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October Milk Production up 0.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 16.0 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from October 2014. September revised production, at 15.6 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from September 2014. The September revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,857 pounds for October, 7 pounds below October 2014. This is the second highest production per cow for the month of October since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 38,000 head more than October 2014, but 1,000 head less than September 2015.

October Milk Production in the United States up 0.1 Percent

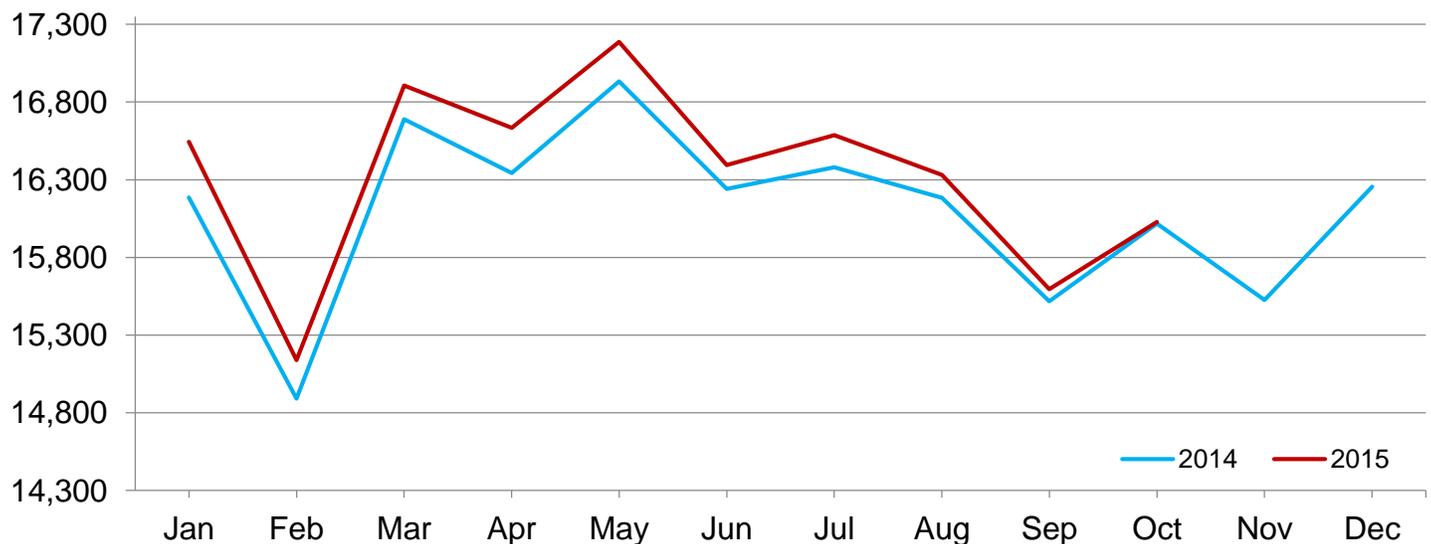
Milk production in the United States during October totaled 17.1 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from October 2014.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,835 pounds for October, 5 pounds below October 2014.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.31 million head, 32,000 head more than October 2014, but 1,000 head less than September 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	5,583	51,020	51,949	1.8
April-June	9,253	9,320	5,717	5,757	52,897	53,654	1.4
July-September	9,270	9,313	5,520	5,546	51,173	51,654	0.9
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	8,626	1,912	1,928	16,344	16,633	1.8
May	8,558	8,630	1,979	1,992	16,934	17,187	1.5
June	8,572	8,628	1,895	1,900	16,241	16,394	0.9
July	8,583	8,628	1,909	1,922	16,381	16,586	1.3
August	8,585	8,634	1,885	1,891	16,184	16,331	0.9
September	8,593	8,633	1,806	1,806	15,519	15,595	0.5
October	8,594	8,632	1,864	1,857	16,017	16,028	0.1
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	9,304	1,876	1,900	17,284	17,680	2.3
February	9,212	9,304	1,727	1,740	15,907	16,189	1.8
March	9,223	9,306	1,933	1,943	17,829	18,080	1.4
April	9,240	9,315	1,892	1,911	17,480	17,800	1.8
May	9,252	9,323	1,956	1,970	18,094	18,369	1.5
June	9,267	9,321	1,869	1,876	17,323	17,485	0.9
July	9,268	9,315	1,881	1,897	17,435	17,670	1.3
August	9,268	9,315	1,858	1,866	17,224	17,385	0.9
September	9,274	9,310	1,781	1,783	16,514	16,599	0.5
October	9,277	9,309	1,840	1,835	17,071	17,080	0.1
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: October 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

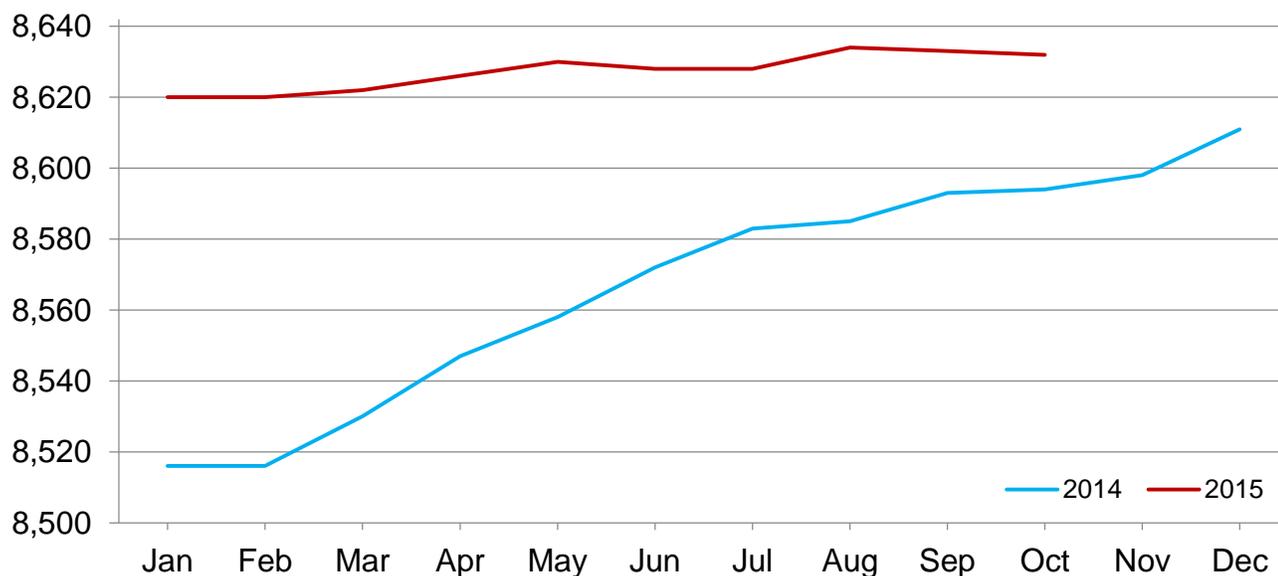
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	195	195	1,955	1,930	381	376	-1.3
California	1,779	1,777	1,930	1,825	3,433	3,243	-5.5
Colorado	145	145	2,105	2,170	305	315	3.3
Florida	123	125	1,470	1,495	181	187	3.3
Idaho	579	586	2,010	2,010	1,164	1,178	1.2
Illinois	93	94	1,600	1,610	149	151	1.3
Indiana	179	183	1,820	1,850	326	339	4.0
Iowa	208	210	1,875	1,880	390	395	1.3
Kansas	143	143	1,855	1,845	265	264	-0.4
Michigan	397	410	2,055	2,080	816	853	4.5
Minnesota	460	460	1,655	1,685	761	775	1.8
New Mexico	323	323	2,050	1,990	662	643	-2.9
New York	615	620	1,880	1,910	1,156	1,184	2.4
Ohio	267	266	1,685	1,705	450	454	0.9
Oregon	124	123	1,685	1,675	209	206	-1.4
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,680	1,650	890	875	-1.7
South Dakota	97	108	1,860	1,885	180	204	13.3
Texas	470	462	1,825	1,845	858	852	-0.7
Utah	96	96	1,925	1,900	185	182	-1.6
Vermont	132	131	1,680	1,670	222	219	-1.4
Virginia	92	90	1,580	1,590	145	143	-1.4
Washington	275	275	1,995	1,980	549	545	-0.7
Wisconsin	1,272	1,280	1,840	1,910	2,340	2,445	4.5
23-State Total	8,594	8,632	1,864	1,857	16,017	16,028	0.1

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: September 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	193	195	1,780	1,795	344	350	1.7
California	1,779	1,777	1,850	1,785	3,291	3,172	-3.6
Colorado	145	145	2,055	2,145	298	311	4.4
Florida	123	125	1,420	1,450	175	181	3.4
Idaho	579	586	1,975	1,995	1,144	1,169	2.2
Illinois	94	94	1,510	1,520	142	143	0.7
Indiana	179	183	1,770	1,780	317	326	2.8
Iowa	208	210	1,805	1,805	375	379	1.1
Kansas	143	143	1,770	1,770	253	253	-
Michigan	396	410	2,000	2,015	792	826	4.3
Minnesota	460	460	1,605	1,635	738	752	1.9
New Mexico	323	323	2,000	1,960	646	633	-2.0
New York	615	620	1,835	1,860	1,129	1,153	2.1
Ohio	267	266	1,650	1,660	441	442	0.2
Oregon	124	123	1,670	1,650	207	203	-1.9
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,630	1,600	864	848	-1.9
South Dakota	97	108	1,795	1,825	174	197	13.2
Texas	470	462	1,745	1,785	820	825	0.6
Utah	96	96	1,885	1,885	181	181	-
Vermont	132	131	1,645	1,625	217	213	-1.8
Virginia	93	90	1,495	1,545	139	139	-
Washington	275	276	1,970	1,945	542	537	-0.9
Wisconsin	1,272	1,280	1,800	1,845	2,290	2,362	3.1
23-State Total	8,593	8,633	1,806	1,806	15,519	15,595	0.5

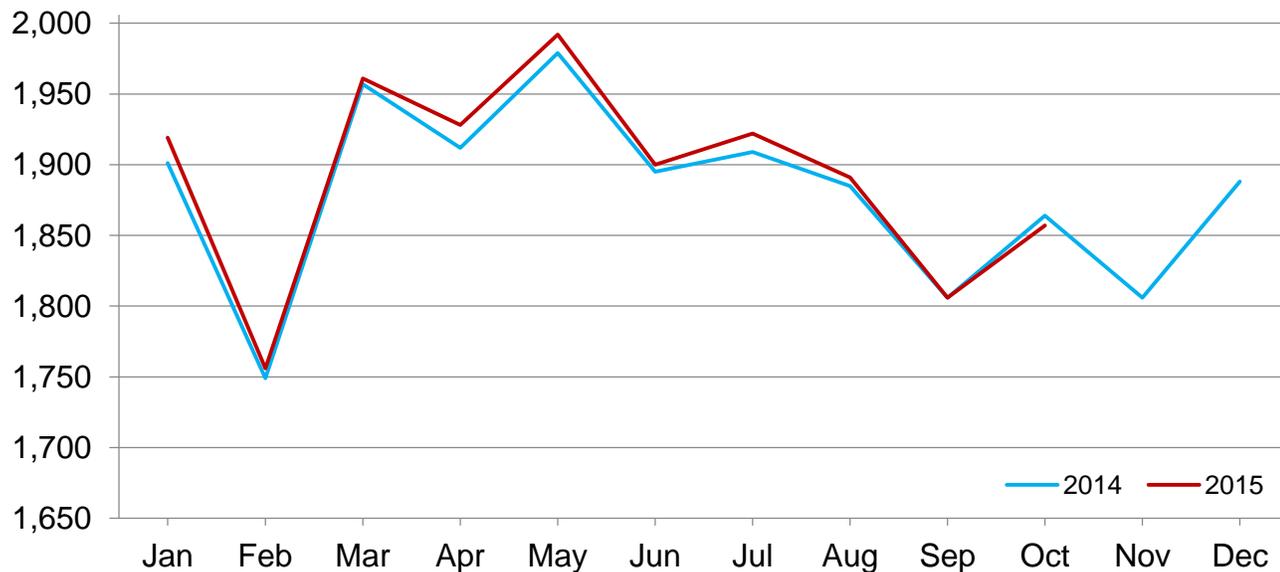
- Represents zero.

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 Survey.

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 16.0 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	23	3	64	18	6
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	16	15	6

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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Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

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