

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
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MILK PRODUCTION AUGUST 1, 1938

Milk production in the United States showed somewhat less than the average seasonal decline during July; and on August 1 was the highest for that date in the 14 years on record. This marks a continuation of the heavy production that has been apparent during recent months of the current year.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on August 1 averaged the highest for that date since 1929 and nearly 4 percent higher than a year ago. With the number of milk cows on farms about the same, total milk production also was up about 4 percent from that on the corresponding date in 1937. Even taking into consideration the steady increase in population, milk production was abnormally heavy, with the per capita production on August 1 record high for that date.

The abundant pasturage available throughout July in nearly all States partially accounts for the unusually small seasonal decline in milk production during July and, considered together with the large percentage of the milk cows in production, it largely accounts for the above-average production per cow reported from nearly all States on August 1. On that date production per cow in much of the country apparently averaged fairly close to production at the same time in 1927, 1928, and 1929. These were apparently fairly comparable seasons in that pastures were good, and feed was available at a moderate price as compared with the prices of dairy products.

For the country as a whole, the August 1 reports from crop correspondents showed an average production of 15.40 pounds of milk per cow in their herds, compared with 14.85 pounds on August 1 a year ago and the 1927-36 average of 14.23 pounds for that date. In crop correspondents' herds 77.2 percent of the milk cows were reported milked on August 1 compared with 76.8 percent on the same date in 1937 and a range of 72.0 to 75.7 percent on August 1 in the twelve preceding years.

MILK COW NUMBERS: The decline in the number of milk cows on farms in the United States, which continued from the spring of 1934 until the spring of 1937, now appears to have been checked. In the States seriously affected by drought in 1937 and in a few other areas the decline continued well into 1938, but elsewhere numbers have begun to increase.

Reports from 150,000 farmers secured in June through the cooperation of rural mail carriers showed that, as compared with June of the previous year, some slight increases in the number of milk cows had taken place in the northern tier of States from Minnesota eastward, in most of the Atlantic Coast States as far south as Virginia and in several of the South Central States. Some slight increases were also indicated in the Pacific Northwest, but the drought that has developed recently in part of that area may have changed the situation there since the first of June. These increases were offset by further decreases in the Great Plains area north of Texas, particularly in Nebraska and Kansas, and by some reductions in the Southeastern States. Elsewhere changes were small and not well defined by regions. For the country as a whole, there appears to have been practically the same number of milk cows on farms on June 1 this year as a year earlier, the slight decrease in the latter half of 1937 apparently being offset by a slight upturn in early 1938.

Reports on the number of spring-born heifer calves being saved for milk cows this year showed the highest number in relation to the number of cows on hand that has been reported since 1931. Due to the droughts in recent years the number of heifer calves raised each year has varied somewhat from the number indicated by the June reports, but considering the large supply of hay already harvested and the present prospects for an abundance of feed grain, it seems probable that the number of heifer calves saved for milk cows this year will be somewhat larger than the number kept in other recent years except 1932 and 1933.

DAIRY PASTURES, AUGUST 1, 1938

Dairy pastures on August 1 were better than average for that date in practically all States except Washington and Oregon, and for the country as a whole they averaged the best for August 1 since 1928. In most sections there is now more grass than present livestock can utilize. Pastures were particularly good in the important dairy areas of Minnesota and northern Iowa and in nearly the whole area east of the Mississippi River, aside from a dry spot extending from northern Vermont through western New York, and another in the northern half of the lower peninsula of Michigan. West of the Mississippi River pastures were mostly good but there were a few poor areas particularly on the northern Pacific Coast, northwestern South Dakota, and an area extending from southwestern Nebraska to northern Texas. Pastures were only fair in other parts of the Dakotas, eastern Nebraska, southwestern Iowa, northwestern and western Missouri, northern Arkansas and south Texas.

For the country as a whole the average condition of dairy pastures on August 1 was 84 percent of normal compared with 76 percent a year ago and a 1927-36 average of 66.8 percent for that date. The August 1 average for the 1920-29 period just prior to recent droughts was 80.2 percent.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD  
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State	MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS <sup>1/</sup>				MILK COWS ON FARMS <sup>2/</sup>
	: August 1 : : (Avg.) 1927-36:	: August 1 : 1936	: August 1 : 1937	: August 1 : 1938	: Number June 1938 as : percent of June 1937
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
N. Eng.	15.68	16.43	16.70	16.27	101.5
N. Y.	17.5	17.3	18.5	17.7	103
N. J.	18.6	20.1	19.0	19.3	102
Pa.	16.9	17.5	17.7	18.4	100
N. Atl.	16.94	17.40	17.89	17.75	101.8
Ohio	16.1	16.1	17.1	17.8	100
Ind.	15.0	14.1	15.5	17.0	99
Ill.	14.3	13.7	15.4	16.1	99
Mich.	17.5	17.8	18.1	18.5	101
Wis.	17.3	16.7	17.6	18.7	101
E. N. Cent.	16.33	15.85	16.99	17.82	100.5
Minn.	15.2	14.8	15.9	16.9	102
Iowa	14.2	12.8	14.5	15.6	99
Mo.	10.9	9.3	11.8	12.2	101
N. Dak.	14.7	13.2	16.3	16.6	96
S. Dak.	13.1	11.5	12.7	12.6	99
Nebr.	14.0	13.0	14.8	14.6	93
Kans.	13.2	11.1	12.8	14.2	95
W. N. Cent.	13.72	12.43	14.12	14.83	98.7
Md.	15.2	15.5	16.1	15.4	101
Va.	13.2	13.0	14.4	14.4	101
W. Va.	14.0	13.2	14.5	14.9	101
N. C.	12.8	12.4	12.9	13.2	99
S. C.	10.7	11.3	11.5	11.0	96
S. Atl.	11.99	12.05	12.68	12.89	99.0
Ky.	13.1	11.8	13.6	14.8	98
Tenn.	11.9	12.5	11.9	13.4	102
Miss.	8.6	8.5	8.1	8.4	100
Ark.	9.7	9.2	10.9	10.3	103
Okla.	11.1	9.7	11.7	13.1	98
Tex.	9.9	10.8	10.3	10.9	102
S. Cent.	10.30	9.98	10.67	11.24	100.6
Mont.	14.8	12.6	16.9	18.7	98
Idaho	18.7	18.3	20.2	19.2	101
Wyo.	14.8	14.6	17.3	15.7	100
Colo.	14.6	13.9	15.3	17.3	97
Wash.	19.3	22.3	20.5	20.0	101
Oreg.	17.6	18.7	19.4	18.4	102
Calif.	18.4	18.2	18.5	19.4	99
West.	16.49	17.04	18.23	18.19	99.4
U. S.	14.23	13.71	14.85	15.40	100.0

<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.

<sup>2/</sup> Based on reports for about 150,000 herds collected largely through cooperation with the Rural Mail Carriers.