



ISSN: 1949-1557

Released September 17, 2020, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## August Milk Production up 1.9 Percent

**Milk production** in the 24 major States during August totaled 17.8 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from August 2019. July revised production, at 17.9 billion pounds, was up 2.0 percent from July 2019. The July revision represented an increase of 91 million pounds or 0.5 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 24 major States averaged 2,009 pounds for August, 25 pounds above August 2019.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 24 major States was 8.84 million head, 51,000 head more than August 2019, but unchanged from July 2020.

## August Milk Production in the United States up 1.8 Percent

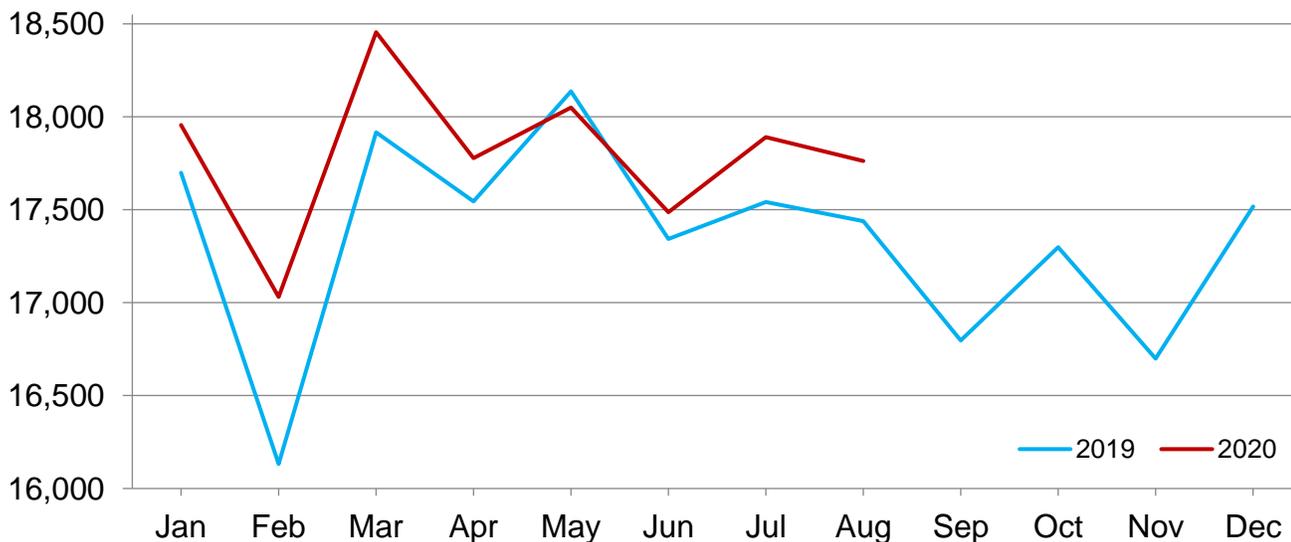
**Milk production** in the United States during August totaled 18.6 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from August 2019.

**Production per cow** in the United States averaged 1,987 pounds for August, 27 pounds above August 2019.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the United States was 9.36 million head, 42,000 head more than August 2019, but unchanged from July 2020.

## Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter - United States: 2019-2020

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Quarter	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per Cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March .....	9,346	9,374	5,823	5,988	54,423	56,130	3.1
April-June .....	9,331	9,362	5,971	5,981	55,716	55,997	0.5
July-September .....	9,322		5,818		54,237		
October-December .....	9,345		5,779		54,006		
Annual .....	9,336		23,391		218,382		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2019-2020

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,805	8,834	2,010	2,033	17,699	17,956	1.5
February .....	8,803	8,848	1,833	1,925	16,132	17,031	5.6
March .....	8,789	8,857	2,038	2,084	17,916	18,455	3.0
April .....	8,788	8,852	1,996	2,008	17,544	17,778	1.3
May .....	8,790	8,836	2,063	2,043	18,137	18,049	-0.5
June .....	8,784	8,827	1,974	1,981	17,342	17,486	0.8
July .....	8,785	8,840	1,997	2,024	17,542	17,891	2.0
August .....	8,789	8,840	1,984	2,009	17,439	17,763	1.9
September .....	8,805		1,908		16,796		
October .....	8,819		1,962		17,299		
November .....	8,817		1,894		16,699		
December .....	8,816		1,987		17,517		
Annual .....	8,799		23,646		208,062		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2019-2020

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,354	9,361	1,990	2,015	18,612	18,860	1.3
February .....	9,352	9,375	1,814	1,908	16,966	17,890	5.4
March .....	9,333	9,385	2,019	2,065	18,845	19,380	2.8
April .....	9,332	9,375	1,975	1,992	18,433	18,675	1.3
May .....	9,333	9,360	2,042	2,025	19,058	18,955	-0.5
June .....	9,327	9,350	1,954	1,964	18,225	18,367	0.8
July .....	9,315	9,360	1,973	2,002	18,375	18,735	2.0
August .....	9,318	9,360	1,960	1,987	18,267	18,600	1.8
September .....	9,333		1,885		17,595		
October .....	9,347		1,940		18,135		
November .....	9,345		1,873		17,506		
December .....	9,343		1,966		18,365		
Annual .....	9,336		23,391		218,382		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: August 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	195	196	1,860	1,835	363	360	-0.8
California .....	1,725	1,721	1,925	1,965	3,321	3,382	1.8
Colorado .....	187	198	2,200	2,205	411	437	6.3
Florida .....	116	111	1,560	1,570	181	174	-3.9
Georgia .....	80	80	1,690	1,700	135	136	0.7
Idaho .....	628	645	2,185	2,200	1,372	1,419	3.4
Illinois .....	83	83	1,670	1,705	139	142	2.2
Indiana .....	175	183	1,900	1,940	333	355	6.6
Iowa .....	217	218	2,030	2,060	441	449	1.8
Kansas .....	162	169	1,955	2,000	317	338	6.6
Michigan .....	427	428	2,265	2,295	967	982	1.6
Minnesota .....	447	442	1,895	1,960	847	866	2.2
New Mexico .....	326	326	2,085	2,055	680	670	-1.5
New York .....	627	626	2,050	2,065	1,285	1,293	0.6
Ohio .....	250	254	1,830	1,865	458	474	3.5
Oregon .....	124	123	1,780	1,780	221	219	-0.9
Pennsylvania .....	485	482	1,710	1,745	829	841	1.4
South Dakota .....	124	137	1,940	1,950	241	267	10.8
Texas .....	567	590	2,030	2,090	1,151	1,233	7.1
Utah .....	96	95	1,995	1,975	192	188	-2.1
Vermont .....	126	122	1,800	1,760	227	215	-5.3
Virginia .....	74	74	1,590	1,640	118	121	2.5
Washington .....	281	280	2,090	2,095	587	587	-
Wisconsin .....	1,267	1,257	2,070	2,080	2,623	2,615	-0.3
24-State Total .....	8,789	8,840	1,984	2,009	17,439	17,763	1.9

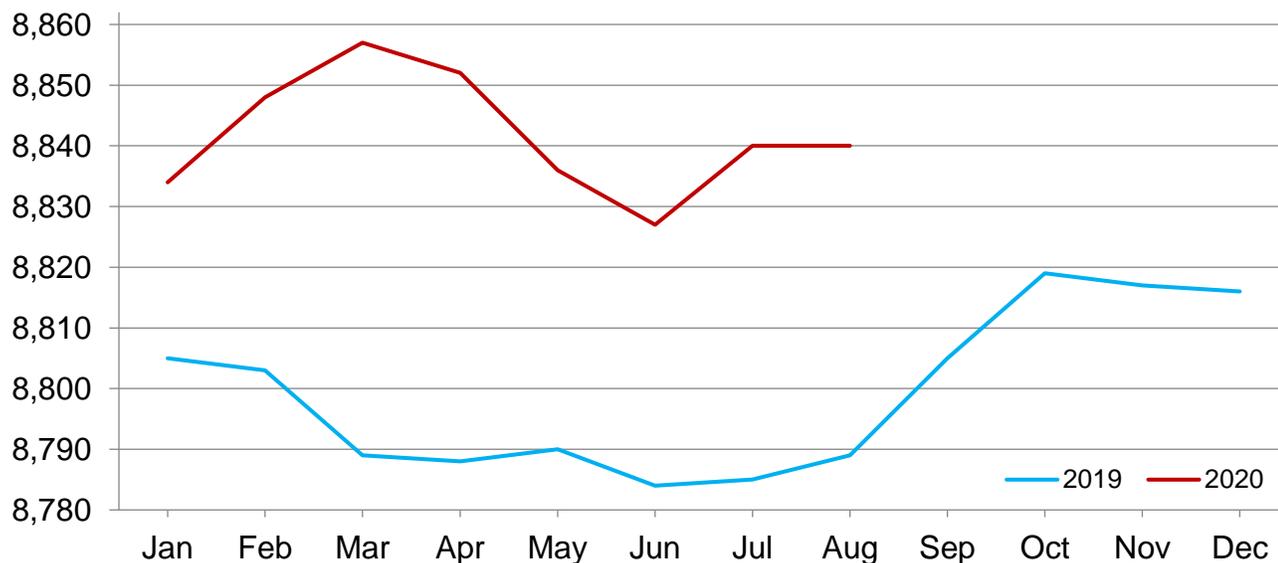
- Represents zero.

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: July 2019 and 2020

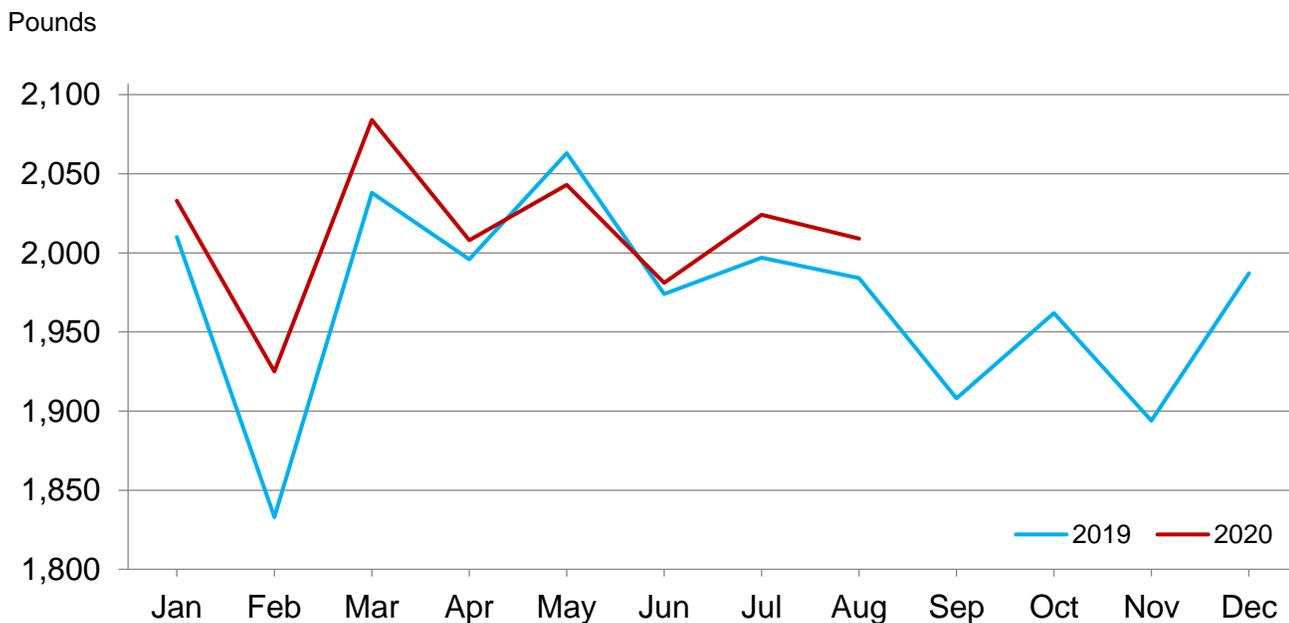
[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	195	196	1,940	1,905	378	373	-1.3
California .....	1,725	1,721	1,965	2,015	3,390	3,468	2.3
Colorado .....	187	198	2,205	2,235	412	443	7.5
Florida .....	115	111	1,670	1,650	192	183	-4.7
Georgia .....	81	81	1,765	1,755	143	142	-0.7
Idaho .....	626	645	2,190	2,210	1,371	1,425	3.9
Illinois .....	83	83	1,685	1,745	140	145	3.6
Indiana .....	176	182	1,880	1,950	331	355	7.3
Iowa .....	217	218	1,990	2,040	432	445	3.0
Kansas .....	162	169	1,970	1,980	319	335	5.0
Michigan .....	425	428	2,255	2,310	958	989	3.2
Minnesota .....	447	442	1,895	1,955	847	864	2.0
New Mexico .....	326	326	2,130	2,015	694	657	-5.3
New York .....	627	626	2,050	2,075	1,285	1,299	1.1
Ohio .....	250	254	1,820	1,870	455	475	4.4
Oregon .....	124	123	1,805	1,805	224	222	-0.9
Pennsylvania .....	485	482	1,715	1,795	832	865	4.0
South Dakota .....	123	137	1,910	1,930	235	264	12.3
Texas .....	565	590	2,065	2,065	1,167	1,218	4.4
Utah .....	97	95	2,010	1,985	195	189	-3.1
Vermont .....	126	122	1,810	1,770	228	216	-5.3
Virginia .....	74	74	1,605	1,660	119	123	3.4
Washington .....	281	280	2,120	2,120	596	594	-0.3
Wisconsin .....	1,268	1,257	2,050	2,070	2,599	2,602	0.1
24-State Total .....	8,785	8,840	1,997	2,024	17,542	17,891	2.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States



## 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 such as Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Dairy Market News. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Survey.

**Estimation Procedures:** Regional Field 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 24 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 17.8 billion pounds by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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 .....	0.3	0.5	37	0	115	15	8
All Milk cows .....	0.1	0.1	6	0	16	17	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@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106

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- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist [notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu](mailto:notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu) in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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## USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold a virtual meeting for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2020 Fall Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will answer questions and welcome comments and input from data users. Registration details will be coming soon.