

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates
Washington, D. C.

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The following excerpt on Milk Production, taken from the Crop Report Comments of November 10, 1931 together with the statistical table is being sent to all who requested copies of the Supplement to Milk Production Trends.

MILK PRODUCTION:The trend of milk production changed markedly during October. Instead of the normal seasonal decreases, both the number of milk cows and production per cow appear to have increased during the month and total milk production on November 1 was apparently 5 or 6 per cent heavier than on that date last year. Abnormally few milk cows were marketed during October and a larger than usual proportion of those on hand are being milked. On November 1 the 170,000 milk cows kept by crop correspondents of the Department of Agriculture were producing an average of 12.46 pounds of milk per cow per day compared with 12.27 pounds on October 1, the small increase being quite evenly shared by the North Atlantic, East and West North Central and Western groups of states. This is the first time during the 7 years for which comparable records are available that the reported production per cow has increased at this season of the year in any group of states. Although the reported production per cow on October 1 was the lowest for that date since 1925 and production in the South continued unusually low through October, the United States average for all herds reporting on November 1 was the highest November average in the seven year record, being about 1 per cent above production on that date last year and 4 per cent above the November average during the preceding 5 years.

The increase in production appears to have been due chiefly to heavier feeding of the cows. Grain has been bringing low prices since harvest and on October 15 the farm price of a typical mixture of grains and mill feeds was lower in comparison with the price of butterfat than in any previous month of the past 20 years with the exception of November, 1921. This was, however, an unstable price situation, and in recent weeks the price of butter has fallen sharply and the prices of most grains and mill feeds have advanced markedly.

Other factors which may have been partially responsible for the high production per cow on November 1 are the mild weather during October and the improvement of pastures in the upper Mississippi Valley area. There appears also to have been a slight increase in fall freshening and a slight decrease in the number of calves allowed to nurse the cows. The continued low production in the South appears to be due chiefly to the combination of poor pastures and a shortage of funds with which to buy grain.

(Over)

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

COWS MILKED, MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION ABOUT NOVEMBER 1, 1931
TOTALS AND AVERAGES, KEPT BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS, BY STATES

STATE	Number of Farms reporting	No. of cows milked	Total cows milked or dry	Milk production (pounds)	Av. No. cows per farm	Per cent of all cows milked	Av. production per cow, (pounds)	Cows milked	All cows
Me.	162	1060	1315	16804	8.1	80.6	15.85	12.78	
N.H.	91	1010	1349	19990	14.8	74.9	19.79	14.82	
Vt.	142	2114	2669	37123	18.8	79.2	17.56	13.91	
Mass.	138	1461	1774	29822	12.9	82.4	20.41	16.81	
R.I.	24	228	275	4864	11.5	82.9	21.33	17.69	
Conn.	77	1108	1412	22585	18.3	78.5	20.38	16.00	
N.Y.	673	7422	9392	148584	14.0	79.0	20.02	15.82	
N.J.	48	474	626	10453	13.0	75.7	22.05	16.70	
Pa.	784	5354	6794	107864	8.7	78.8	20.15	15.88	
N.ATL.	2139	20231	25606	393094	12.0	79.0	19.68	15.55	
Ohio	1207	6492	8611	126670	7.1	75.4	19.51	14.71	
Ind.	764	3635	4998	68354	6.5	72.7	18.80	13.68	
Ill.	679	3456	5134	65196	7.6	67.3	18.86	12.70	
Mich.	776	4607	5984	97855	7.7	77.0	21.24	16.35	
Wis.	1008	10692	14678	204834	14.6	72.8	19.16	13.96	
E.N.CENT.	4434	28882	39405	562909	8.9	73.3	19.49	14.29	
Minn.	794	5848	9039	111944	11.4	64.7	19.14	12.38	
Iowa	1246	7721	11719	151179	9.4	65.9	19.58	12.90	
Mo.	1101	5128	8501	79297	7.7	60.3	15.46	9.33	
N.Dak.	641	4045	6435	64330	10.0	62.9	15.90	10.00	
S.Dak.	254	1415	2347	26099	9.2	60.3	13.44	11.12	
Nebr.	590	2817	4529	52201	7.7	62.2	18.53	11.53	
Kans.	704	3402	5369	64593	7.6	63.4	18.99	12.03	
W.N.CENT.	5330	30376	47939	549643	9.0	63.4	18.09	11.47	
Del.	19	98	138	1672	7.3	71.0	17.06	12.12	
Md.	133	979	1274	17794	9.6	76.8	18.18	13.97	
Va.	338	1549	2165	23221	6.4	71.5	14.99	10.73	
W.Va.	239	899	1225	14665	5.1	73.4	16.31	11.97	
N.C.	728	2026	2879	30497	4.0	70.4	15.05	10.59	
S.C.	415	1014	1640	15472	4.0	61.8	15.26	9.43	
Ga.	506	1438	2409	20450	4.8	59.7	14.22	8.49	
Fla.	90	253	471	3294	5.2	53.7	13.02	6.99	
S.ATL.	2468	8256	12201	127065	4.9	67.7	15.39	10.41	
Ky.	796	3198	4536	47866	5.7	70.5	14.97	10.55	
Tenn.	667	2776	3887	37174	5.8	71.4	13.39	9.56	
Ala.	408	1561	2624	20241	6.4	59.5	12.97	7.71	
Miss.	457	2021	3480	23285	7.6	58.1	11.52	6.69	
Ark.	517	1629	2579	20223	5.0	63.2	12.42	7.84	
La.	140	567	1133	6758	8.1	50.0	11.92	5.96	
Okla.	852	3592	5934	54119	7.0	60.5	15.07	9.12	
Tex.	833	3127	5191	45259	6.2	60.2	14.47	8.72	
S.CENT.	4670	18471	29364	254930	6.3	62.9	13.80	8.68	
Mont.	266	1296	1970	19751	7.4	65.8	15.24	10.03	
Idaho	272	1398	1946	31096	7.2	71.8	22.24	15.98	
Wyo.	122	711	852	9988	7.0	83.5	14.05	11.72	
Colo.	389	2029	3187	39468	8.2	63.7	19.45	12.38	
N.Mex.	59	254	447	4165	7.6	56.8	16.40	9.32	
Ariz.	30	163	247	3364	8.2	66.0	20.64	13.62	
Utah	99	487	698	10449	7.1	69.8	21.46	14.97	
Nev.	25	143	243	3019	9.7	58.8	21.11	12.42	
Wash.	320	2513	3280	53062	10.2	76.6	21.12	16.18	
Oreg.	328	2246	2987	43639	9.1	75.2	19.43	14.61	
Calif.	240	2055	2979	48788	12.4	69.0	23.74	16.38	
WEST.	2150	13295	18836	266789	8.8	70.6	20.07	14.16	
U.S.	21191	119511	173351	2159430	8.18	68.9	18.07	12.46	
Weighted U.S.						69.0		12.46	