

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

January 11, 1939.

MILK PRODUCTION, JANUARY 1, 1939.

Helped by mild weather and cheap feed, milk production showed slightly more than the usual increase from the seasonal low point of December 1, and on January 1 equaled the previous high record for that date, indicating a continuation of the rather heavy production that has been in evidence since early last summer, it was announced by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Milk production per cow on January 1, as reported by crop correspondents, was 3.8 percent higher than at the beginning of 1938. As the number of milk cows has also begun to increase, the increase in total milk production was probably fully 4 percent. On a per capita basis, which takes into account the steady increase in population, milk production on January 1 this year was less than for that date in the 4 years 1931 to 1934, and only about 1 percent higher than the 1928-37 average for January 1.

Regionally, reports on milk production per cow show some sharp contrasts when compared with last year and with the averages for the 10-year (1928-37) period which includes the drought years. In most of the States from the Central Corn Belt westward to the Pacific Coast and in scattered Eastern States, particularly New York, Maryland, and Virginia, milk production per cow on January 1 was well above both that of a year ago and the 10-year average for that date. In New England States as a group and in Wisconsin, milk production per cow was slightly less than a year ago and moderately less than average for January 1. In the Southern States as a group, production per cow was not greatly different from last year but was slightly above average.

For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on January 1 averaged 12.33 pounds compared with 11.88 pounds on the same date in 1938 and the January 1 average of 11.85 pounds. On January 1, 67.7 percent of the milk cows on hand were reported to have been milked, which is the same as a year ago, but otherwise the highest for that date in the 15 years of record.

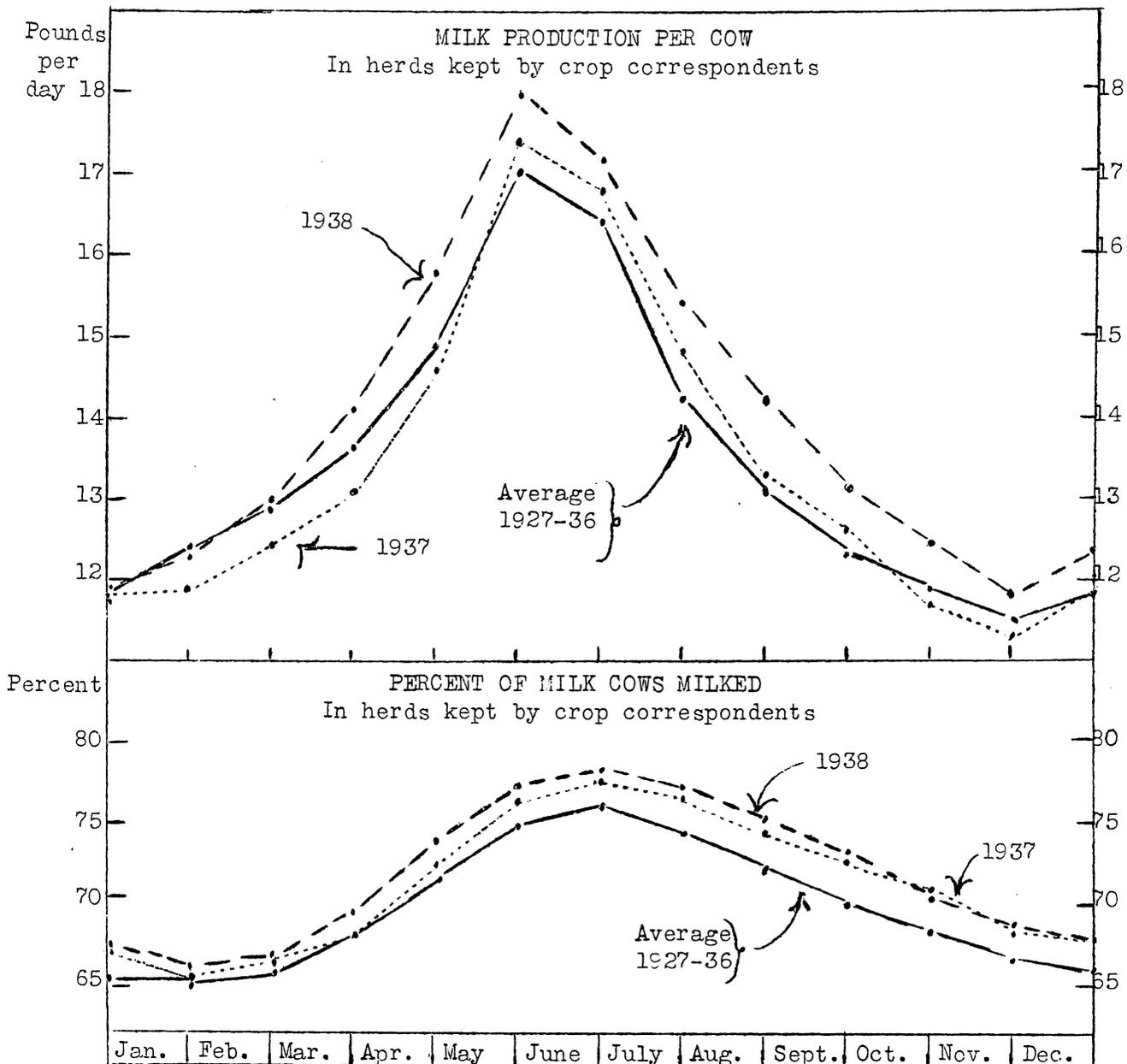
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 CROP REPORT BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS Washington, D. C.,
 as of CROP REPORTING BOARD January 10, 1939
 January 1, 1939 3:00 P.M. (E.T.)

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}

	: January 1 : (Avg.) 1928-37 :	: January 1 : 1937 :	: January 1 : 1938 :	: January 1 : 1939
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
N. Eng.	14.67	14.47	14.27	14.13
N. Y.	14.8	15.8	14.8	15.8
N. J.	18.5	18.7	18.5	18.5
Pa.	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.3
N. Atl.	15.09	15.69	15.15	15.49
Ohio	13.7	13.6	13.4	13.5
Ind.	12.2	12.4	12.1	12.4
Ill.	12.7	13.3	13.4	13.4
Mich.	15.3	15.6	15.0	15.7
Wis.	14.1	14.3	13.9	13.8
E. N. Cent.	13.70	13.93	13.57	13.72
Minn.	14.6	14.2	14.4	15.7
Iowa	12.3	12.5	13.1	13.3
Mo.	8.0	7.6	7.9	8.4
N. Dak.	9.8	8.3	9.5	10.1
S. Dak.	9.8	8.2	9.2	10.6
Nebr.	11.6	10.3	10.9	12.8
Kans.	12.1	12.0	12.0	13.7
W. N. Cent.	11.47	11.00	11.40	12.42
Md.	13.5	13.1	12.4	14.2
Va.	9.6	9.6	9.7	10.0
W. Va.	9.1	9.6	9.3	9.2
N. C.	10.1	10.2	10.7	10.7
S. C.	9.3	9.9	10.1	9.8
S. Atl.	9.79	10.12	10.16	10.31
Ky.	9.3	9.6	9.6	9.8
Tenn.	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.6
Miss.	6.4	6.1	6.2	6.7
Ark.	7.1	7.1	7.8	6.6
Okla.	9.2	9.0	9.7	9.9
Tex.	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2
S. Cent.	8.08	8.04	8.33	8.25
Mont.	10.9	10.5	11.1	12.5
Idaho	14.8	15.4	15.0	15.9
Wyo.	10.3	10.0	10.2	10.7
Colo.	11.6	12.1	12.0	12.4
Wash.	14.8	15.2	14.9	15.5
Oreg.	13.3	14.1	13.2	14.2
Calif.	15.5	16.1	16.3	16.3
West	13.18	13.49	13.50	14.18
U. S.	11.85	11.81	11.88	12.33

^{1/} 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.



Milk production per cow continues to hold well above average and no signs pointing toward a material change in prospects in the near future have yet appeared. The percentage of the milk cows that are being milked continues high in nearly all sections. Culling is light and the number of milk cows is probably beginning to increase. Milk cows are being fed liberally and grain supplies are so large that heavy feeding will probably be continued.