

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

December 11, 1937

MILK PRODUCTION DECEMBER 1, 1937

With the seasonal low point close at hand, milk production per cow declined somewhat more rapidly than usual during November even though generally adequate supplies of grain and favorable price relationships encouraged farmers to feed their milk cows more liberally than in any of the past 4 years, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. The November decline, however, was considerably less than the heavy decline in the corresponding month a year ago and on December 1 milk production per cow was only slightly below that on the same date last year. With about the same number of milk cows on farms, total milk production on December 1 appears to have been less than 1 percent below that a year ago, in contrast to 4 percent below on November 1. The amount of milk produced per capita on December 1 was about 1 percent below that on the same date in 1936, and about 3 percent below the 1925-34 average for December 1.

Current reports on cows being milked, milk production and rate of feeding do not indicate any very important departures from normal seasonal changes. In the country as a whole milk production per cow has been about average for some months, and aside from a high level of production about October 1 in the North Atlantic area and generally high production since mid-summer in the Western group of States, there has been no reflection of the sharp bulge in fall production that was so conspicuous last year as pastures in the Central and Northeastern States greened up after the summer drought. In fact, milk production per cow was quite low on December 1 this year in the East North Central area. The important point to producers is that there is no sign yet that the cheapness and abundance of grain and mill feeds is causing an increase in milk production. In this respect the situation appears to be much as it was in the winter of 1935-36. As in that year there will probably be somewhat more than the usual seasonal increase from December 1 till spring.

In most of the States from the Great Plains to the Pacific Coast and in the South, the proportion of milk cows reported milked on December 1 was still unusually high. However, in the North Atlantic and Great Lakes regions the proportion milked has reached more nearly average levels for this time of the year in contrast with comparatively high levels during the past summer and fall. Averages for the country as a whole showed 68.3 percent of the milk cows reported milked on December 1, compared with 67.8 percent on the same date in 1936, the highest previously reported for December 1.

GRAIN FED TO MILK COWS DECEMBER 1, 1937

Judging from the reports received, farmers in the country as a whole were feeding more grain or concentrates per milk cow on December 1 than on the same date in any of the past 4 years in which records are available although possibly no more than during the 1928-32 period. Grain supplies are ample in most areas and prices for dairy products are favorable in relation to those for feed grains. In the most of the Corn Belt and northern Cotton Belt States, and in the Western States as a group, the quantity of grain reported fed on December 1 was the highest since 1932. In other States it was mostly average or above for this period.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.
December 10, 1937

"GRAIN" FED AND MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS

STATE	"Grain" Fed per Milk Cow <u>1/</u>				Milk Produced per Milk Cow <u>2/</u>			
	Dec. 1 : 1934	Dec. 1 : 1935	Dec. 1 : 1936	Dec. 1 : 1937	Dec. 1, Av. : 1925-34	Dec. 1 : 1935	Dec. 1 : 1936	Dec. 1 : 1937
	Pounds				Pounds			
N. Eng.	3.9	4.7	4.6	4.4	14.20	14.30	13.97	14.18
N. Y.	4.4	4.7	4.9	4.7	14.2	14.2	15.6	14.4
N. J.	6.3	6.9	6.6	7.1	17.5	16.4	18.2	17.7
Pa.	4.9	6.2	5.8	5.9	15.0	14.0	14.9	14.3
N. Atl.	4.5	5.2	5.2	5.1	14.57	14.34	15.27	14.58
Ohio	4.2	4.9	5.2	5.2	13.4	12.3	13.2	12.3
Ind.	3.3	5.0	4.5	5.3	12.2	11.7	11.9	11.6
Ill.	3.4	5.2	4.3	5.5	12.2	11.8	12.9	12.3
Mich.	3.3	4.8	4.0	4.7	14.3	14.5	14.6	14.1
Wis.	2.8	3.6	3.0	4.0	13.2	12.2	13.3	12.5
E. M. Cent.	3.3	4.5	4.0	4.8	13.07	12.35	13.15	12.50
Minn.	1.9	3.5	2.7	4.0	12.9	12.1	12.7	12.9
Iowa	3.2	4.8	3.9	5.6	11.4	10.9	11.5	11.5
Mo.	2.1	3.1	2.3	4.1	8.5	7.2	8.5	7.9
N. Dak.	1.6	3.0	1.8	2.3	9.3	9.2	7.8	8.5
S. Dak.	1.5	2.6	1.5	2.4	8.9	9.1	7.4	8.6
Nebr.	2.2	3.2	2.2	3.0	10.8	11.3	10.1	10.4
Kans.	2.0	2.8	2.0	3.6	11.6	11.6	12.6	11.2
W. N. Cent.	2.2	3.5	2.6	3.9	10.74	10.32	10.54	10.45
Md.	5.0	5.2	4.9	6.0	13.7	12.9	13.0	13.2
Va.	3.3	3.7	3.6	4.3	10.2	9.7	10.4	10.5
W. Va.	3.2	2.3	3.2	3.5	9.7	9.2	10.0	9.3
N. C.	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.1	10.4	10.0	10.2	10.8
S. C.	3.1	3.3	2.9	3.7	9.2	9.5	10.4	9.6
S. Atl.	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.9	10.11	9.53	10.12	10.18
Ky.	3.9	4.8	4.9	5.0	10.0	9.4	10.2	10.2
Tenn.	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.7	8.8	8.4	7.8	8.1
Miss.	1.6	2.3	2.0	2.6	6.8	5.9	6.1	6.4
Ark.	1.7	2.8	3.1	3.1	7.7	7.1	6.0	7.3
Okla.	1.2	2.0	3.3	2.7	9.2	7.8	8.9	9.5
Tex.	2.0	4.0	2.3	3.2	8.0	7.8	8.5	8.5
S. Cent.	2.3	3.5	3.0	3.4	8.35	7.92	7.95	8.39
Mont.	1.3	1.9	1.5	2.4	10.4	10.3	10.8	10.9
Idaho	1.4	2.1	2.1	1.9	14.7	15.3	14.8	14.7
Wyo.	1.5	1.6	1.4	2.1	10.3	11.0	9.9	10.6
Colo.	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.5	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.5
Wash.	3.3	4.1	4.5	3.8	15.1	15.2	15.2	14.8
Oreg.	2.8	3.1	3.7	3.3	15.9	14.3	12.5	13.6
Calif.	2.5	2.7	2.9	4.1	15.3	16.4	15.5	17.5
West.	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.1	13.11	13.54	12.99	13.74
U. S.	2.86	3.87	3.41	4.09	11.54	11.05	11.38	11.32

1/ Averages per cow computed from answers to question, "How many pounds of grain (including mill feeds and concentrates) were fed yesterday to milk cows on your farm or ranch."

2/ 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.