

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

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MILK PRODUCTION - JANUARY 1, 1938

Milk production has increased quite sharply since passing the seasonal low point about the first of December, according to reports received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from its crop correspondents. The nearly 5 percent increase during December was the largest for that month since 1929. While, no doubt, part of the increase was due to the remarkably mild weather which prevailed in most of the country during the last week of December, the cumulative effects of the liberal feeding practiced since new grain became available are beginning to appear. There are also some signs that farmers outside the drought area are now making some additions to their dairy herds.

Although milk production appears to be heading upward, it is still moderate. On January 1 milk production appears to have been less than 1 percent heavier than on January 1 a year ago, the number of cows being about the same and production per cow, as reported, being only slightly greater. A month ago milk production was reported about 1 percent lower than on the same date in the previous year. Looking ahead, it appears likely that milk production during the remainder of the winter feeding period will average several percent above the rather low production of the corresponding months last year. However, the per capita production of milk, which on January 1 was close to the 10-year average for that date, is not expected to be greatly in excess of average during the next few months.

Regionally, milk production per cow as reported on January 1 was generally close to the 10-year average for that date except in the South Atlantic and Western States where it was several percent above average. Rather sharp increases during the past month were noted in the North Central States where production per cow was generally quite low on December 1.

Price relationships during the past two months have tended to favor feeding grain supplies to milk cows rather than to other types of livestock. Butterfat prices held up well until late in December while prices for meat animals began to ease off several months earlier. The sharp decline in the price of butterfat during the last 10 days of December changed the situation considerably, but the prices of dairy products are still high enough in relation to grain and feed prices to encourage liberal feeding of milk cows.

For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 11.38 pounds on January 1 compared with 11.81 pounds on January 1, 1937 and a 1926-35 average of 11.89 for January 1. In the same herds 67.7 percent of the milk cows were reported milked on January 1 compared with 67.1 percent on the same date in 1937 and a range of 64.2 to 67.1 percent on January 1 during the 10 preceding years.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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

	January 1 (Avg.) 1926-35	January 1 1936	January 1 1937	January 1 1938
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	14.83	14.06	14.47	14.27
N. Y.	14.6	14.4	15.8	14.8
N. J.	18.6	16.4	18.7	18.5
Pa.	15.2	14.4	15.4	15.4
N. Atl.	15.01	14.47	15.69	15.15
Ohio	13.7	12.4	13.6	13.4
Ind.	12.2	11.2	12.4	12.1
Ill.	12.6	11.6	13.3	13.4
Mich.	15.2	15.1	15.6	15.0
Wis.	14.1	13.8	14.3	13.9
E. N. Cent.	13.69	13.03	13.93	13.57
Minn.	14.6	14.0	14.2	14.4
Iowa	12.0	11.7	12.5	13.1
Mo.	8.1	7.3	7.6	7.9
N. Dak.	9.8	10.3	8.3	9.5
S. Dak.	10.0	9.5	8.2	9.2
Nebr.	11.6	11.5	10.3	10.9
Kans.	12.1	11.5	12.0	12.0
W. N. Cent.	11.51	10.91	11.00	11.40
Md.	13.7	12.3	13.1	12.4
Va.	9.6	9.2	9.6	9.7
W. Va.	9.1	8.3	9.6	9.3
N. C.	10.2	9.7	10.2	10.7
S. C.	9.1	9.0	9.9	10.1
S. Atl.	9.85	9.22	10.12	10.16
Zy.	9.6	8.6	9.6	9.6
Tenn.	8.8	8.0	8.4	8.4
Miss.	6.5	5.2	6.1	6.2
Ark.	7.4	6.5	7.1	7.8
Okl.	9.3	8.3	9.0	9.7
Tex.	8.2	7.5	8.0	8.1
S. Cent.	8.25	7.38	8.04	8.33
Mont.	10.8	10.9	10.5	11.1
Idaho	14.4	15.1	15.4	15.0
Wyo.	9.7	13.0	10.0	10.2
Col.	11.3	12.2	12.1	12.0
Wash.	14.8	14.9	15.2	14.9
Oreg.	13.3	13.6	14.1	13.2
Calif.	15.1	14.8	16.1	16.3
West.	12.94	13.68	13.49	13.50
U. S.	11.89	11.27	11.81	11.88

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.