

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

February 15, 1935

MILK PRODUCTION ON FEBRUARY 1, 1935

On February 1, the 22,000 crop correspondents who reported on milk production were securing an average of only 11.39 pounds of milk per cow which was less than has been reported on February 1 in any year since 1925. Production per cow was, however, only 2 percent less than at the same time last year compared with the very low record of 5 percent below last year on January 1. The number of milk cows on farms is now estimated to have decreased 4 percent during 1934 so total milk production on February 1 was probably about 6 percent less than on that date last year.

Due largely to decreased milk production in the butter producing States the price of butterfat in much of the producing area was twice as high during January as in that month last year. This makes the situation more favorable for butterfat producers who have sufficient feed. There has, however, been no corresponding increase in the price received by most market milk producers who, as a class, are largely dependent on purchased grain supplies. As a result many of them, like farmers in the worst drought areas, are now feeling severely pinched by the high cost of feed.

On about February 1 crop correspondents were feeding their milk cows an average of 3.5 pounds of grain <sup>and</sup> concentrates per head per day. This is about 14 percent less per head than they were feeding on that date last year and the rate of feeding is expected to continue light until new grain is available. Due to the close culling out of poor cows, a decrease in the number of calves running with the cows and the close attention to details that results from better prices, the decrease in production per cow is relatively small compared with the decrease in the quantity of grain fed. Looking ahead the prospects are for continuation of rather low production per cow until good pasturage is available, with no very heavy feeding in prospect until grain prices drop materially.

The number of milk cows and heifers kept for milk on farms on January 1, 1935 is estimated at 25,100,000 head compared with the revised estimate of 26,185,000 head on that date last year and 25,285,000 head on January 1, 1933. This represents a decrease of 4.1 percent during 1934. Numbers of milk cows increased slightly during 1934 in the South Atlantic group of States but all other groups show decreases which range from 2.1 percent in the East North Central group of States to 8.6 percent in the West North Central States.

The number of heifers 1 to 2 years old being kept for milk cows on January 1, 1935 is estimated at 4,286,000 head compared with 4,788,000 head on January 1 last year and 4,703,000 head two years ago. Heifer calves being kept for milk cows also decreased, the January 1 estimates showing 4,653,000 head on farms compared with 5,287,000 head on January 1 last year and 5,142,000 head on January 1, 1933.

Although the reductions in both milk cows and young stock during 1934 were probably the greatest ever made in this country in a single season the number of milk cows remaining exceeds the number kept in years prior to 1933 and the number of young stock kept for milk is greater than in years prior to 1929.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD  
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS <u>1/</u>				
S T A T E	February 1 (Avg.) 1925-32	February 1 1933	February 1 1934	February 1 1935
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	13.3	13.5	11.3	12.1
N.H.	16.1	14.0	13.4	14.0
Vt.	14.1	14.4	14.2	12.8
Mass.	17.2	16.8	16.4	15.9
R. I.	17.4	18.3	19.4	14.9
Conn.	17.3	17.3	17.1	16.5
N. Y.	14.6	15.2	15.0	15.0
N. J.	17.7	18.9	20.3	18.2
Pa.	16.0	15.9	15.0	14.9
N. Atl.	15.35	15.63	15.22	14.95
Ohio	14.1	14.4	13.2	13.2
Ind.	13.0	13.3	11.4	11.6
Ill.	13.4	14.9	12.6	12.4
Mich.	16.1	16.1	14.6	14.6
Wis.	15.5	16.0	13.7	14.1
E.N.Cent.	14.73	15.22	13.26	13.34
Minn.	15.9	16.6	15.1	13.2
Iowa	12.6	14.4	13.2	12.1
Mo.	8.2	8.6	7.6	7.7
N.Dak.	11.5	11.0	9.1	9.1
S.Dak.	11.1	11.3	9.2	8.0
Nebr.	12.1	12.2	12.1	11.3
Kans.	12.4	12.8	12.2	11.8
W.N.Cent.	12.30	12.63	11.49	10.76
Del.	13.3	13.0	10.9	12.2
Md.	13.8	12.8	12.3	11.8
Va.	10.0	9.0	8.5	8.5
W.Va.	8.8	8.0	8.3	8.2
N. C.	10.6	9.4	8.7	8.0
S. C.	9.1	9.7	8.5	7.5
Ga.	8.5	7.5	7.4	6.9
Fla.	6.6	12.8	6.8	6.5
S. Atl.	10.05	9.34	8.76	8.51
Ky.	9.7	8.9	7.9	7.9
Tenn.	9.0	7.9	6.9	6.6
Ala.	7.5	6.8	6.6	6.5
Miss.	6.7	6.6	5.4	4.9
Ark.	7.5	6.8	5.4	5.7
La.	6.2	5.5	4.9	3.7
Okla.	9.6	10.1	8.3	7.7
Tex.	8.2	7.8	7.0	7.7
S. Cent.	8.38	7.95	7.02	6.83
Mont.	10.6	10.7	10.2	11.7
Idaho	14.7	15.4	14.0	14.4
Wyo.	9.8	10.7	10.5	11.6
Colo.	12.6	12.6	11.4	11.0
N.Mex.	9.5	8.6	10.9	10.1
Ariz.	15.7	17.9	15.5	15.4
Utah	13.9	14.8	14.2	13.6
Nev.	12.4	10.8	11.8	15.2
Wash.	15.4	14.7	13.6	15.2
Oreg.	13.3	12.2	12.0	13.0
Calif.	15.5	14.1	17.8	16.7
West.	13.58	13.14	12.71	13.15
U. S.	12.65	12.74	11.61	11.39

1/ These are not estimates but averages obtained by dividing reported daily production of herds kept by reporters by number of milk cows in these herds.