



ISSN: 1949-1557

Released December 20, 2016, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

November Milk Production up 2.6 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 16.1 billion pounds, up 2.6 percent from November 2015. October production, unrevised at 16.5 billion pounds, was up 2.7 percent from October 2015.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,851 pounds for November, 40 pounds above November 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of November since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.67 million head, 33,000 head more than November 2015, and 4,000 head more than October 2016.

November Milk Production in the United States up 2.4 Percent

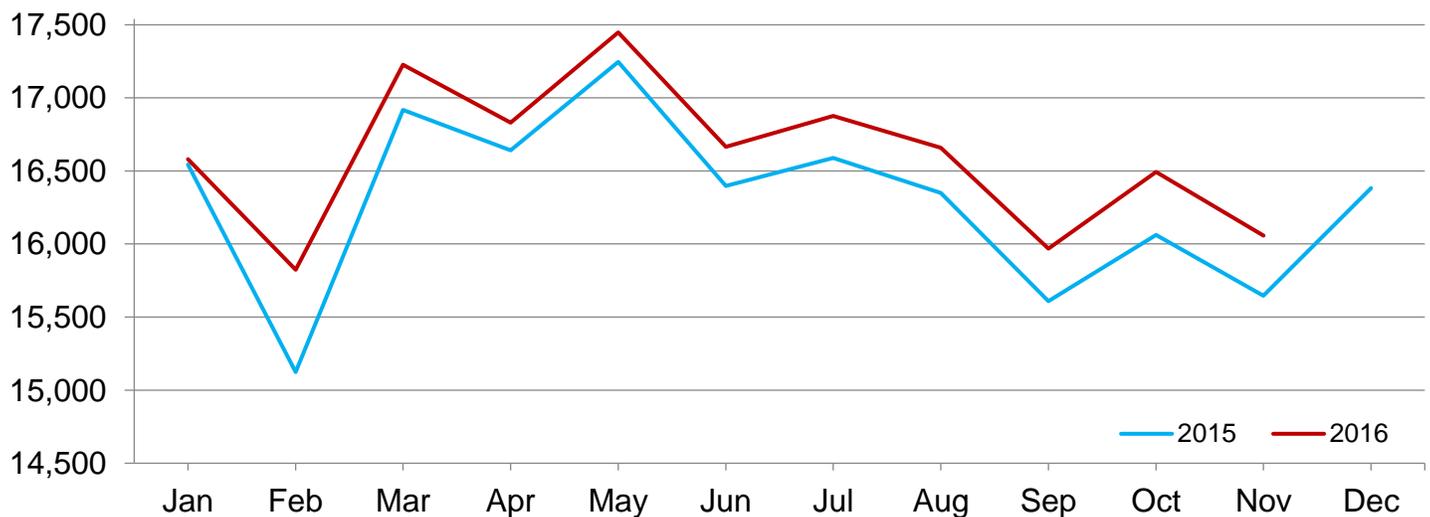
Milk production in the United States during November totaled 17.1 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from November 2015.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,829 pounds for November, 39 pounds above November 2015.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.34 million head, 17,000 head more than November 2015, and 4,000 head more than October 2016.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2015-2016

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	Change from 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,309	9,319	5,579	5,692	51,936	53,041	2.1
April-June	9,321	9,327	5,763	5,828	53,720	54,360	1.2
July-September	9,315	9,336	5,549	5,632	51,685	52,579	1.7
October-December	9,321		5,503		51,292		
Annual	9,317		22,393		208,633		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2015-2016

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	Change from 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,621	8,627	1,919	1,922	16,544	16,581	0.2
February	8,621	8,633	1,754	1,833	15,124	15,824	4.6
March	8,623	8,644	1,962	1,993	16,918	17,227	1.8
April	8,627	8,644	1,929	1,947	16,641	16,830	1.1
May	8,633	8,644	1,998	2,019	17,246	17,448	1.2
June	8,630	8,647	1,900	1,927	16,397	16,664	1.6
July	8,630	8,661	1,922	1,949	16,589	16,876	1.7
August	8,633	8,674	1,894	1,920	16,349	16,658	1.9
September	8,636	8,671	1,807	1,842	15,609	15,969	2.3
October	8,638	8,669	1,860	1,903	16,063	16,493	2.7
November	8,640	8,673	1,811	1,851	15,646	16,057	2.6
December	8,638		1,896		16,381		
Annual	8,631		22,652		195,507		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2015-2016

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	Change from 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,308	9,310	1,900	1,903	17,685	17,718	0.2
February	9,308	9,317	1,737	1,815	16,166	16,912	4.6
March	9,311	9,329	1,942	1,974	18,085	18,411	1.8
April	9,316	9,327	1,909	1,926	17,788	17,964	1.0
May	9,324	9,327	1,976	1,997	18,428	18,622	1.1
June	9,323	9,328	1,878	1,905	17,504	17,774	1.5
July	9,314	9,329	1,897	1,921	17,665	17,925	1.5
August	9,315	9,341	1,868	1,894	17,403	17,693	1.7
September	9,317	9,337	1,784	1,817	16,617	16,961	2.1
October	9,320	9,335	1,838	1,880	17,130	17,550	2.5
November	9,322	9,339	1,790	1,829	16,689	17,085	2.4
December	9,320		1,875		17,473		
Annual	9,317		22,393		208,633		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: November 2015 and 2016

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2015
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	195	197	1,950	1,955	380	385	1.3
California	1,776	1,765	1,805	1,820	3,206	3,212	0.2
Colorado	147	152	2,075	2,125	305	323	5.9
Florida	125	120	1,530	1,535	191	184	-3.7
Idaho	587	599	1,935	1,965	1,136	1,177	3.6
Illinois	94	93	1,600	1,610	150	150	-
Indiana	184	185	1,800	1,815	331	336	1.5
Iowa	210	212	1,850	1,905	389	404	3.9
Kansas	142	148	1,770	1,890	251	280	11.6
Michigan	411	423	2,050	2,100	843	888	5.3
Minnesota	460	461	1,660	1,680	764	774	1.3
New Mexico	322	323	1,915	1,980	617	640	3.7
New York	620	620	1,850	1,930	1,147	1,197	4.4
Ohio	266	262	1,635	1,670	435	438	0.7
Oregon	126	124	1,620	1,630	204	202	-1.0
Pennsylvania	530	525	1,615	1,670	856	877	2.5
South Dakota	110	115	1,810	1,820	199	209	5.0
Texas	462	490	1,785	1,875	825	919	11.4
Utah	95	90	1,820	1,845	173	166	-4.0
Vermont	131	129	1,640	1,700	215	219	1.9
Virginia	90	88	1,545	1,540	139	136	-2.2
Washington	277	275	1,905	1,915	528	527	-0.2
Wisconsin	1,280	1,277	1,845	1,890	2,362	2,414	2.2
23-State Total	8,640	8,673	1,811	1,851	15,646	16,057	2.6

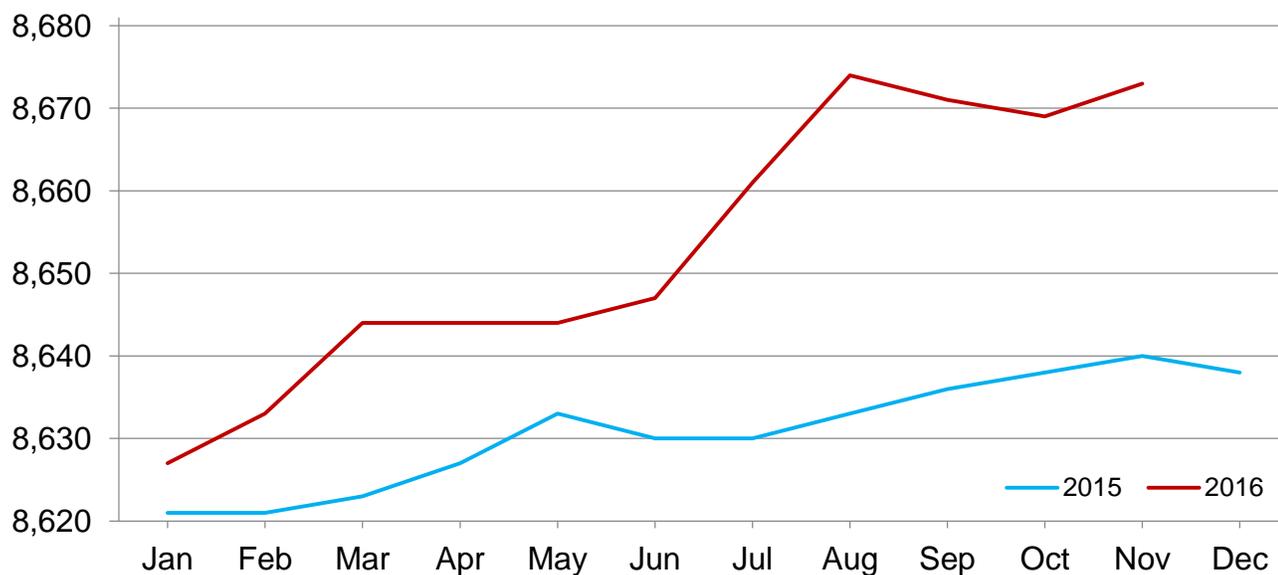
- Represents zero.

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 – 23 Selected States: October 2015 and 2016

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2015
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	195	197	1,930	1,940	376	382	1.6
California	1,777	1,765	1,825	1,875	3,243	3,309	2.0
Colorado	146	151	2,185	2,190	319	331	3.8
Florida	125	120	1,470	1,475	184	177	-3.8
Idaho	587	599	2,035	2,065	1,195	1,237	3.5
Illinois	94	93	1,610	1,620	151	151	-
Indiana	183	184	1,830	1,860	335	342	2.1
Iowa	210	212	1,900	1,955	399	414	3.8
Kansas	142	147	1,840	1,925	261	283	8.4
Michigan	410	422	2,100	2,140	861	903	4.9
Minnesota	460	461	1,695	1,720	780	793	1.7
New Mexico	323	321	1,990	2,025	643	650	1.1
New York	620	620	1,910	2,000	1,184	1,240	4.7
Ohio	266	263	1,705	1,730	454	455	0.2
Oregon	126	124	1,685	1,695	212	210	-0.9
Pennsylvania	530	526	1,660	1,710	880	899	2.2
South Dakota	109	115	1,890	1,870	206	215	4.4
Texas	462	490	1,845	1,885	852	924	8.5
Utah	96	90	1,900	1,910	182	172	-5.5
Vermont	131	129	1,670	1,750	219	226	3.2
Virginia	90	88	1,595	1,585	144	139	-3.5
Washington	277	275	1,975	2,005	547	551	0.7
Wisconsin	1,279	1,277	1,905	1,950	2,436	2,490	2.2
23-State Total	8,638	8,669	1,860	1,903	16,063	16,493	2.7

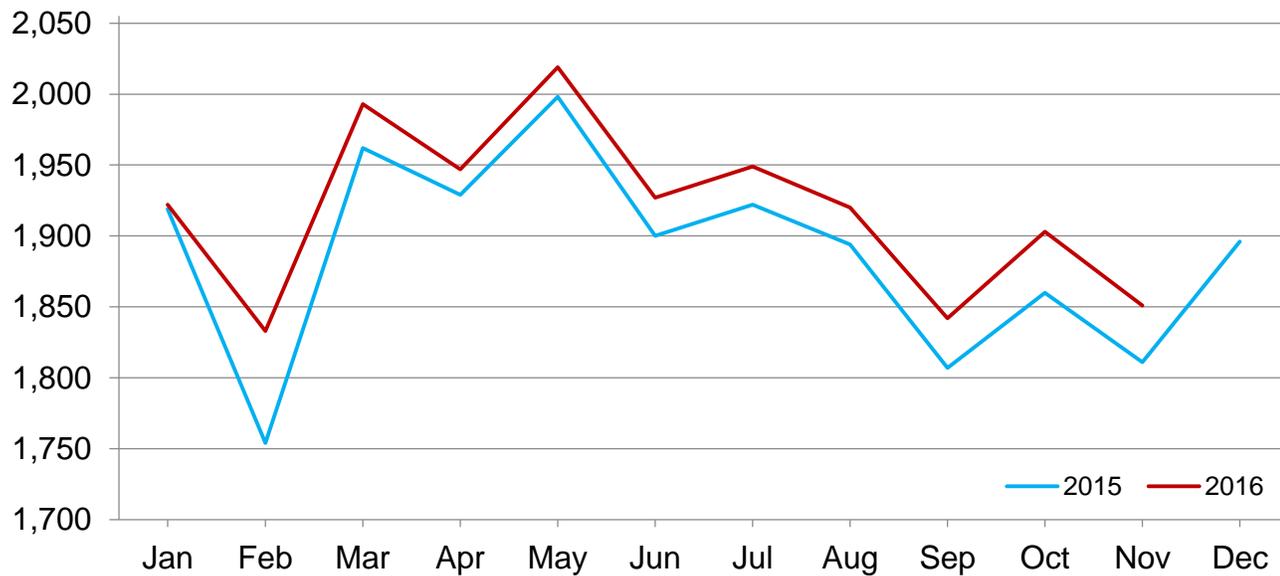
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



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 Survey.

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 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 23 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 16.1 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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	0.2	0.3	21	0	71	17	6
All Milk cows	0.0	0.1	3	0	12	14	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@nass.usda.gov.

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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
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

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- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

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