

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

October 12, 1937.

MILK PRODUCTION OCTOBER 1, 1937.

Instead of increasing sharply as it did a year ago, milk production during September this year declined about the usual amount. On October 1 milk production per cow, as reported by crop correspondents, was 1 to 2 percent below last year, but higher than on any previous October 1 since 1929. As the number of milk cows seems to be slightly lower than it was a year ago, total milk production on October 1 was probably down about 2 percent from the temporarily high production at this time last fall. However, total milk production on October 1 this year was higher than at the corresponding date in any year on record prior to 1936. Taking into account the steady increase of population, milk production per capita was slightly above the 10-year average for October 1. Looking ahead, total milk production is likely to be somewhat lower than it was last year for another month or so, but from about the first of December through the rest of the feeding period, production is expected to be heavier than in the same months last winter.

The sharp regional differences between the trend of milk production this fall and the trend last fall can be partially explained by differences in basic conditions. In the North Atlantic States where prices of milk this fall have been rather favorable and prices of feeds declining, milk production per cow has followed rather closely last year's upward trend and on October 1 was well above the 1925-34 average. In the central and eastern Corn Belt milk production showed about the usual decline during September this year in contrast with the rise to record levels last year which accompanied the recovery of pastures after the drought was broken. The present somewhat below average production in this area is in line with the expectation that the present high prices of beef cattle and hogs will tend to prevent expansion of dairying. In States further west, particularly where drought and culling have reduced dairy herds, the shortage of income has caused many farmers to milk all the cows available and milk production per cow in the Dakotas and in all the Western States was above average on October 1. In the South, milk production per cow on October 1 was considerably higher than a year ago due largely to much better pastures although in parts of the Cotton Belt the present low price of cotton appears to be stimulating dairy production as an alternative source of income.

In the country as a whole milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on October 1 averaged 12.63 pounds compared with 12.82 pounds on the same date last year and a 1925-34 average of 12.29 pounds for October 1. In the same herds 72.7 percent of the milk cows were reported milked on October 1 compared with 72.5 percent a year earlier, 71.7 percent on October 1, 1935 and a range from 67.4 to 70.4 percent on that date in the preceding 10 years. The proportion milked on October 1 this year was lower than a year ago in the North Atlantic States lower than in either of the last two years in the East North Central States, but sharply above previous records in other groups of States.

DAIRY PASTURES OCTOBER 1, 1937.

On October 1 dairy pastures were generally good in the eastern part of the country and west of the Rocky Mountains, but were still poor over much of the Midwest. Although the usual September improvement in the Great Lakes dairy region did not take place this year, pastures from Indiana eastward and in most of the Southeast were mostly above average on October 1. In Wisconsin pastures were still very poor on October 1, while sharp declines occurred during September in Missouri, southern Iowa and much of Illinois and Kentucky. In most of the territory extending from North Dakota south into Texas and west to the Rockies pastures continued poor, but some improvement was noted in Oklahoma. West of the Rockies pastures needed rain but were mostly fair to good in dairy areas except locally in California. For the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures on October 1 averaged 67.4 percent of normal compared with 59.9 percent on October 1, 1936 and a 1923-32 average of 73.0 percent for October 1.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD  
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS <sup>1/</sup>				
STATE	: October 1 : :(Avg.) 1925-34 :	October 1 1935	: October 1 : 1936	: October 1 : 1937
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	14.86	14.83	15.27	15.49
N. Y.	15.6	16.4	17.6	16.6
N. J.	18.2	18.8	18.5	19.0
Pa.	15.5	16.4	17.1	17.1
N. Atl.	15.47	16.24	16.95	16.74
Ohio	14.6	14.6	15.4	14.5
Ind.	13.8	13.3	14.8	13.5
Ill.	12.6	12.1	13.2	13.0
Mich.	15.4	15.8	17.9	15.6
Wis.	13.9	15.0	16.3	13.4
E. N. Cent.	13.98	14.36	15.65	13.82
Minn.	11.9	12.3	13.6	12.2
Iowa	12.0	11.8	12.4	11.9
Mo.	10.3	9.1	8.6	9.6
N. Dak.	10.7	11.3	11.6	11.6
S. Dak.	9.6	9.4	10.3	10.0
Nebr.	11.1	10.9	11.7	10.7
Kans.	11.2	10.2	10.0	10.5
W. N. Cent.	11.16	10.86	11.37	11.06
Md.	14.8	14.9	14.9	15.4
Va.	12.0	12.5	11.6	13.2
W. Va.	12.5	12.5	13.2	13.5
N. C.	11.6	11.9	11.5	12.2
S. C.	9.7	9.8	10.6	10.1
S. Atl.	11.19	11.34	11.31	12.07
Ky.	12.0	11.9	11.8	12.2
Tenn.	10.2	10.4	10.8	10.8
Miss.	7.4	6.2	6.5	7.4
Ark.	8.7	7.6	7.6	8.9
Okla.	9.5	8.5	8.3	10.7
Tex.	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.6
S. Cent.	9.17	8.62	8.83	9.73
Mont.	12.1	10.5	12.4	13.6
Idaho	16.2	16.1	17.4	16.9
Wyo.	12.0	13.6	11.5	12.2
Colo.	11.8	11.8	12.6	12.4
Wash.	16.4	16.0	17.9	17.8
Oreg.	13.9	14.0	15.3	15.0
Calif.	16.4	17.5	17.4	16.9
West.	13.82	14.04	14.64	15.38
U. S.	12.29	12.24	12.82	12.63

<sup>1/</sup> 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;