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## Special Note

NASS added South Dakota to the monthly estimating program and removed Missouri beginning with this report. Historic estimates have been created for South Dakota for 2013 and January 2014 for comparison purposes. The inclusion of South Dakota and exclusion of Missouri accounted for 65 of the 104 million pound revision to the 23-State milk production total for January 2014. The remaining 39 million pounds, or 0.2 percent, were a result of the normal revision process.

## February Milk Production up 1.4 Percent

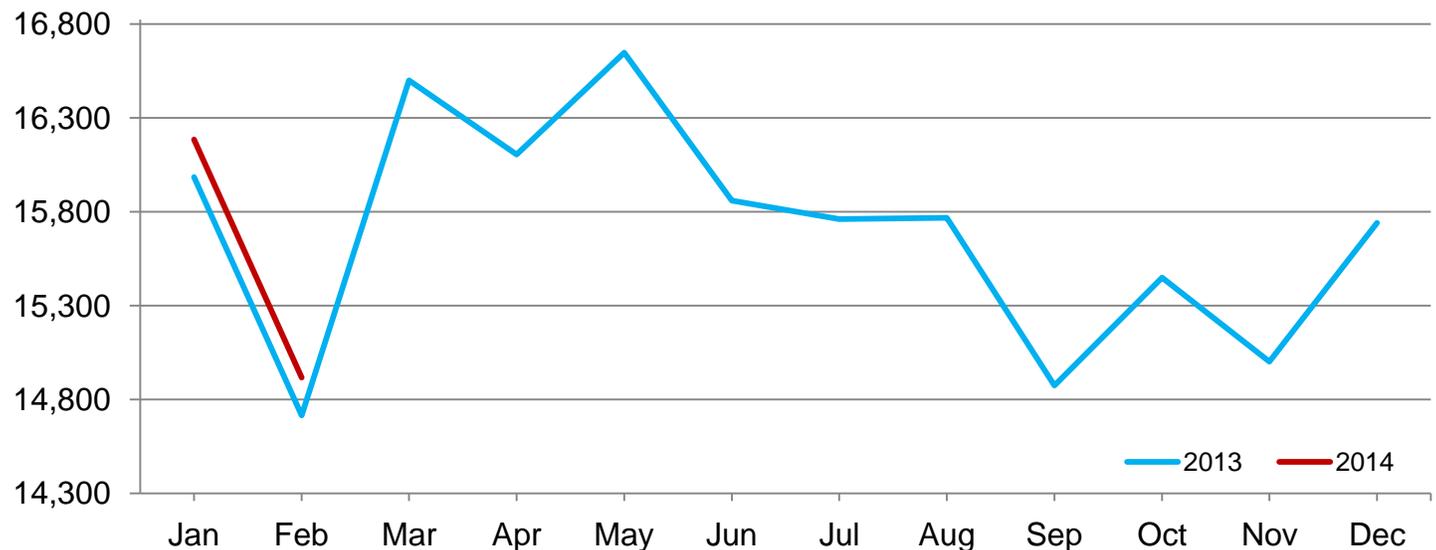
**Milk production** in the 23 major States during February totaled 14.9 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from February 2013. January revised production, at 16.2 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from January 2013. The January revision represented an increase of 104 million pounds or 0.6 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,753 pounds for February, 21 pounds above February 2013.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.51 million head, 13,000 head more than February 2013, but 1,000 head less than January 2014.

## Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2013-2014

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk Per Cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		
	2013 <sup>3</sup>	2014	2013 <sup>3</sup>	2014	2013	2014	Change From 2013
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Percent)
January-March .....					50,545		
April-June .....					51,997		
July-September .....	9,224		5,356		49,408		
October-December .....	9,201		5,355		49,268		
Annual .....	9,221		21,822		201,218		

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Survey was not conducted in April and July, resulting in no milk cow and milk per cow data for March through June. 2013 annual totals include modeled data.

## Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2013-2014

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2013 <sup>3</sup>	2014	2013 <sup>3</sup>	2014	2013	2014	Change from 2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,497	8,512	1,881	1,902	15,985	16,186	1.3
February .....	8,498	8,511	1,732	1,753	14,715	14,917	1.4
March .....					16,501		
April .....					16,105		
May .....					16,648		
June .....					15,860		
July .....	8,522		1,850		15,762		
August .....	8,522		1,850		15,768		
September .....	8,508		1,748		14,874		
October .....	8,504		1,817		15,449		
November .....	8,499		1,765		15,002		
December .....	8,504		1,851		15,741		
Annual .....	8,508		22,145		188,410		

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Survey was not conducted in April and July, resulting in no milk cow and milk per cow data for March through June.

## Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2013-2014

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2013 <sup>3</sup>	2014	2013 <sup>3</sup>	2014	2013	2014	Change from 2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,222	9,211	1,855	1,876	17,109	17,280	1.0
February .....	9,223	9,211	1,709	1,730	15,759	15,935	1.1
March .....					17,677		
April .....					17,249		
May .....					17,813		
June .....					16,935		
July .....	9,235		1,818		16,788		
August .....	9,229		1,819		16,789		
September .....	9,208		1,719		15,831		
October .....	9,203		1,790		16,475		
November .....	9,198		1,740		16,003		
December .....	9,202		1,825		16,790		
Annual .....	9,221		21,822		201,218		

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Survey was not conducted in April and July, resulting in no milk cow and milk per cow data for March through June.

## Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2013 and 2014

[May not add due to rounding]

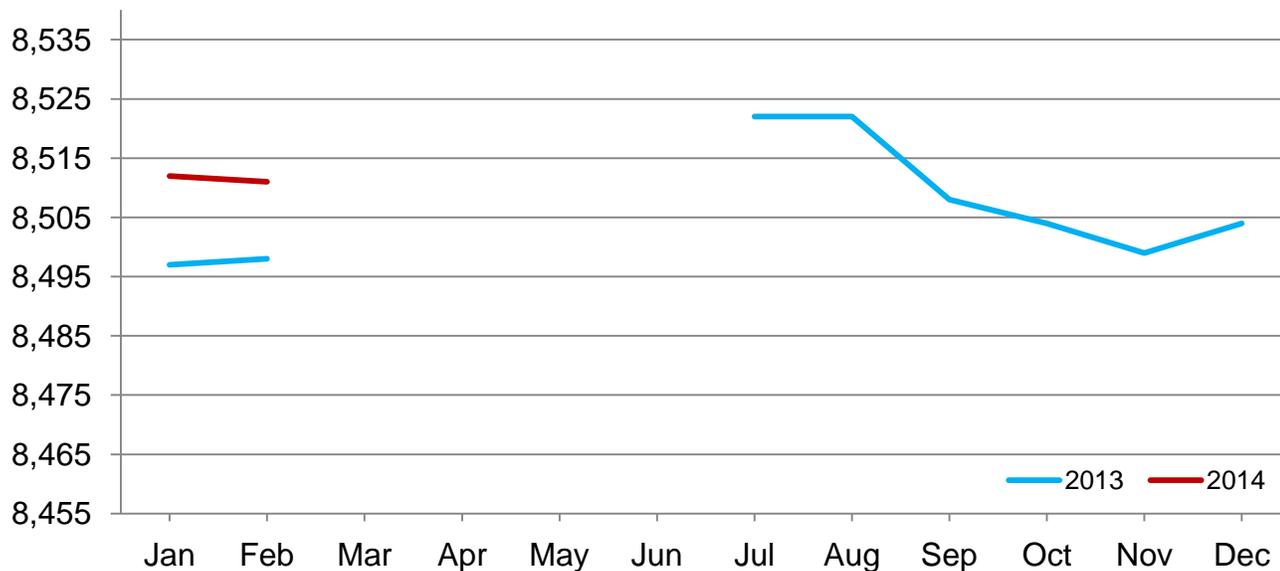
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2013
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	190	192	1,940	1,965	369	377	2.2
California .....	1,780	1,781	1,815	1,910	3,231	3,402	5.3
Colorado .....	135	140	1,865	1,910	252	267	6.0
Florida .....	122	123	1,670	1,710	204	210	2.9
Idaho .....	577	566	1,740	1,820	1,004	1,030	2.6
Illinois .....	97	96	1,590	1,550	154	149	-3.2
Indiana .....	174	178	1,710	1,705	298	303	1.7
Iowa .....	208	205	1,750	1,725	364	354	-2.7
Kansas .....	132	137	1,705	1,700	225	233	3.6
Michigan .....	378	381	1,880	1,880	711	716	0.7
Minnesota .....	465	460	1,565	1,545	728	711	-2.3
New Mexico .....	322	323	1,985	1,950	639	630	-1.4
New York .....	610	615	1,695	1,685	1,034	1,036	0.2
Ohio .....	271	266	1,590	1,560	431	415	-3.7
Oregon .....	123	124	1,555	1,590	191	197	3.1
Pennsylvania .....	534	531	1,560	1,565	833	831	-0.2
South Dakota .....	92	95	1,665	1,640	153	156	1.5
Texas .....	435	440	1,740	1,775	757	781	3.2
Utah .....	91	95	1,660	1,650	151	157	4.0
Vermont .....	134	132	1,505	1,545	202	204	1.0
Virginia .....	94	93	1,460	1,500	137	140	2.2
Washington .....	264	268	1,825	1,855	482	497	3.1
Wisconsin .....	1,270	1,270	1,705	1,670	2,165	2,121	-2.0
23-State Total .....	8,498	8,511	1,732	1,753	14,715	14,917	1.4

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

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

## Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: January 2013 and 2014

[May not add due to rounding]

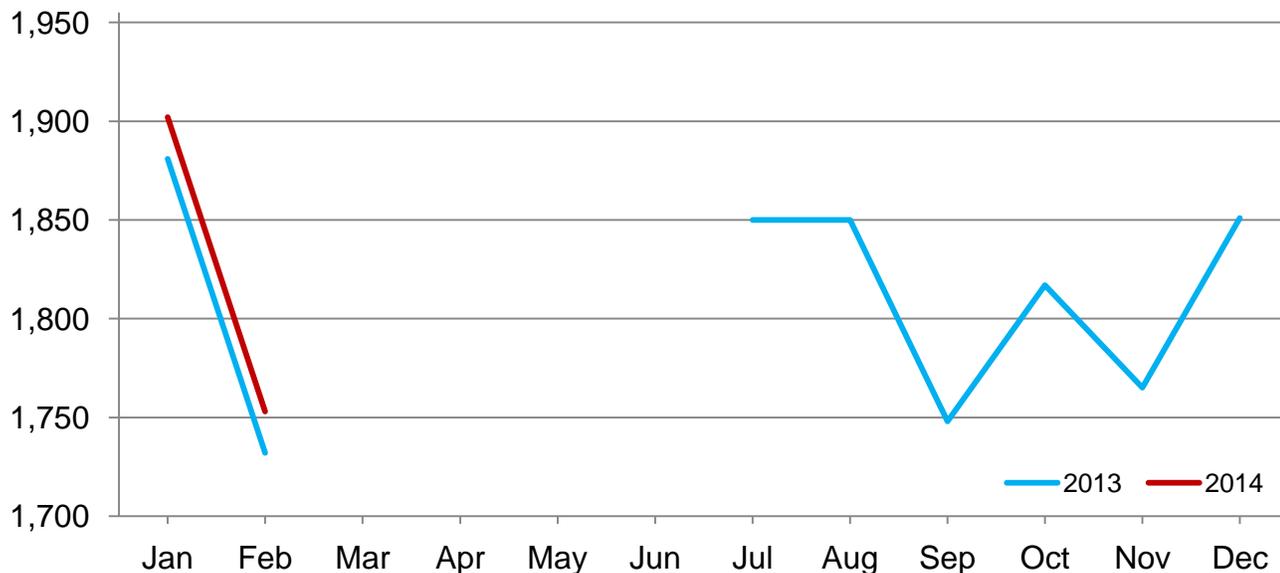
	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2013
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	190	192	2,075	2,070	394	397	0.8
California .....	1,780	1,781	1,945	2,030	3,462	3,615	4.4
Colorado .....	135	140	2,040	2,080	275	291	5.8
Florida .....	122	123	1,730	1,810	211	223	5.7
Idaho .....	579	566	1,910	2,005	1,106	1,135	2.6
Illinois .....	97	96	1,730	1,670	168	160	-4.8
Indiana .....	175	178	1,850	1,850	324	329	1.5
Iowa .....	206	205	1,940	1,900	400	390	-2.5
Kansas .....	132	137	1,855	1,870	245	256	4.5
Michigan .....	378	381	2,060	2,070	779	789	1.3
Minnesota .....	465	460	1,715	1,690	797	777	-2.5
New Mexico .....	320	323	2,150	2,110	688	682	-0.9
New York .....	610	615	1,855	1,845	1,132	1,135	0.3
Ohio .....	271	267	1,725	1,725	467	461	-1.3
Oregon .....	123	124	1,675	1,735	206	215	4.4
Pennsylvania .....	535	531	1,690	1,700	904	903	-0.1
South Dakota .....	92	95	1,860	1,820	171	173	1.2
Texas .....	435	440	1,880	1,920	818	845	3.3
Utah .....	90	95	1,865	1,820	168	173	3.0
Vermont .....	134	132	1,650	1,690	221	223	0.9
Virginia .....	94	93	1,600	1,650	150	153	2.0
Washington .....	264	268	1,985	2,025	524	543	3.6
Wisconsin .....	1,270	1,270	1,870	1,825	2,375	2,318	-2.4
23-State Total .....	8,497	8,512	1,881	1,902	15,985	16,186	1.3

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 Surveys.

**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 14.9 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	25	2	81	17	7
All Milk cows .....	0.1	0.1	4	0	10	9	13

## 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Sheep and Goats, Honey .....	(202) 720-4751
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3236
Tiffany Hora – Livestock Slaughter .....	(515) 284-4340
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278

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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@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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