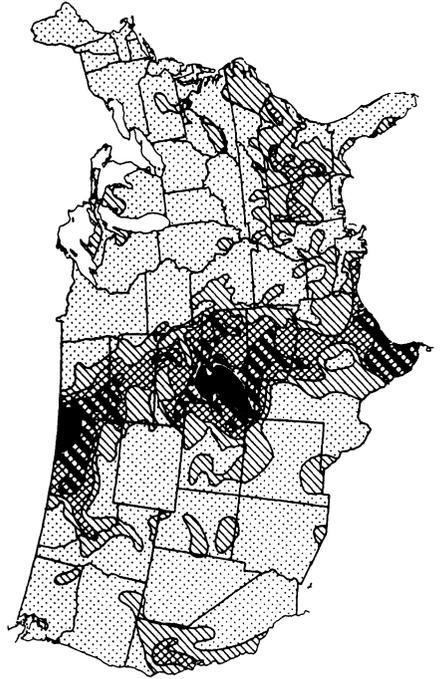
PERCENT OF NORMAL

80 and over	Good to excellent
65 to 80	Poor to fair
50 to 65	Very poor
35 to 50	Severe drought
Under 35	Extreme drought

JULY 1, 1936



JULY 1, 1937



\* AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS