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December Milk Production up 0.7 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 16.4 billion pounds, up 0.7 percent from December 2014. November revised production at 15.6 billion pounds, was up 0.7 percent from November 2014. The November revision represented an increase of 26 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,894 pounds for December, 6 pounds above December 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of December since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.64 million head, 29,000 head more than December 2014, and 1,000 head more than November 2015.

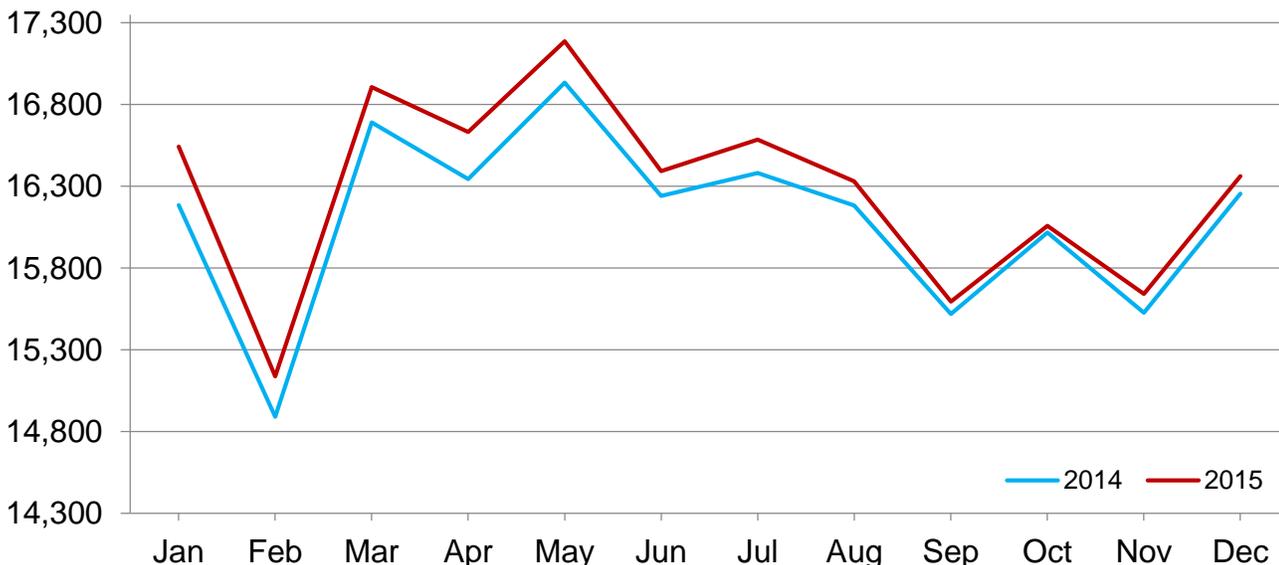
October-December Milk Production up 0.6 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 51.2 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from the October - December quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.32 million head, 6,000 head more than the July - September quarter, and 33,000 head more than the same period last year.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2014-2015

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,216	9,305	5,536	5,583	51,020	51,949	1.8
April-June	9,253	9,320	5,717	5,757	52,897	53,654	1.4
July-September	9,270	9,314	5,520	5,546	51,173	51,651	0.9
October-December	9,287	9,320	5,487	5,498	50,956	51,240	0.6
Annual	9,257	9,315	22,258	22,383	206,046	208,494	1.2

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,516	8,620	1,901	1,919	16,186	16,544	2.2
February	8,516	8,620	1,749	1,756	14,892	15,139	1.7
March	8,530	8,622	1,957	1,961	16,690	16,907	1.3
April	8,547	8,626	1,912	1,928	16,344	16,633	1.8
May	8,558	8,630	1,979	1,992	16,934	17,187	1.5
June	8,572	8,628	1,895	1,900	16,241	16,394	0.9
July	8,583	8,628	1,909	1,922	16,381	16,586	1.3
August	8,585	8,634	1,885	1,891	16,184	16,331	0.9
September	8,593	8,633	1,806	1,806	15,519	15,595	0.5
October	8,594	8,635	1,864	1,860	16,017	16,058	0.3
November	8,598	8,639	1,806	1,811	15,527	15,642	0.7
December	8,611	8,640	1,888	1,894	16,256	16,362	0.7
Annual	8,567	8,630	22,551	22,639	193,171	195,378	1.1

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,212	9,304	1,876	1,900	17,284	17,680	2.3
February	9,212	9,304	1,727	1,740	15,907	16,189	1.8
March	9,223	9,306	1,933	1,943	17,829	18,080	1.4
April	9,240	9,315	1,892	1,911	17,480	17,800	1.8
May	9,252	9,323	1,956	1,970	18,094	18,369	1.5
June	9,267	9,321	1,869	1,876	17,323	17,485	0.9
July	9,268	9,312	1,881	1,897	17,435	17,666	1.3
August	9,268	9,314	1,858	1,867	17,224	17,385	0.9
September	9,274	9,315	1,781	1,782	16,514	16,600	0.5
October	9,277	9,317	1,840	1,837	17,071	17,118	0.3
November	9,284	9,321	1,783	1,789	16,551	16,675	0.7
December	9,299	9,322	1,864	1,872	17,334	17,447	0.7
Annual	9,257	9,315	22,258	22,383	206,046	208,494	1.2

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: December 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	194	195	2,055	2,000	399	390	-2.3
California	1,780	1,776	1,950	1,895	3,471	3,366	-3.0
Colorado	145	148	2,115	2,130	307	315	2.6
Florida	124	125	1,675	1,690	208	211	1.4
Idaho	579	587	1,995	1,990	1,155	1,168	1.1
Illinois	94	94	1,680	1,720	158	162	2.5
Indiana	180	184	1,865	1,890	336	348	3.6
Iowa	209	210	1,930	1,955	403	411	2.0
Kansas	143	142	1,870	1,855	267	263	-1.5
Michigan	402	412	2,080	2,125	836	876	4.8
Minnesota	460	460	1,705	1,755	784	807	2.9
New Mexico	323	319	2,060	1,955	665	624	-6.2
New York	615	620	1,890	1,940	1,162	1,203	3.5
Ohio	268	266	1,710	1,720	458	458	-
Oregon	125	126	1,655	1,690	207	213	2.9
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,705	1,705	904	904	-
South Dakota	98	110	1,890	1,900	185	209	13.0
Texas	470	461	1,870	1,850	879	853	-3.0
Utah	96	96	1,940	1,910	186	183	-1.6
Vermont	132	131	1,705	1,725	225	226	0.4
Virginia	93	91	1,630	1,620	152	147	-3.3
Washington	277	277	1,970	1,980	546	548	0.4
Wisconsin	1,274	1,280	1,855	1,935	2,363	2,477	4.8
23-State Total	8,611	8,640	1,888	1,894	16,256	16,362	0.7

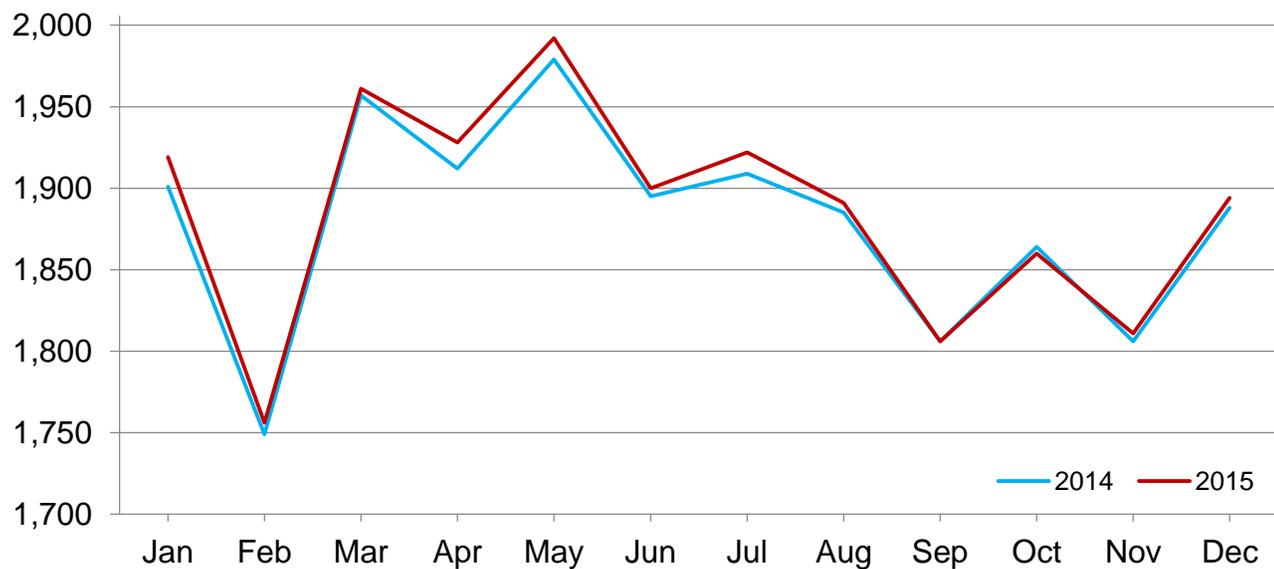
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: November 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	193	195	1,945	1,900	375	371	-1.1
California	1,780	1,776	1,885	1,805	3,355	3,206	-4.4
Colorado	145	147	2,035	2,075	295	305	3.4
Florida	123	125	1,535	1,530	189	191	1.1
Idaho	579	587	1,925	1,935	1,115	1,136	1.9
Illinois	93	94	1,580	1,600	147	150	2.0
Indiana	179	184	1,775	1,800	318	331	4.1
Iowa	208	210	1,835	1,850	382	389	1.8
Kansas	143	142	1,790	1,770	256	251	-2.0
Michigan	399	411	1,970	2,050	786	843	7.3
Minnesota	460	460	1,610	1,660	741	764	3.1
New Mexico	323	322	1,975	1,915	638	617	-3.3
New York	615	620	1,805	1,850	1,110	1,147	3.3
Ohio	267	266	1,620	1,635	433	435	0.5
Oregon	124	125	1,615	1,630	200	204	2.0
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,615	1,615	856	856	-
South Dakota	98	109	1,795	1,830	176	199	13.1
Texas	470	462	1,785	1,785	839	825	-1.7
Utah	96	96	1,865	1,840	179	177	-1.1
Vermont	132	131	1,630	1,640	215	215	-
Virginia	92	90	1,550	1,545	143	139	-2.8
Washington	276	277	1,905	1,910	526	529	0.6
Wisconsin	1,273	1,280	1,770	1,845	2,253	2,362	4.8
23-State Total	8,598	8,639	1,806	1,811	15,527	15,642	0.7

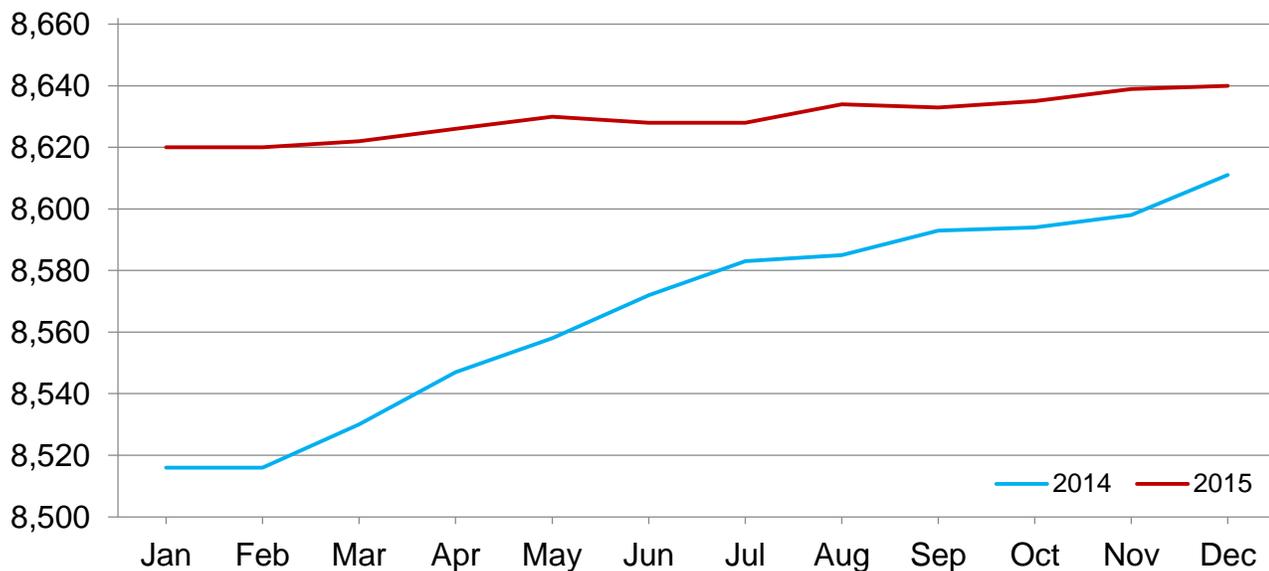
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Revised July - September 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

State	July - September milk cows ¹		July - September milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	8.0	7.5	23.0	21.0	-8.7
Alaska	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	-
Arizona	193.0	195.0	1,092.0	1,102.0	0.9
Arkansas	7.5	7.0	22.0	20.0	-9.1
California	1,779.0	1,778.0	10,264.0	9,920.0	-3.4
Colorado	145.0	145.0	920.0	953.0	3.6
Connecticut	19.0	19.5	95.0	98.0	3.2
Delaware	4.8	5.0	23.0	23.0	-
Florida	123.0	125.0	578.0	589.0	1.9
Georgia	81.0	84.0	392.0	421.0	7.4
Hawaii	2.2	2.2	7.5	9.0	20.0
Idaho	579.0	586.0	3,582.0	3,623.0	1.1
Illinois	94.0	94.0	443.0	450.0	1.6
Indiana	179.0	182.0	973.0	995.0	2.3
Iowa	208.0	211.0	1,153.0	1,185.0	2.8
Kansas	143.0	144.0	774.0	780.0	0.8
Kentucky	60.0	60.0	229.0	249.0	8.7
Louisiana	14.0	13.0	42.0	37.0	-11.9
Maine	30.0	30.0	154.0	151.0	-1.9
Maryland	49.0	48.0	238.0	239.0	0.4
Massachusetts	12.5	12.0	58.0	54.0	-6.9
Michigan	395.0	410.0	2,460.0	2,591.0	5.3
Minnesota	460.0	460.0	2,270.0	2,358.0	3.9
Mississippi	12.5	10.5	40.0	31.0	-22.5
Missouri	88.0	88.0	337.0	324.0	-3.9
Montana	14.0	14.0	76.0	75.0	-1.3
Nebraska	54.0	57.0	297.0	323.0	8.8
Nevada	28.0	29.0	176.0	179.0	1.7
New Hampshire	14.0	14.0	70.0	70.0	-
New Jersey	7.0	7.0	31.0	31.0	-
New Mexico	323.0	323.0	2,012.0	1,941.0	-3.5
New York	615.0	619.0	3,488.0	3,576.0	2.5
North Carolina	45.0	46.0	228.0	235.0	3.1
North Dakota	16.0	16.0	80.0	84.0	5.0
Ohio	266.0	266.0	1,363.0	1,376.0	1.0
Oklahoma	40.0	38.0	163.0	161.0	-1.2
Oregon	123.0	122.0	635.0	622.0	-2.0
Pennsylvania	530.0	530.0	2,650.0	2,658.0	0.3
Rhode Island	0.9	0.9	4.3	4.0	-7.0
South Carolina	15.0	15.0	59.0	58.0	-1.7
South Dakota	97.0	107.0	533.0	605.0	13.5
Tennessee	45.0	43.0	176.0	172.0	-2.3
Texas	470.0	462.0	2,524.0	2,507.0	-0.7
Utah	96.0	96.0	562.0	566.0	0.7
Vermont	132.0	132.0	673.0	667.0	-0.9
Virginia	93.0	91.0	433.0	432.0	-0.2
Washington	273.0	275.0	1,665.0	1,662.0	-0.2
West Virginia	9.0	8.5	34.0	34.0	-
Wisconsin	1,271.0	1,280.0	7,037.0	7,354.0	4.5
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	33.0	35.0	6.1
United States	9,270.0	9,314.0	51,173.0	51,651.0	0.9

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary October - December 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

State	October - December milk cows ¹		October - December milk production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	8.0	7.0	25.0	22.0	-12.0
Alaska	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.8	-11.1
Arizona	194.0	195.0	1,155.0	1,137.0	-1.6
Arkansas	7.0	7.0	22.0	20.0	-9.1
California	1,780.0	1,776.0	10,259.0	9,815.0	-4.3
Colorado	145.0	147.0	907.0	939.0	3.5
Connecticut	19.0	19.0	95.0	98.0	3.2
Delaware	4.9	5.0	24.3	23.6	-2.9
Florida	123.0	125.0	578.0	586.0	1.4
Georgia	81.0	85.0	397.0	431.0	8.6
Hawaii	2.2	2.2	7.2	7.8	8.3
Idaho	579.0	587.0	3,434.0	3,499.0	1.9
Illinois	93.0	94.0	454.0	463.0	2.0
Indiana	179.0	184.0	980.0	1,018.0	3.9
Iowa	208.0	210.0	1,175.0	1,198.0	2.0
Kansas	143.0	142.0	788.0	775.0	-1.6
Kentucky	62.0	60.0	248.0	256.0	3.2
Louisiana	14.0	13.0	47.0	42.0	-10.6
Maine	30.0	30.0	149.0	149.0	-
Maryland	49.0	49.0	243.0	240.0	-1.2
Massachusetts	12.5	12.0	55.0	53.0	-3.6
Michigan	399.0	411.0	2,438.0	2,580.0	5.8
Minnesota	460.0	460.0	2,286.0	2,351.0	2.8
Mississippi	12.0	10.0	45.0	34.0	-24.4
Missouri	88.0	88.0	337.0	326.0	-3.3
Montana	14.0	14.0	74.0	73.0	-1.4
Nebraska	54.0	58.0	304.0	340.0	11.8
Nevada	28.0	28.0	174.0	166.0	-4.6
New Hampshire	14.0	14.0	69.0	70.0	1.4
New Jersey	7.0	7.0	31.0	30.0	-3.2
New Mexico	323.0	321.0	1,965.0	1,884.0	-4.1
New York	615.0	620.0	3,428.0	3,534.0	3.1
North Carolina	47.0	47.0	239.0	241.0	0.8
North Dakota	16.0	16.0	79.0	83.0	5.1
Ohio	267.0	266.0	1,341.0	1,347.0	0.4
Oklahoma	40.0	37.0	170.0	167.0	-1.8
Oregon	124.0	125.0	616.0	623.0	1.1
Pennsylvania	530.0	530.0	2,650.0	2,635.0	-0.6
Rhode Island	0.9	0.9	4.1	3.8	-7.3
South Carolina	15.0	15.0	61.0	61.0	-
South Dakota	98.0	109.0	541.0	614.0	13.5
Tennessee	47.0	43.0	189.0	173.0	-8.5
Texas	470.0	462.0	2,576.0	2,530.0	-1.8
Utah	96.0	96.0	550.0	542.0	-1.5
Vermont	132.0	131.0	662.0	660.0	-0.3
Virginia	92.0	90.0	440.0	430.0	-2.3
Washington	276.0	277.0	1,621.0	1,625.0	0.2
West Virginia	9.0	8.5	34.0	33.0	-2.9
Wisconsin	1,273.0	1,280.0	6,956.0	7,277.0	4.6
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	32.0	34.4	7.5
United States	9,287.0	9,320.0	50,956.0	51,240.0	0.6

- Represents zero.

¹ Excludes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Surveys.

Estimation Procedures: State 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 on the next page. 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 milk cow inventory estimates over the past 20 quarters is 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.32 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 percent.

Reliability of Quarterly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 20 quarters]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Quarters	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.1	0.2	48	2	141	17	3
All milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	13	14	4

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@nass.usda.gov.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-8784
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

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