

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

April 10, 1935.

MILK PRODUCTION APRIL 1, 1935.

Milk production per cow set new low records for April in the drought States but is beginning to pick up elsewhere as a result of greatly improved pastures in the South, an increase in the proportion of the cows freshening in the spring, relatively higher prices for dairy products, and relatively unfavorable prices for veal calves. As the number of milk cows on hand is 4 to 5 percent less than the number a year ago, total milk production on April 1 appears to have been about 4 percent less than on that date last year. On March 1 corresponding calculations indicated a decrease of about 6 percent from production last year.

From Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland, southward (except Florida) and in the Far Southwest good pasturage partially offsets the shortage and high price of grain. In these States farmers are also milking a larger proportion of the milk cows and production per cow is quite generally higher than it was last year and about up to the level of two years ago. Farther north pastures were not furnishing much feed but a large proportion of the cows are being milked and the level of prices being received for dairy products is stimulating production as compared with the low level of production reported a year ago. In the East North Central group production per cow was still reported as lower than in any of the nine seasons previous to last year but in the North Atlantic group of States production appears to have been higher than on any April 1 since 1931.

Ordinarily under the stimulus of higher prices and increased spring freshening the reduction in the number of milk cows would be offset by increased milk production per cow. This spring both hay and grain supplies are short over a wide area and until new crops can be harvested, production will be very largely dependent on the pasturage available. However, only about one-sixth of the milk cows are in the area where the drought has not yet been broken.

PASTURE CONDITIONS, APRIL 1, 1935.

The condition of farm pastures on April 1 was slightly above the condition on April 1 last year but lower than on April 1 in any of the previous ten years. According to these reports, pastures vary from excellent in Arizona and California to exceedingly poor in nearly the whole of the Great Plains area from Montana and North Dakota to New Mexico and western Texas. Most of the States in this Great Plains area show by far the lowest condition on April 1 for ten years or more, with old grass exceedingly short, little or no new grass, feed supplies low or nearing exhaustion and all livestock in thin conditions. Although cattle numbers have been sharply reduced in this area, the ten States chiefly affected still had more than a third of all the cattle in the United States on January 1. Northern portions of the area have enough surface moisture to give the grass a start as soon as the weather is warm enough, but in the central and southern portions of the area even surface moisture is lacking and dust storms continue; throughout the whole area there is a serious lack of subsoil moisture. In some sections there are also complaints that the stand of native pasture grasses has been seriously thinned by the drought or covered by drifting sand and silt. In the Intermountain area west of the Continental Divide, the situation is somewhat better from the standpoint of soil moisture, although there is little old feed left and new grass has been slow to start. In the row of States stretching from Minnesota to Louisiana, which were along the eastern edge of last year's drought area, pastures are markedly better than at this time last year, but do not show full recovery. From these States eastward April 1 pastures averaged rather better than in the last year or two, and in the South, exclusive of Texas, Oklahoma and Florida, pastures are reported better than on April 1 in any year since 1929.

Taking the country as a whole, the April 1 condition of pastures averaged 68.7 percent compared with 67.1 last year, 72 in April, 1933, and an average of nearly 81 during the previous nine years for which figures are available.

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 CROP REPORTING BOARD  
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS 1/

S T A T E	April 1	April 1	April 1	April 1
	:(Avg.) 1925-1932:	1933	1934	1935
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	13.8	12.6	12.9	11.6
N.H.	15.7	15.5	13.3	15.2
Vt.	15.3	14.5	13.9	14.6
Mass.	18.1	17.2	17.0	17.9
P.I.	17.9	17.5	16.1	18.4
Conn.	17.4	16.6	17.0	17.4
N.Y.	17.5	16.0	16.3	17.1
N.J.	18.6	18.8	19.3	19.2
Pa.	17.4	16.3	15.8	16.7
N.ATL.	17.15	16.01	15.85	16.64
Ohio	15.4	14.6	13.7	14.7
Ind.	14.2	13.2	12.1	12.7
Ill.	14.7	14.7	13.5	13.7
Mich.	17.6	17.3	15.9	16.5
Wis.	17.7	16.5	16.2	15.7
E.N.CENT.	16.33	15.54	14.64	14.80
Minn.	17.5	17.6	16.3	14.6
Iowa	13.8	14.5	13.6	13.9
Mo.	9.3	9.0	8.3	9.3
N.Dak.	12.7	11.8	10.1	10.3
S.Dak.	12.3	13.1	9.6	8.4
Nebr.	13.6	14.6	13.4	11.5
Kans.	14.3	14.4	14.0	13.3
W.N.CENT.	13.72	13.77	12.60	11.99
Del.	13.8	14.4	12.4	13.2
Md.	14.5	12.8	12.2	12.8
Va.	10.5	8.3	8.5	9.3
W.Va.	10.0	9.1	8.1	9.2
N.C.	11.0	9.4	8.9	9.1
S.C.	10.1	10.0	8.6	8.9
Ga.	8.8	3.1	7.2	7.6
Fla.	6.8	6.7	6.4	6.3
S.ATL.	10.57	9.36	8.74	9.37
Ky.	11.0	9.3	8.4	9.5
Tenn.	9.5	8.4	7.7	7.7
Ala.	7.6	6.9	6.3	7.3
Miss.	7.5	6.6	5.5	6.8
Ark.	8.6	6.9	6.3	7.4
La.	7.0	6.3	4.6	5.4
Okla.	11.3	10.2	9.1	9.8
Tex.	9.6	8.3	8.8	9.2
S. CENT.	9.38	8.23	7.87	8.36
Mont.	12.0	12.5	11.4	10.1
Idaho	16.0	16.3	15.9	14.9
Wyo.	11.3	10.1	10.8	10.0
Colo.	13.5	12.7	12.3	11.1
N.Mez.	9.6	9.0	8.9	8.7
Ariz.	16.9	19.5	16.3	19.8
Utah	15.3	15.1	15.3	14.3
Nev.	13.6	13.2	15.3	14.2
Wash.	16.9	15.0	16.8	17.1
Greg.	16.3	13.6	15.4	15.2
Calif.	19.1	19.8	19.8	20.8
WEST.	14.98	14.42	14.44	14.13
U.S.	13.92	13.16	12.44	12.51

1/ These are not estimates but averages obtained by dividing reported daily production of herds kept by reporters by number of milk cows in these herds.

mbp