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December Milk Production up 3.2 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 16.2 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from December 2013. November revised production at 15.5 billion pounds, was up 3.5 percent from November 2013. The November 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 1,886 pounds for December, 35 pounds above December 2013. This is the highest production per cow for the month of December since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States for December, was 8.61 million head, 107,000 head more than December 2013, and 16,000 head more than November 2014.

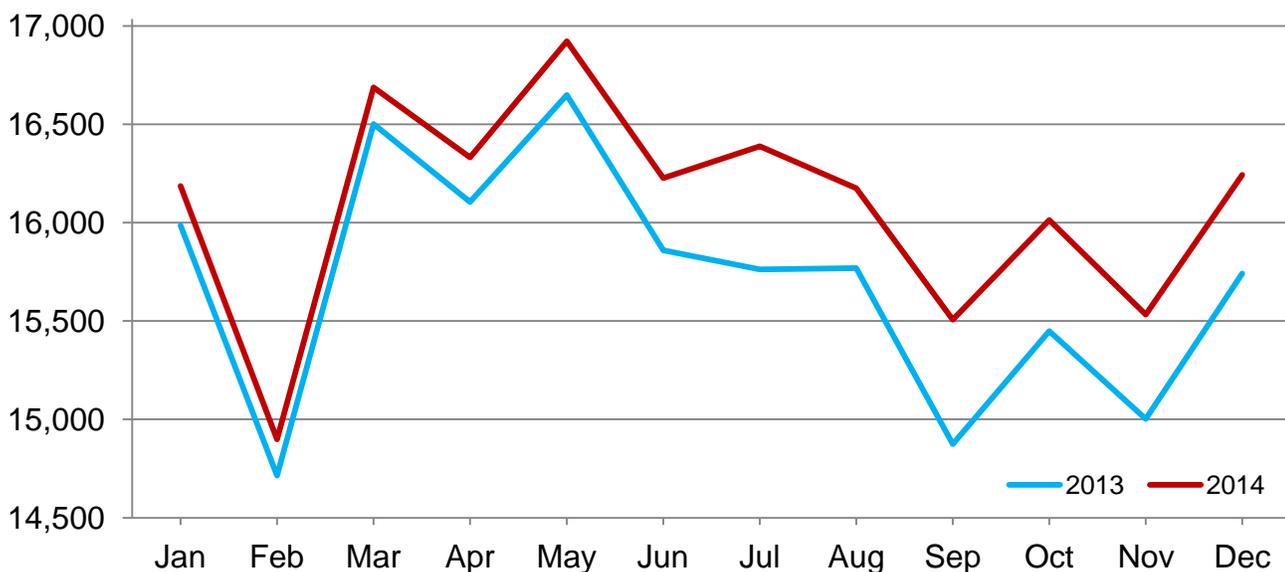
October - December Milk Production up 3.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 50.9 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from the October - December quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.28 million head, 16,000 head more than the July – September quarter, and 83,000 head more than the same period last year.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2013-2014

[May not add due to rounding]

| Quarter | Milk Cows ¹ | | Milk Per Cow ² | | Milk Production ² | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 ³ | 2014 | 2013 ³ | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | Change From 2013 |
| | (1,000 Head) | (1,000 Head) | (Pounds) | (Pounds) | (Million Pounds) | (Million Pounds) | (Percent) |
| January-March | | 9,214 | | 5,540 | 50,545 | 51,046 | 1.0 |
| April-June | | 9,253 | | 5,713 | 51,997 | 52,861 | 1.7 |
| July-September | 9,224 | 9,268 | 5,356 | 5,519 | 49,408 | 51,148 | 3.5 |
| October-December | 9,201 | 9,284 | 5,355 | 5,487 | 49,268 | 50,939 | 3.4 |
| Annual | 9,221 | 9,255 | 21,822 | 22,258 | 201,218 | 205,994 | 2.4 |

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: 2013-2014

| Month | Milk cows ¹ | | Milk per cow ² | | Milk production ² | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 ³ | 2014 | 2013 ³ | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | Change from 2013 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (pounds) | (pounds) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (percent) |
| January | 8,497 | 8,512 | 1,881 | 1,902 | 15,985 | 16,186 | 1.3 |
| February | 8,498 | 8,513 | 1,732 | 1,750 | 14,715 | 14,899 | 1.3 |
| March | | 8,521 | | 1,958 | 16,501 | 16,687 | 1.1 |
| April | | 8,542 | | 1,912 | 16,105 | 16,332 | 1.4 |
| May | | 8,559 | | 1,977 | 16,648 | 16,922 | 1.6 |
| June | | 8,572 | | 1,893 | 15,860 | 16,227 | 2.3 |
| July | 8,522 | 8,583 | 1,850 | 1,909 | 15,762 | 16,388 | 4.0 |
| August | 8,522 | 8,582 | 1,850 | 1,885 | 15,768 | 16,174 | 2.6 |
| September | 8,508 | 8,590 | 1,748 | 1,805 | 14,874 | 15,507 | 4.3 |
| October | 8,504 | 8,589 | 1,817 | 1,864 | 15,449 | 16,013 | 3.7 |
| November | 8,499 | 8,595 | 1,765 | 1,807 | 15,002 | 15,532 | 3.5 |
| December | 8,504 | 8,611 | 1,851 | 1,886 | 15,741 | 16,242 | 3.2 |
| Annual | 8,508 | 8,564 | 22,145 | 22,549 | 188,410 | 193,109 | 2.5 |

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: 2013-2014

| Month | Milk cows ¹ | | Milk per cow ² | | Milk production ² | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 ³ | 2014 | 2013 ³ | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | Change from 2013 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (pounds) | (pounds) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (percent) |
| January | 9,222 | 9,210 | 1,855 | 1,878 | 17,109 | 17,293 | 1.1 |
| February | 9,223 | 9,212 | 1,709 | 1,728 | 15,759 | 15,920 | 1.0 |
| March | | 9,221 | | 1,934 | 17,677 | 17,833 | 0.9 |
| April | | 9,238 | | 1,891 | 17,249 | 17,468 | 1.3 |
| May | | 9,254 | | 1,954 | 17,813 | 18,080 | 1.5 |
| June | | 9,267 | | 1,868 | 16,935 | 17,313 | 2.2 |
| July | 9,235 | 9,271 | 1,818 | 1,881 | 16,788 | 17,442 | 3.9 |
| August | 9,229 | 9,265 | 1,819 | 1,858 | 16,789 | 17,211 | 2.5 |
| September | 9,208 | 9,269 | 1,719 | 1,780 | 15,831 | 16,495 | 4.2 |
| October | 9,203 | 9,269 | 1,790 | 1,841 | 16,475 | 17,066 | 3.6 |
| November | 9,198 | 9,280 | 1,740 | 1,784 | 16,003 | 16,555 | 3.4 |
| December | 9,202 | 9,302 | 1,825 | 1,862 | 16,790 | 17,318 | 3.1 |
| Annual | 9,221 | 9,255 | 21,822 | 22,258 | 201,218 | 205,994 | 2.4 |

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.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: December 2013 and 2014

[May not add due to rounding]

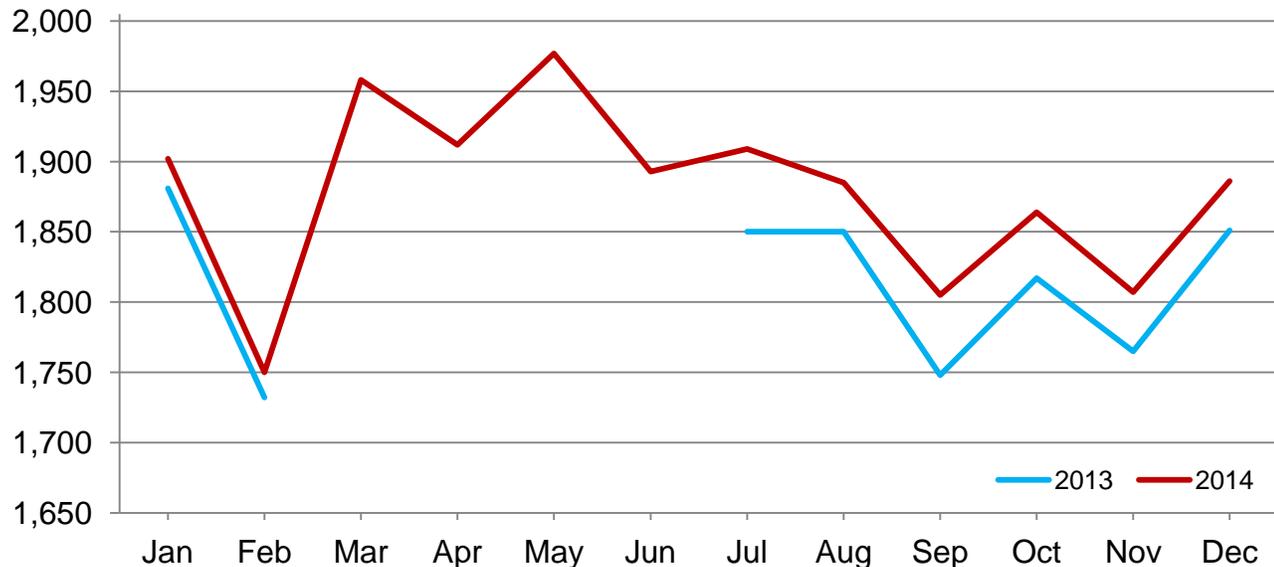
| State | Milk cows ¹ | | Milk per cow ² | | Milk production ² | | Change from 2013 |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (pounds) | (pounds) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (percent) |
| Arizona | 191 | 194 | 1,985 | 2,040 | 379 | 396 | 4.5 |
| California | 1,781 | 1,780 | 1,950 | 1,950 | 3,473 | 3,471 | -0.1 |
| Colorado | 140 | 145 | 2,055 | 2,115 | 288 | 307 | 6.6 |
| Florida | 123 | 124 | 1,600 | 1,650 | 197 | 205 | 4.1 |
| Idaho | 565 | 579 | 1,960 | 1,980 | 1,107 | 1,146 | 3.5 |
| Illinois | 96 | 94 | 1,630 | 1,650 | 156 | 155 | -0.6 |
| Indiana | 178 | 180 | 1,820 | 1,865 | 324 | 336 | 3.7 |
| Iowa | 206 | 209 | 1,870 | 1,935 | 385 | 404 | 4.9 |
| Kansas | 136 | 143 | 1,845 | 1,870 | 251 | 267 | 6.4 |
| Michigan | 380 | 402 | 2,020 | 2,060 | 768 | 828 | 7.8 |
| Minnesota | 460 | 460 | 1,665 | 1,705 | 766 | 784 | 2.3 |
| New Mexico | 323 | 323 | 2,050 | 2,060 | 662 | 665 | 0.5 |
| New York | 613 | 615 | 1,820 | 1,890 | 1,116 | 1,162 | 4.1 |
| Ohio | 267 | 268 | 1,680 | 1,710 | 449 | 458 | 2.0 |
| Oregon | 124 | 125 | 1,675 | 1,655 | 208 | 207 | -0.5 |
| Pennsylvania | 530 | 530 | 1,675 | 1,730 | 888 | 917 | 3.3 |
| South Dakota | 95 | 98 | 1,815 | 1,870 | 172 | 183 | 6.4 |
| Texas | 440 | 470 | 1,820 | 1,870 | 801 | 879 | 9.7 |
| Utah | 94 | 96 | 1,820 | 1,940 | 171 | 186 | 8.8 |
| Vermont | 132 | 132 | 1,650 | 1,705 | 218 | 225 | 3.2 |
| Virginia | 94 | 93 | 1,600 | 1,630 | 150 | 152 | 1.3 |
| Washington | 266 | 277 | 1,955 | 1,970 | 520 | 546 | 5.0 |
| Wisconsin | 1,270 | 1,274 | 1,805 | 1,855 | 2,292 | 2,363 | 3.1 |
| 23-State Total | 8,504 | 8,611 | 1,851 | 1,886 | 15,741 | 16,242 | 3.2 |

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 2013 and 2014

[May not add due to rounding]

| | Milk cows ¹ | | Milk per cow ² | | Milk Production ² | | Change from 2013 |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (pounds) | (pounds) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (percent) |
| Arizona | 190 | 193 | 1,860 | 1,945 | 353 | 375 | 6.2 |
| California | 1,780 | 1,780 | 1,840 | 1,885 | 3,275 | 3,355 | 2.4 |
| Colorado | 138 | 145 | 1,975 | 2,030 | 273 | 294 | 7.7 |
| Florida | 123 | 123 | 1,495 | 1,535 | 184 | 189 | 2.7 |
| Idaho | 567 | 579 | 1,885 | 1,925 | 1,069 | 1,115 | 4.3 |
| Illinois | 96 | 93 | 1,550 | 1,540 | 149 | 143 | -4.0 |
| Indiana | 178 | 179 | 1,730 | 1,775 | 308 | 318 | 3.2 |
| Iowa | 206 | 207 | 1,775 | 1,845 | 366 | 382 | 4.4 |
| Kansas | 135 | 143 | 1,800 | 1,790 | 243 | 256 | 5.3 |
| Michigan | 380 | 399 | 1,930 | 1,965 | 733 | 784 | 7.0 |
| Minnesota | 461 | 460 | 1,565 | 1,610 | 721 | 741 | 2.8 |
| New Mexico | 322 | 323 | 1,990 | 1,975 | 641 | 638 | -0.5 |
| New York | 611 | 615 | 1,750 | 1,805 | 1,069 | 1,110 | 3.8 |
| Ohio | 268 | 267 | 1,600 | 1,630 | 429 | 435 | 1.4 |
| Oregon | 123 | 124 | 1,625 | 1,615 | 200 | 200 | - |
| Pennsylvania | 530 | 530 | 1,585 | 1,640 | 840 | 869 | 3.5 |
| South Dakota | 95 | 97 | 1,735 | 1,810 | 165 | 176 | 6.7 |
| Texas | 440 | 470 | 1,770 | 1,785 | 779 | 839 | 7.7 |
| Utah | 93 | 96 | 1,775 | 1,855 | 165 | 178 | 7.9 |
| Vermont | 132 | 132 | 1,570 | 1,630 | 207 | 215 | 3.9 |
| Virginia | 94 | 92 | 1,490 | 1,550 | 140 | 143 | 2.1 |
| Washington | 266 | 276 | 1,885 | 1,905 | 501 | 526 | 5.0 |
| Wisconsin | 1,271 | 1,272 | 1,725 | 1,770 | 2,192 | 2,251 | 2.7 |
| 23-State Total | 8,499 | 8,595 | 1,765 | 1,807 | 15,002 | 15,532 | 3.5 |

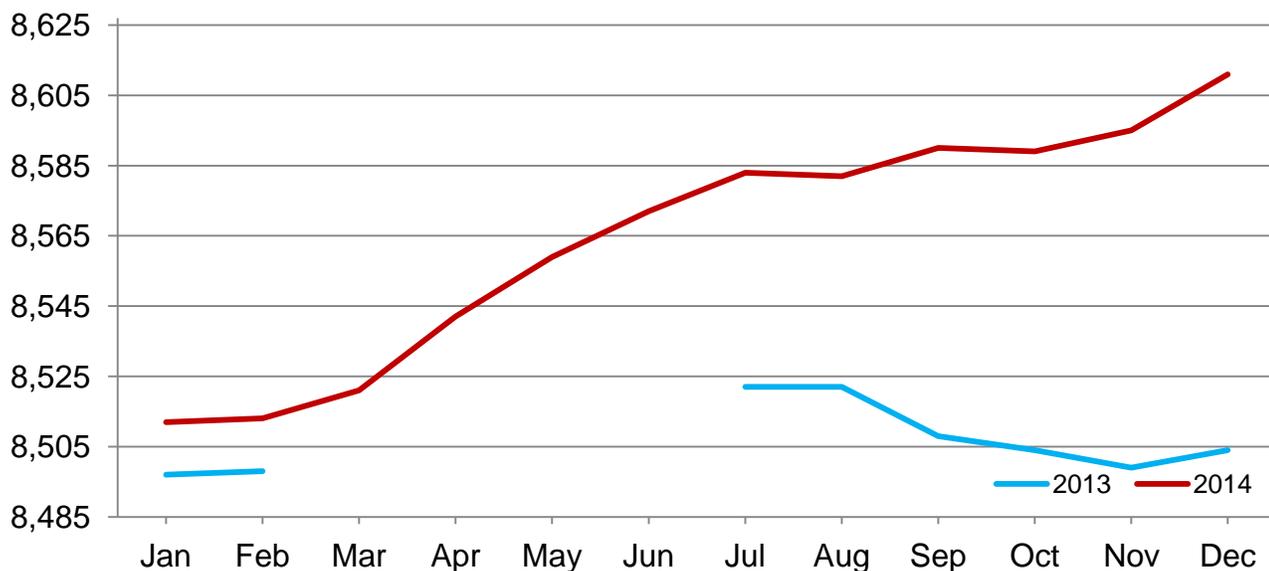
- Represents zero.

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 2013 and 2014

[May not add due to rounding]

| State | July - September milk cows ¹ | | July - September milk production ² | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | Change from 2013 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (percent) |
| Alabama | 9.0 | 8.0 | 25.0 | 23.0 | -8.0 |
| Alaska | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 12.5 |
| Arizona | 188.0 | 193.0 | 1,014.0 | 1,082.0 | 6.7 |
| Arkansas | 8.0 | 7.5 | 22.0 | 22.0 | - |
| California | 1,780.0 | 1,779.0 | 9,970.0 | 10,264.0 | 2.9 |
| Colorado | 137.0 | 145.0 | 844.0 | 920.0 | 9.0 |
| Connecticut | 18.0 | 19.0 | 91.0 | 95.0 | 4.4 |
| Delaware | 4.7 | 4.8 | 21.6 | 23.0 | 6.5 |
| Florida | 123.0 | 123.0 | 541.0 | 577.0 | 6.7 |
| Georgia | 80.0 | 81.0 | 357.0 | 392.0 | 9.8 |
| Hawaii | 2.2 | 2.2 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 1.4 |
| Idaho | 573.0 | 579.0 | 3,453.0 | 3,577.0 | 3.6 |
| Illinois | 97.0 | 94.0 | 443.0 | 448.0 | 1.1 |
| Indiana | 177.0 | 179.0 | 939.0 | 989.0 | 5.3 |
| Iowa | 208.0 | 207.0 | 1,127.0 | 1,154.0 | 2.4 |
| Kansas | 135.0 | 143.0 | 719.0 | 774.0 | 7.6 |
| Kentucky | 70.0 | 60.0 | 243.0 | 228.0 | -6.2 |
| Louisiana | 15.0 | 14.0 | 42.0 | 42.0 | - |
| Maine | 31.0 | 30.0 | 152.0 | 152.0 | - |
| Maryland | 50.0 | 49.0 | 232.0 | 238.0 | 2.6 |
| Massachusetts | 12.5 | 12.5 | 56.0 | 58.0 | 3.6 |
| Michigan | 381.0 | 395.0 | 2,286.0 | 2,456.0 | 7.4 |
| Minnesota | 464.0 | 460.0 | 2,250.0 | 2,270.0 | 0.9 |
| Mississippi | 13.0 | 12.5 | 39.0 | 40.0 | 2.6 |
| Missouri | 92.0 | 88.0 | 316.0 | 337.0 | 6.6 |
| Montana | 14.0 | 14.0 | 74.0 | 76.0 | 2.7 |
| Nebraska | 54.0 | 54.0 | 283.0 | 297.0 | 4.9 |
| Nevada | 29.0 | 28.0 | 161.0 | 171.0 | 6.2 |
| New Hampshire | 13.0 | 14.0 | 67.0 | 70.0 | 4.5 |
| New Jersey | 7.0 | 7.0 | 31.0 | 31.0 | - |
| New Mexico | 323.0 | 323.0 | 1,967.0 | 2,012.0 | 2.3 |
| New York | 610.0 | 615.0 | 3,365.0 | 3,494.0 | 3.8 |
| North Carolina | 46.0 | 45.0 | 219.0 | 228.0 | 4.1 |
| North Dakota | 17.5 | 16.0 | 84.0 | 80.0 | -4.8 |
| Ohio | 271.0 | 266.0 | 1,327.0 | 1,362.0 | 2.6 |
| Oklahoma | 43.0 | 40.0 | 172.0 | 163.0 | -5.2 |
| Oregon | 123.0 | 123.0 | 635.0 | 635.0 | - |
| Pennsylvania | 533.0 | 530.0 | 2,590.0 | 2,650.0 | 2.3 |
| Rhode Island | 0.9 | 0.9 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 2.4 |
| South Carolina | 15.0 | 15.0 | 57.0 | 58.0 | 1.8 |
| South Dakota | 95.0 | 97.0 | 516.0 | 533.0 | 3.3 |
| Tennessee | 47.0 | 45.0 | 176.0 | 175.0 | -0.6 |
| Texas | 438.0 | 470.0 | 2,358.0 | 2,524.0 | 7.0 |
| Utah | 92.0 | 96.0 | 519.0 | 549.0 | 5.8 |
| Vermont | 134.0 | 132.0 | 646.0 | 671.0 | 3.9 |
| Virginia | 95.0 | 93.0 | 419.0 | 433.0 | 3.3 |
| Washington | 267.0 | 273.0 | 1,607.0 | 1,665.0 | 3.6 |
| West Virginia | 9.5 | 9.0 | 38.0 | 34.0 | -10.5 |
| Wisconsin | 1,272.0 | 1,270.0 | 6,869.0 | 7,030.0 | 2.3 |
| Wyoming | 6.0 | 6.0 | 32.5 | 33.0 | 1.5 |
| United States | 9,224.0 | 9,268.0 | 49,408.0 | 51,148.0 | 3.5 |

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary October - December 2013 and 2014

[May not add due to rounding]

| State | October - December milk cows ¹ | | October - December milk production ² | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2014 | Change from 2013 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (percent) |
| Alabama | 9.0 | 8.0 | 28.0 | 25.0 | -10.7 |
| Alaska | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 12.5 |
| Arizona | 190.0 | 193.0 | 1,089.0 | 1,141.0 | 4.8 |
| Arkansas | 8.0 | 7.0 | 22.0 | 22.0 | - |
| California | 1,780.0 | 1,780.0 | 10,086.0 | 10,259.0 | 1.7 |
| Colorado | 138.0 | 145.0 | 839.0 | 906.0 | 8.0 |
| Connecticut | 18.0 | 19.0 | 90.0 | 95.0 | 5.6 |
| Delaware | 4.7 | 4.9 | 22.7 | 24.3 | 7.0 |
| Florida | 123.0 | 123.0 | 553.0 | 575.0 | 4.0 |
| Georgia | 80.0 | 81.0 | 368.0 | 397.0 | 7.9 |
| Hawaii | 2.2 | 2.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 | - |
| Idaho | 567.0 | 579.0 | 3,286.0 | 3,425.0 | 4.2 |
| Illinois | 96.0 | 93.0 | 457.0 | 447.0 | -2.2 |
| Indiana | 178.0 | 179.0 | 951.0 | 980.0 | 3.0 |
| Iowa | 206.0 | 208.0 | 1,126.0 | 1,176.0 | 4.4 |
| Kansas | 135.0 | 143.0 | 742.0 | 788.0 | 6.2 |
| Kentucky | 69.0 | 62.0 | 257.0 | 249.0 | -3.1 |
| Louisiana | 15.0 | 14.0 | 46.0 | 47.0 | 2.2 |
| Maine | 30.0 | 30.0 | 146.0 | 148.0 | 1.4 |
| Maryland | 50.0 | 49.0 | 241.0 | 241.0 | - |
| Massachusetts | 12.0 | 12.5 | 54.0 | 55.0 | 1.9 |
| Michigan | 380.0 | 399.0 | 2,261.0 | 2,426.0 | 7.3 |
| Minnesota | 461.0 | 460.0 | 2,232.0 | 2,286.0 | 2.4 |
| Mississippi | 13.0 | 12.0 | 43.0 | 44.0 | 2.3 |
| Missouri | 90.0 | 88.0 | 318.0 | 337.0 | 6.0 |
| Montana | 14.0 | 14.0 | 75.0 | 74.0 | -1.3 |
| Nebraska | 53.0 | 54.0 | 285.0 | 304.0 | 6.7 |
| Nevada | 29.0 | 28.0 | 161.0 | 173.0 | 7.5 |
| New Hampshire | 13.5 | 14.0 | 67.0 | 69.0 | 3.0 |
| New Jersey | 7.0 | 7.0 | 31.0 | 31.0 | - |
| New Mexico | 322.0 | 323.0 | 1,955.0 | 1,965.0 | 0.5 |
| New York | 611.0 | 615.0 | 3,307.0 | 3,428.0 | 3.7 |
| North Carolina | 45.0 | 47.0 | 227.0 | 239.0 | 5.3 |
| North Dakota | 17.0 | 16.0 | 81.0 | 79.0 | -2.5 |
| Ohio | 268.0 | 267.0 | 1,322.0 | 1,350.0 | 2.1 |
| Oklahoma | 44.0 | 40.0 | 191.0 | 170.0 | -11.0 |
| Oregon | 123.0 | 124.0 | 616.0 | 616.0 | - |
| Pennsylvania | 530.0 | 530.0 | 2,587.0 | 2,676.0 | 3.4 |
| Rhode Island | 0.9 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 2.5 |
| South Carolina | 15.5 | 15.0 | 63.0 | 61.0 | -3.2 |
| South Dakota | 95.0 | 97.0 | 511.0 | 539.0 | 5.5 |
| Tennessee | 47.0 | 47.0 | 182.0 | 189.0 | 3.8 |
| Texas | 440.0 | 470.0 | 2,381.0 | 2,576.0 | 8.2 |
| Utah | 93.0 | 96.0 | 507.0 | 548.0 | 8.1 |
| Vermont | 132.0 | 132.0 | 639.0 | 662.0 | 3.6 |
| Virginia | 94.0 | 92.0 | 432.0 | 440.0 | 1.9 |
| Washington | 266.0 | 276.0 | 1,546.0 | 1,621.0 | 4.9 |
| West Virginia | 9.0 | 9.0 | 34.0 | 34.0 | - |
| Wisconsin | 1,271.0 | 1,272.0 | 6,767.0 | 6,957.0 | 2.8 |
| Wyoming | 6.0 | 6.0 | 31.0 | 32.0 | 3.2 |
| United States | 9,201.0 | 9,284.0 | 49,268.0 | 50,939.0 | 3.4 |

- 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 9.28 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 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 | 39 | 3 | 110 | 14 | 6 |
| All milk cows | 0.1 | 0.1 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 9 | 7 |

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.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch | (202) 720-3570 |
| Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section | (202) 690-2424 |
| Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed | (202) 720-3040 |
| Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter | (202) 720-3240 |
| Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs | (202) 720-3106 |
| Donnie Fike – Dairy Products | (202) 690-3236 |
| Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows | (202) 720-3278 |
| Evan Schulz – Sheep and Goats | (202) 720-6147 |

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