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December Milk Production up slightly

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 15.7 billion pounds, up slightly from December 2012. November revised production at 14.9 billion pounds, was up 0.1 percent from November 2012. The November revision represented a decrease of 32 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,846 pounds for December, 1 pound below December 2012.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 6,000 head more than December 2012, and 1,000 head more than November 2013.

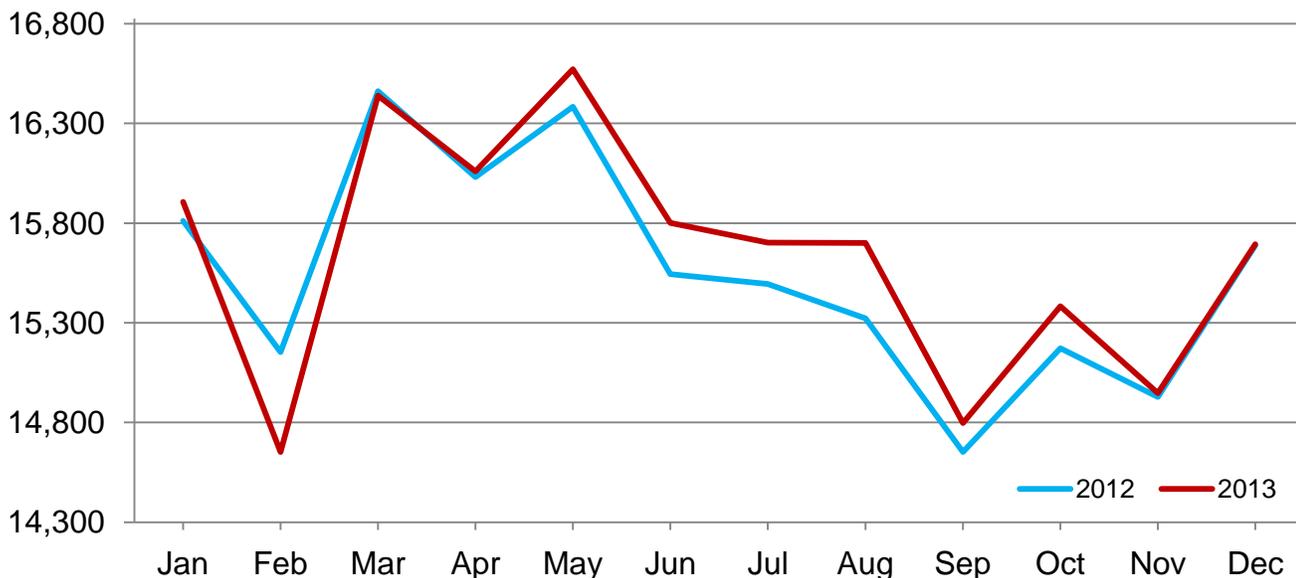
October - December Milk Production up 0.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 49.3 billion pounds, up 0.4 percent from the October - December quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.21 million head, 3,000 head more than the same period last year.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2012 - 2013

[May not add due to rounding.]

Quarter	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2012	2013 ³	2012	2013 ³	2012	2013	Change From 2012
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Percent)
January-March	9,257		5,514		51,044	50,501	-1.1
April-June	9,259		5,563		51,509	51,962	0.9
July-September	9,211	9,229	5,284	5,355	48,675	49,420	1.5
October-December	9,203	9,206	5,335	5,356	49,096	49,303	0.4
Annual	9,233	9,226	21,697	21,806	200,324	201,186	0.4

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Survey was not conducted in April and July, resulting in no milk cow and milk per cow data for March through June. 2013 annual totals include modeled data.

Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2012 - 2013

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2012	2013 ³	2012	2013 ³	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,502	8,498	1,860	1,872	15,810	15,907	0.6
February	8,513	8,502	1,780	1,723	15,153	14,653	-3.3
March	8,525		1,931		16,462	16,440	-0.1
April	8,529		1,880		16,031	16,059	0.2
May	8,525		1,922		16,384	16,572	1.1
June	8,509		1,827		15,544	15,801	1.7
July	8,494	8,529	1,824	1,841	15,495	15,703	1.3
August	8,492	8,525	1,804	1,842	15,322	15,700	2.5
September	8,473	8,505	1,729	1,740	14,653	14,797	1.0
October	8,467	8,504	1,792	1,809	15,172	15,383	1.4
November	8,478	8,499	1,761	1,759	14,929	14,947	0.1
December	8,494	8,500	1,847	1,846	15,688	15,695	-
Annual	8,500	8,511	21,957	22,049	186,643	187,657	0.5

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Survey was not conducted in April and July, resulting in no milk cow and milk per cow data for March through June.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2012 - 2013

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2012	2013 ³	2012	2013 ³	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,242	9,222	1,841	1,853	17,016	17,091	0.4
February	9,257	9,226	1,762	1,707	16,310	15,745	-3.5
March	9,271		1,911		17,718	17,665	-0.3
April	9,273		1,858		17,232	17,241	0.1
May	9,263		1,900		17,601	17,783	1.0
June	9,241		1,805		16,676	16,938	1.6
July	9,222	9,245	1,798	1,817	16,585	16,796	1.3
August	9,217	9,235	1,780	1,819	16,403	16,795	2.4
September	9,195	9,208	1,706	1,719	15,687	15,829	0.9
October	9,189	9,208	1,770	1,790	16,267	16,478	1.3
November	9,201	9,204	1,740	1,740	16,008	16,012	-
December	9,218	9,206	1,825	1,826	16,821	16,813	-
Annual	9,233	9,226	21,697	21,806	200,324	201,186	0.4

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Survey was not conducted in April and July, resulting in no milk cow and milk per cow data for March through June.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: December 2012 and 2013

[May not add due to rounding.]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2012 (percent)
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	
Arizona	188	191	1,995	1,985	375	379	1.1
California	1,780	1,781	1,920	1,950	3,418	3,473	1.6
Colorado	135	139	2,020	2,050	273	285	4.4
Florida	122	123	1,580	1,635	193	201	4.1
Idaho	580	565	1,930	1,960	1,119	1,107	-1.1
Illinois	100	96	1,690	1,630	169	156	-7.7
Indiana	174	178	1,820	1,820	317	324	2.2
Iowa	205	206	1,890	1,870	387	385	-0.5
Kansas	131	136	1,840	1,845	241	251	4.1
Michigan	377	381	1,990	1,985	750	756	0.8
Minnesota	465	460	1,690	1,665	786	766	-2.5
Missouri	93	90	1,230	1,190	114	107	-6.1
New Mexico	321	323	2,100	2,050	674	662	-1.8
New York	610	613	1,830	1,850	1,116	1,134	1.6
Ohio	270	268	1,710	1,665	462	446	-3.5
Oregon	123	124	1,660	1,670	204	207	1.5
Pennsylvania	534	530	1,675	1,675	894	888	-0.7
Texas	433	440	1,855	1,820	803	801	-0.2
Utah	90	94	1,810	1,850	163	174	6.7
Vermont	134	132	1,630	1,650	218	218	-
Virginia	95	94	1,545	1,600	147	150	2.0
Washington	264	266	1,950	1,955	515	520	1.0
Wisconsin	1,270	1,270	1,850	1,815	2,350	2,305	-1.9
23-State Total	8,494	8,500	1,847	1,846	15,688	15,695	-

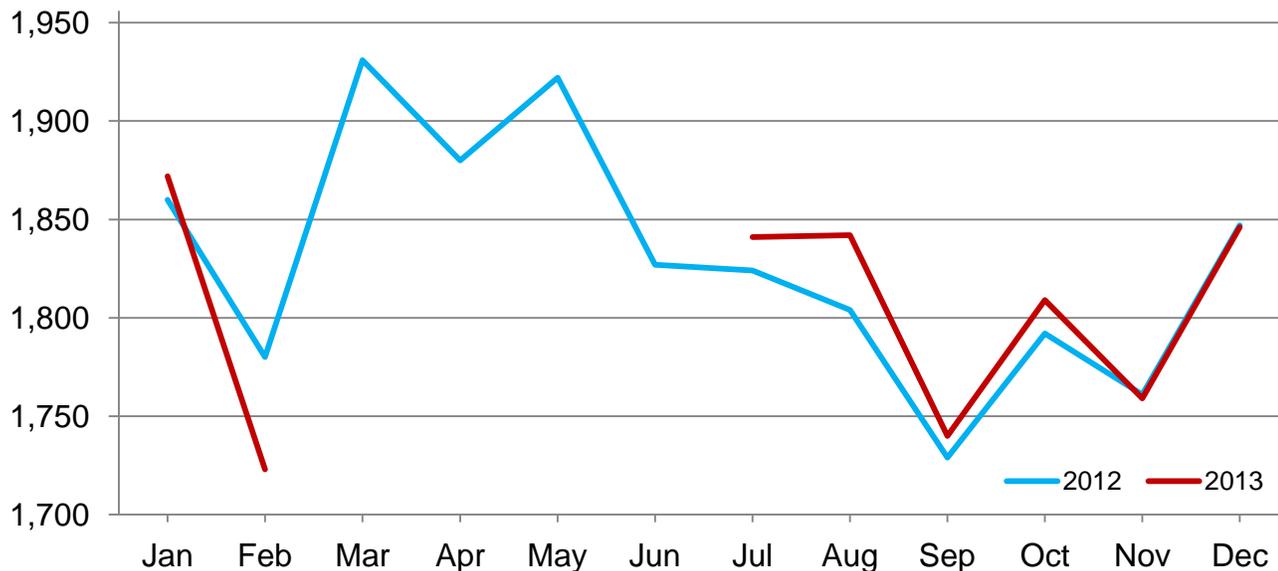
- Represents zero.

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: November 2012 and 2013

[May not add due to rounding.]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk Production ²		Change from 2012
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	185	190	1,890	1,860	350	353	0.9
California	1,779	1,781	1,835	1,840	3,264	3,277	0.4
Colorado	135	138	1,940	1,975	262	273	4.2
Florida	122	123	1,460	1,495	178	184	3.4
Idaho	578	567	1,890	1,885	1,092	1,069	-2.1
Illinois	100	97	1,570	1,550	157	150	-4.5
Indiana	173	178	1,730	1,730	299	308	3.0
Iowa	205	206	1,790	1,785	367	368	0.3
Kansas	128	135	1,770	1,800	227	243	7.0
Michigan	375	381	1,945	1,915	729	730	0.1
Minnesota	465	462	1,590	1,565	739	723	-2.2
Missouri	93	90	1,180	1,160	110	104	-5.5
New Mexico	323	322	2,000	1,990	646	641	-0.8
New York	610	611	1,735	1,750	1,058	1,069	1.0
Ohio	270	269	1,610	1,580	435	425	-2.3
Oregon	123	123	1,600	1,625	197	200	1.5
Pennsylvania	533	530	1,590	1,595	847	845	-0.2
Texas	430	440	1,770	1,770	761	779	2.4
Utah	89	93	1,750	1,790	156	166	6.4
Vermont	134	132	1,545	1,570	207	207	-
Virginia	95	94	1,445	1,490	137	140	2.2
Washington	262	266	1,880	1,885	493	501	1.6
Wisconsin	1,271	1,271	1,745	1,725	2,218	2,192	-1.2
23-State Total	8,478	8,499	1,761	1,759	14,929	14,947	0.1

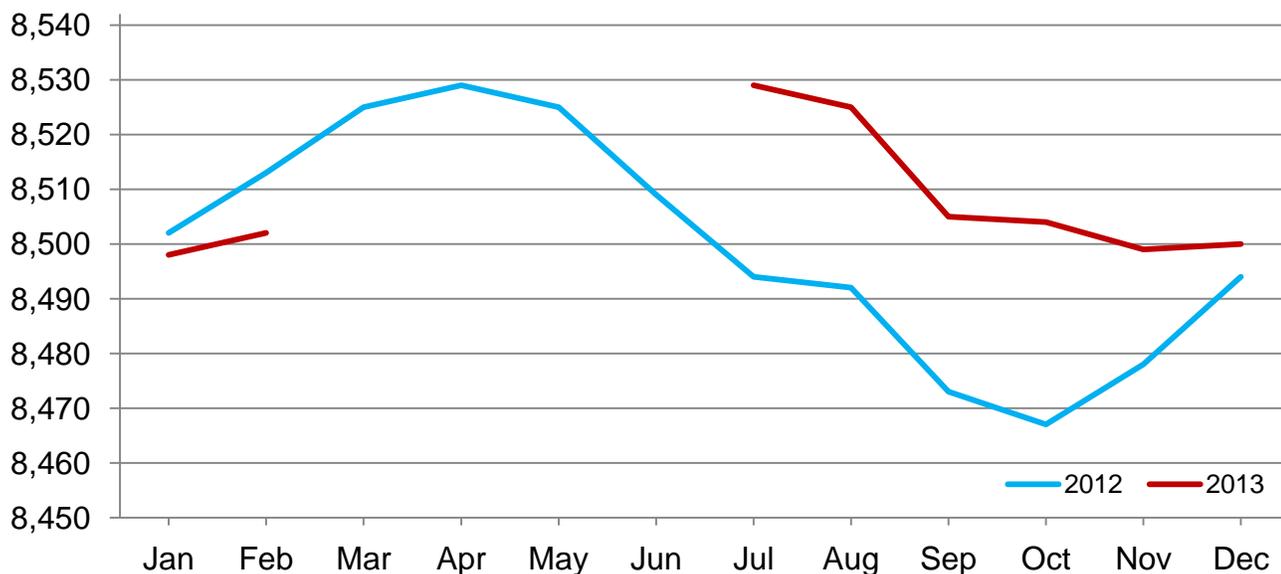
- Represents zero.

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 July - September 2012 and 2013

[May not add due to rounding.]

State	July - September milk cows ¹		July - September milk production ²		
	2012	2013 ³	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	9.5	9.0	27.0	26.0	-3.7
Alaska	0.4	0.3	1.4	0.8	-42.9
Arizona	183.0	188.0	996.0	1,014.0	1.8
Arkansas	10.0	8.0	28.0	22.0	-21.4
California	1,780.0	1,781.0	9,986.0	9,972.0	-0.1
Colorado	134.0	137.0	812.0	844.0	3.9
Connecticut	18.0	18.0	86.0	91.0	5.8
Delaware	5.0	4.7	22.0	21.6	-1.8
Florida	123.0	123.0	514.0	541.0	5.3
Georgia	80.0	80.0	338.0	357.0	5.6
Hawaii	2.0	2.2	7.0	7.4	5.7
Idaho	579.0	575.0	3,487.0	3,453.0	-1.0
Illinois	100.0	99.0	454.0	460.0	1.3
Indiana	175.0	178.0	907.0	945.0	4.2
Iowa	202.0	207.0	1,059.0	1,135.0	7.2
Kansas	126.0	135.0	667.0	720.0	7.9
Kentucky	73.0	70.0	251.0	246.0	-2.0
Louisiana	17.0	15.0	45.0	43.0	-4.4
Maine	32.0	31.0	152.0	150.0	-1.3
Maryland	51.0	50.0	233.0	232.0	-0.4
Massachusetts	12.0	12.5	53.0	56.0	5.7
Michigan	375.0	381.0	2,206.0	2,284.0	3.5
Minnesota	465.0	465.0	2,209.0	2,250.0	1.9
Mississippi	14.0	13.0	43.0	39.0	-9.3
Missouri	94.0	92.0	318.0	316.0	-0.6
Montana	14.0	14.0	75.0	74.0	-1.3
Nebraska	56.0	54.0	289.0	283.0	-2.1
Nevada	28.0	29.0	167.0	170.0	1.8
New Hampshire	13.5	13.0	67.0	67.0	-
New Jersey	7.0	7.0	31.0	31.0	-
New Mexico	327.0	323.0	1,976.0	1,967.0	-0.5
New York	610.0	610.0	3,278.0	3,365.0	2.7
North Carolina	46.0	46.0	216.0	219.0	1.4
North Dakota	18.0	17.5	86.0	84.0	-2.3
Ohio	269.0	271.0	1,281.0	1,308.0	2.1
Oklahoma	47.0	43.0	188.0	176.0	-6.4
Oregon	123.0	123.0	637.0	635.0	-0.3
Pennsylvania	533.0	533.0	2,544.0	2,590.0	1.8
Rhode Island	0.9	0.9	4.3	4.1	-4.7
South Carolina	15.0	15.0	57.0	57.0	-
South Dakota	92.0	95.0	485.0	516.0	6.4
Tennessee	49.0	47.0	182.0	176.0	-3.3
Texas	437.0	438.0	2,282.0	2,358.0	3.3
Utah	89.0	91.0	491.0	502.0	2.2
Vermont	133.0	134.0	638.0	646.0	1.3
Virginia	96.0	95.0	406.0	419.0	3.2
Washington	261.0	267.0	1,554.0	1,607.0	3.4
West Virginia	10.0	9.5	39.0	38.0	-2.6
Wisconsin	1,271.0	1,272.0	6,768.0	6,869.0	1.5
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	31.8	32.7	2.8
United States	9,211.0	9,229.0	48,675.0	49,420.0	1.5

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Survey was not conducted in April and July.

Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary October - December 2012 and 2013

[May not add due to rounding.]

State	October - December milk cows ¹		October - December milk production ²		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	9.0	9.0	29.0	28.0	-3.4
Alaska	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.8	-33.3
Arizona	185.0	190.0	1,068.0	1,089.0	2.0
Arkansas	9.5	8.0	29.0	23.0	-20.7
California	1,779.0	1,781.0	9,989.0	10,089.0	1.0
Colorado	135.0	138.0	807.0	836.0	3.6
Connecticut	18.0	18.0	86.0	90.0	4.7
Delaware	4.7	4.7	22.0	22.7	3.2
Florida	122.0	123.0	531.0	557.0	4.9
Georgia	80.0	80.0	359.0	368.0	2.5
Hawaii	2.1	2.2	6.6	7.2	9.1
Idaho	578.0	567.0	3,348.0	3,285.0	-1.9
Illinois	100.0	97.0	483.0	460.0	-4.8
Indiana	173.0	178.0	914.0	951.0	4.0
Iowa	204.0	206.0	1,118.0	1,131.0	1.2
Kansas	129.0	135.0	697.0	742.0	6.5
Kentucky	73.0	69.0	269.0	257.0	-4.5
Louisiana	16.0	15.0	49.0	46.0	-6.1
Maine	32.0	30.0	150.0	146.0	-2.7
Maryland	51.0	50.0	239.0	239.0	-
Massachusetts	12.5	12.0	55.0	54.0	-1.8
Michigan	375.0	381.0	2,223.0	2,246.0	1.0
Minnesota	465.0	462.0	2,271.0	2,235.0	-1.6
Mississippi	14.0	13.0	46.0	43.0	-6.5
Missouri	93.0	90.0	334.0	318.0	-4.8
Montana	14.0	14.0	74.0	75.0	1.4
Nebraska	55.0	53.0	297.0	284.0	-4.4
Nevada	29.0	29.0	159.0	170.0	6.9
New Hampshire	13.5	13.5	65.0	67.0	3.1
New Jersey	7.0	7.0	30.0	31.0	3.3
New Mexico	323.0	322.0	1,976.0	1,955.0	-1.1
New York	610.0	611.0	3,257.0	3,325.0	2.1
North Carolina	46.0	45.0	226.0	227.0	0.4
North Dakota	18.0	17.0	87.0	81.0	-6.9
Ohio	270.0	269.0	1,343.0	1,309.0	-2.5
Oklahoma	46.0	44.0	201.0	191.0	-5.0
Oregon	123.0	123.0	608.0	615.0	1.2
Pennsylvania	533.0	530.0	2,604.0	2,597.0	-0.3
Rhode Island	0.9	0.9	4.1	4.0	-2.4
South Carolina	15.5	15.5	65.0	64.0	-1.5
South Dakota	92.0	95.0	497.0	511.0	2.8
Tennessee	49.0	47.0	191.0	182.0	-4.7
Texas	431.0	440.0	2,336.0	2,381.0	1.9
Utah	89.0	93.0	478.0	507.0	6.1
Vermont	134.0	132.0	637.0	639.0	0.3
Virginia	95.0	94.0	423.0	432.0	2.1
Washington	262.0	266.0	1,520.0	1,546.0	1.7
West Virginia	10.0	9.0	38.0	34.0	-10.5
Wisconsin	1,271.0	1,271.0	6,824.0	6,780.0	-0.6
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	32.0	32.0	-
United States	9,203.0	9,206.0	49,096.0	49,303.0	0.4

- 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 9.21 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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	37	1	96	16	4
All milk cows	0.1	0.2	6	0	48	13	3

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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Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Sheep and Goats, Honey	(202) 720-4751
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Tiffany Hora – Livestock Slaughter	(515) 284-4340
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

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