

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

April 12, 1937.

MILK PRODUCTION APRIL 1, 1937.

Total milk production in the United States on April 1 appears to have been between 3 and 4 percent less than on April 1 last year, it was announced by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The lower production this year is the result of a nearly 2 percent lower milk production per cow and a decline of almost 2 percent in the number of milk cows on farms since April 1, last year. Total milk production was between 1 and 2 percent greater than on April 1 two years ago and somewhat above the 1925-34 average production for April 1. The per capita supply of milk, however, was about the same as two years ago and about 5 percent below the 10-year average.

Pastures have been backward this spring in areas in which they normally furnish some feed by this time and milk cows appear to have been getting less than the usual proportion of feed from that source. Grain has been high in price and supplies on farms are short, especially in the area most affected by the 1936 drought. Due chiefly to the very abnormal feed situation, sharp regional variations in milk production per cow were reported for April 1. In the North Atlantic States milk production per cow on April 1 was close to peak production for that date. On the other hand, in the West North Central area with feed short and with the smallest proportion of milk cows in production on April 1 since 1927, milk production per cow showed much less than the usual increase during March and on April 1 was only slightly above the record low point for April 1, 1935. In Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas, milk production per cow was even lower than in 1935. In other major geographic divisions of the United States, milk production per cow was slightly below the 10-year average.

For the United States as a whole the milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 13.11 pounds on April 1, compared with 13.36 pounds on April 1 last year, 12.51 pounds on April 1, 1935, and a 1925-34 average of 13.69 pounds for April 1. In the same herds 68.3 percent of the cows were reported milked on April 1 compared with 68.8 a year earlier and 67.7 on April 1, 1935.

PASTURE CONDITION APRIL 1, 1937.

Pasture condition in the United States as a whole on April 1 this year was the lowest on record for that date. For the United States as a whole, the condition was 66.0 percent of normal, compared with 74.6 last April, 68.7 on April 1, 1935, and 67.1 on April 1, 1934, the previous low condition for that date. In those areas where milk cows are usually on pasture at this time of the year, pasture conditions averaged the lowest on record for April 1, with the exception of 1933. The low condition of pastures is due chiefly to drought last year and retarded development this spring as a result of cold weather late in March. In much of the West and Southwest, precipitation late in March was above normal which may improve pastures later in the spring; but in much of the South, freezing weather late in March gave pastures a severe setback.

With an unusually large area still under snow late in March, it is rather early to determine the full significance of the low condition, but it is already evident that delayed development will accentuate the abnormally short feed situation in some portions of the drought area where pastures were expected to furnish considerable early feed. Reserves of feed grains on farms are nearly as low as they were two years ago after the drought of 1934.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}				
State	: April 1, : (Avg.) 1925-34	: April 1, : 1935	: April 1, : 1936	: April 1, : 1937
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	15.90	15.41	15.08	15.94
N. Y.	17.2	17.1	17.7	18.5
N. J.	18.7	18.2	18.3	19.7
Pa.	17.1	16.7	17.3	17.5
N. Atl.	16.91	16.64	17.01	17.78
Ohio	15.1	14.7	14.9	15.2
Ind.	13.8	12.7	13.0	13.3
Ill.	14.6	13.7	13.7	14.6
Mich.	17.4	16.5	17.5	17.6
Wis.	17.4	15.7	17.2	17.2
E. N. Cent.	16.08	14.80	15.73	15.90
Minn.	17.4	14.6	17.5	16.0
Iowa	13.8	13.9	14.3	13.6
Mo.	9.2	9.3	9.3	8.1
N. Dak.	12.4	10.3	12.4	10.8
S. Dak.	12.1	8.4	10.9	9.1
Nebr.	13.7	11.5	13.3	11.3
Kans.	14.3	13.3	13.9	12.5
W. N. Cent.	13.62	11.99	13.44	12.07
Md.	14.1	12.8	13.1	13.9
Va.	10.2	9.3	9.6	10.2
W. Va.	9.7	9.2	8.6	8.9
N. C.	10.6	9.1	10.0	10.2
S. C.	10.0	8.9	9.7	9.3
S. Atl.	10.26	9.37	9.70	9.96
Ky.	10.6	9.5	9.5	9.3
Tenn.	9.2	7.7	8.8	8.9
Miss.	7.2	6.8	6.6	6.4
Ark.	8.2	7.4	8.1	7.7
Okla.	11.0	9.8	10.4	10.9
Tex.	9.3	8.5	9.5	9.0
S. Cent.	9.11	8.36	8.79	8.69
Mont.	12.0	10.1	12.3	12.1
Idaho	16.0	14.9	16.1	15.6
Wyo.	11.2	10.0	11.3	11.1
Colo.	13.3	11.1	14.1	13.0
Wash.	16.7	17.1	16.8	17.0
Oreg.	15.9	15.2	16.1	15.7
Calif.	19.2	20.8	20.2	17.7
West.	14.87	14.13	15.54	14.71
U. S.	13.69	12.51	13.36	13.11

^{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.