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October Milk Production up 2.5 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during October totaled 17.7 billion pounds, up 2.5 percent from October 2019. September revised production, at 17.2 billion pounds, was up 2.4 percent from September 2019. The September revision represented a decrease of 5 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 1,997 pounds for October, 35 pounds above October 2019.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.88 million head, 62,000 head more than October 2019, and 17,000 head more than September 2020.

October Milk Production in the United States up 2.3 Percent

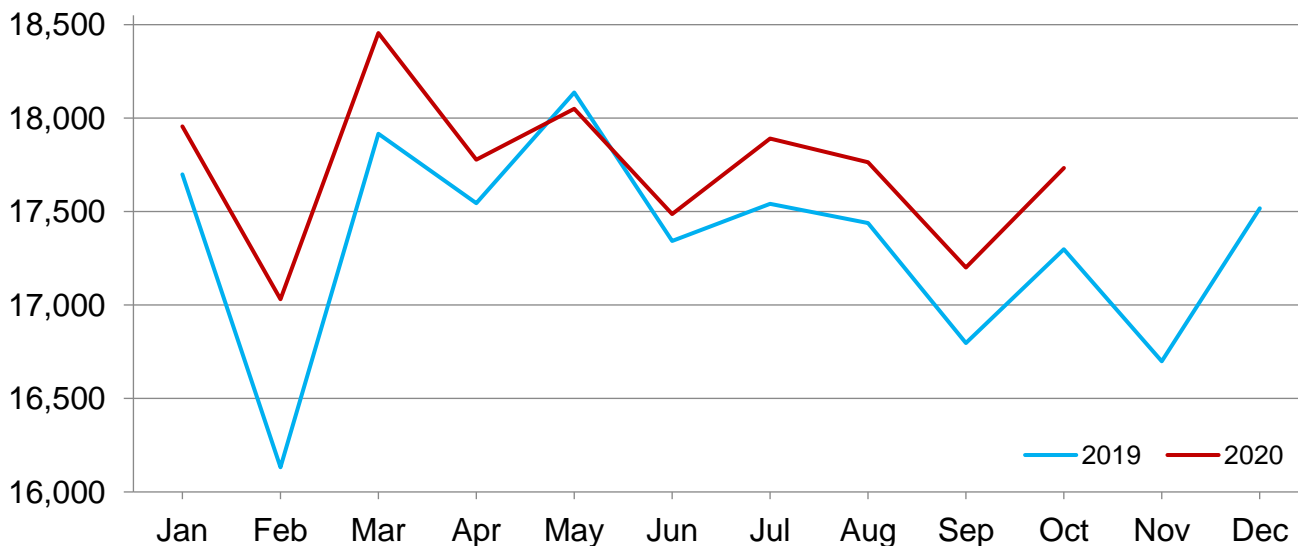
Milk production in the United States during October totaled 18.6 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from October 2019.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,977 pounds for October, 37 pounds above October 2019.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.39 million head, 43,000 head more than October 2019, and 14,000 head more than September 2020.

Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter - United States: 2019-2020

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,346	9,374	5,823	5,988	54,423	56,130	3.1
April-June	9,331	9,362	5,971	5,981	55,716	55,997	0.5
July-September	9,322	9,365	5,818	5,907	54,237	55,323	2.0
October-December	9,345		5,779		54,006		
Annual	9,336		23,391		218,382		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2019-2020

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,805	8,834	2,010	2,033	17,699	17,956	1.5
February	8,803	8,848	1,833	1,925	16,132	17,031	5.6
March	8,789	8,857	2,038	2,084	17,916	18,455	3.0
April	8,788	8,852	1,996	2,008	17,544	17,778	1.3
May	8,790	8,836	2,063	2,043	18,137	18,049	-0.5
June	8,784	8,827	1,974	1,981	17,342	17,486	0.8
July	8,785	8,840	1,997	2,024	17,542	17,891	2.0
August	8,789	8,845	1,984	2,008	17,439	17,764	1.9
September	8,805	8,864	1,908	1,941	16,796	17,201	2.4
October	8,819	8,881	1,962	1,997	17,299	17,733	2.5
November	8,817		1,894		16,699		
December	8,816		1,987		17,517		
Annual	8,799		23,646		208,062		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2019-2020

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,354	9,361	1,990	2,015	18,612	18,860	1.3
February	9,352	9,375	1,814	1,908	16,966	17,890	5.4
March	9,333	9,385	2,019	2,065	18,845	19,380	2.8
April	9,332	9,375	1,975	1,992	18,433	18,675	1.3
May	9,333	9,360	2,042	2,025	19,058	18,955	-0.5
June	9,327	9,350	1,954	1,964	18,225	18,367	0.8
July	9,315	9,357	1,973	2,001	18,375	18,725	1.9
August	9,318	9,361	1,960	1,986	18,267	18,595	1.8
September	9,333	9,376	1,885	1,920	17,595	18,003	2.3
October	9,347	9,390	1,940	1,977	18,135	18,560	2.3
November	9,345		1,873		17,506		
December	9,343		1,966		18,365		
Annual	9,336		23,391		218,382		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: October 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

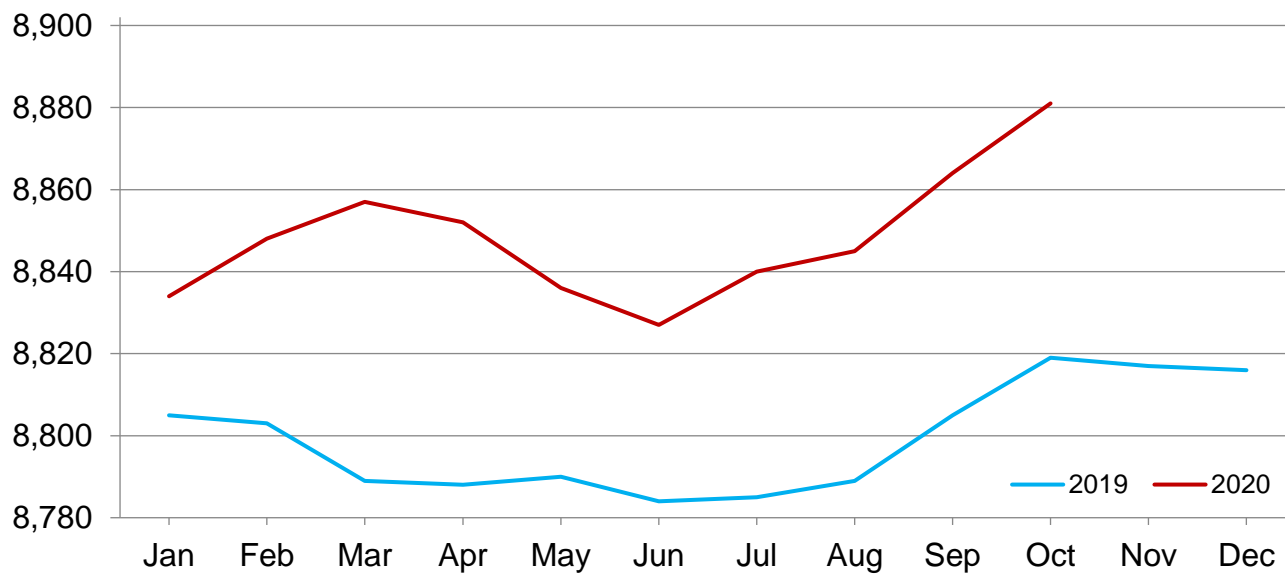
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	197	196	1,985	1,965	391	385	-1.5
California	1,725	1,720	1,940	1,970	3,347	3,388	1.2
Colorado	190	200	2,160	2,185	410	437	6.6
Florida	118	113	1,515	1,560	179	176	-1.7
Georgia	81	80	1,715	1,725	139	138	-0.7
Idaho	632	646	2,095	2,105	1,324	1,360	2.7
Illinois	81	84	1,690	1,760	137	148	8.0
Indiana	176	191	1,920	1,960	338	374	10.7
Iowa	217	219	2,040	2,085	443	457	3.2
Kansas	164	171	1,975	1,965	324	336	3.7
Michigan	428	431	2,230	2,280	954	983	3.0
Minnesota	447	444	1,845	1,905	825	846	2.5
New Mexico	330	332	2,040	2,065	673	686	1.9
New York	626	626	2,015	2,035	1,261	1,274	1.0
Ohio	252	256	1,790	1,850	451	474	5.1
Oregon	126	124	1,745	1,735	220	215	-2.3
Pennsylvania	485	482	1,705	1,760	827	848	2.5
South Dakota	127	140	1,900	1,945	241	272	12.9
Texas	575	603	2,035	2,100	1,170	1,266	8.2
Utah	97	94	1,945	1,940	189	182	-3.7
Vermont	125	120	1,790	1,765	224	212	-5.4
Virginia	74	74	1,620	1,660	120	123	2.5
Washington	281	279	2,025	2,030	569	566	-0.5
Wisconsin	1,265	1,256	2,010	2,060	2,543	2,587	1.7
24-State Total	8,819	8,881	1,962	1,997	17,299	17,733	2.5

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: September 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	196	196	1,825	1,820	358	357	-0.3
California	1,725	1,721	1,860	1,905	3,209	3,279	2.2
Colorado	189	199	2,110	2,155	399	429	7.5
Florida	116	112	1,415	1,445	164	162	-1.2
Georgia	80	80	1,640	1,650	131	132	0.8
Idaho	630	645	2,060	2,075	1,298	1,338	3.1
Illinois	83	83	1,600	1,650	133	137	3.0
Indiana	175	190	1,835	1,920	321	365	13.7
Iowa	217	219	1,970	2,005	427	439	2.8
Kansas	163	171	1,910	1,920	311	328	5.5
Michigan	428	430	2,170	2,220	929	955	2.8
Minnesota	447	444	1,810	1,880	809	835	3.2
New Mexico	329	327	2,030	2,025	668	662	-0.9
New York	627	626	1,970	1,985	1,235	1,243	0.6
Ohio	252	254	1,735	1,790	437	455	4.1
Oregon	124	124	1,700	1,700	211	211	-
Pennsylvania	485	482	1,650	1,690	800	815	1.9
South Dakota	126	140	1,865	1,905	235	267	13.6
Texas	570	598	1,995	2,025	1,137	1,211	6.5
Utah	97	94	1,925	1,910	187	180	-3.7
Vermont	125	120	1,750	1,725	219	207	-5.5
Virginia	74	74	1,555	1,575	115	117	1.7
Washington	281	279	2,005	2,005	563	559	-0.7
Wisconsin	1,266	1,256	1,975	2,005	2,500	2,518	0.7
24-State Total	8,805	8,864	1,908	1,941	16,796	17,201	2.4

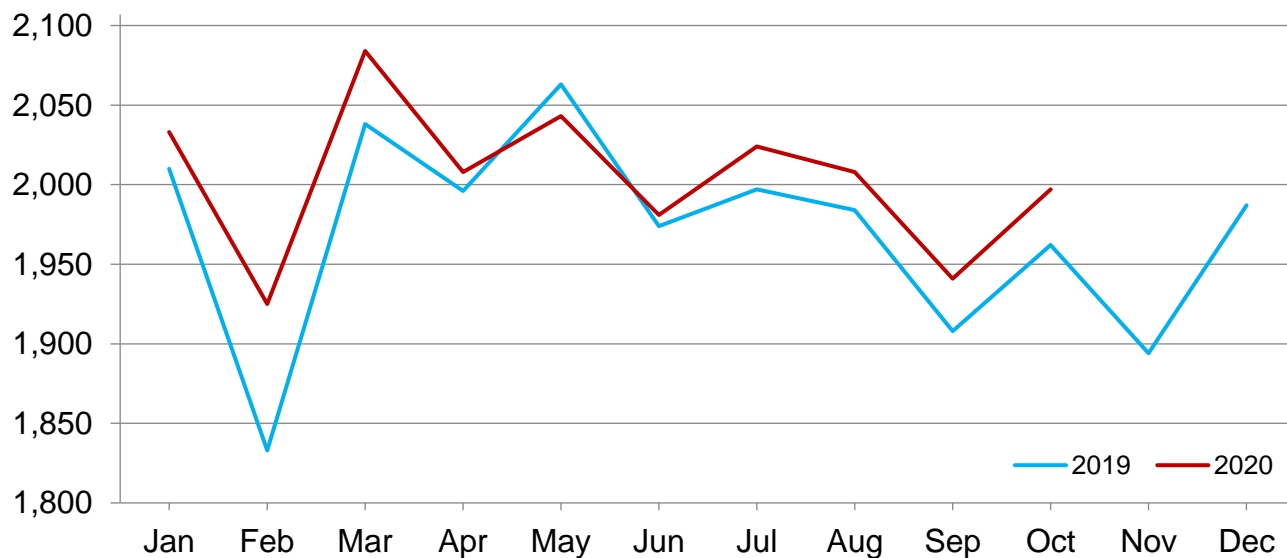
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 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 such as Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Dairy Market News. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Survey.

Estimation Procedures: Regional Field 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 24 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 17.7 billion pounds by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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	0.3	0.5	36	0	115	15	8
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	6	0	16	17	5

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@usda.gov.

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- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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