

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

April 14, 1938.

MILK PRODUCTION APRIL 1, 1938.

Following the sharpest March increase that has occurred during the 14 years of record, the April 1 production of milk in the United States was about 8 percent greater than it was last year, and somewhat greater than in any previous year. However, milk production was not particularly out of line with current needs, for milk production per capita was only about 1 percent above the average for April 1 during the 10 years prior to 1937.

It seems probable that milk production will show somewhat more than the usual seasonal increase this spring, unless prevented by lower prices. The unusually large increase during March was probably due in part to temporary factors including the generally mild weather which prevailed until the end of the month and the early grass which provided some feed as far north as the Central Corn Belt. Recently, however, dairy products, like meat animals, have been selling at prices that were relatively favorable when compared either with prices of feed grains and mill feeds or with the very low prices being secured for most cash crops. As the milk cows freshen this spring, they will probably be fairly well fed. The number of cows and heifers (beef and dairy) slaughtered under Federal inspection has declined somewhat and there is reason to believe it may decline further.

In all major geographic areas, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on April 1 was above the 1927-36 average for that date. In the West North Central States and South Central States, milk production per cow on April 1 this year was about 15 percent heavier than on the same date last year when effects of the 1936 drought were still being felt on milk production. In other major groups of States, except the North Atlantic, production per cow was above a year ago. For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 14.12 pounds on April 1, compared with 13.11 pounds on the same date in 1937, and an average of 13.64 pounds for April 1 in the preceding 10 years.

Crop correspondents reported 69.8 percent of their milk cows in production April 1. This is the same as reported on April 1, 1932 and slightly higher than for that date in any other of the 14 years on record. It compares with an average of 68.3 percent for April 1 in the period 1927-36.

DAIRY PASTURES APRIL 1, 1938.

Favored by unusually warm weather in February and March and by adequate moisture in most areas, pastures started unusually early this year and by the end of March were supplying considerable feed in the Southern half of the country. On April 1 this year, prior to the recent cold weather and snow in the Central States, the reported condition of farm pastures was above the 1927-36 average for that date in nearly all States except some in the Central and Northern Plains area where last year's dry weather was still reflected in a short supply of old feed in pastures and ranges and thinned stands. For the country as a whole the condition of pastures on April 1 averaged 80.1 percent of normal compared with 66.0 percent a year earlier, and an average of 76.4 percent for April 1 in the ten preceding years. In the States where milk cows are normally on pasture April 1, the condition of pastures averaged the best for that date since 1927.

Since April 1, the growth of pastures has been checked by colder weather in Northern, Central and Southwestern States. However, if normal temperatures prevail from now on, pastures may be expected to be moderately early.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS 1/

State	: April 1 :(Avg.) 1927-36 :	: April 1 1936 :	: April 1 1937 :	: April 1 1938
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	15.67	15.08	15.94	15.99
N. Y.	17.2	17.7	18.5	17.6
N. J.	18.7	18.3	19.7	20.3
Pa.	17.2	17.3	17.5	17.3
N. Atl.	16.89	17.01	17.78	17.44
Ohio	15.1	14.9	15.2	15.0
Ind.	13.7	13.0	13.3	14.1
Ill.	14.4	13.7	14.6	15.0
Mich.	17.4	17.5	17.6	17.4
Wis.	17.4	17.2	17.2	17.5
E. N. Cent.	15.00	15.73	15.90	16.23
Minn.	17.3	17.5	16.0	18.4
Iowa	14.2	14.3	13.6	15.4
Mo.	9.4	9.3	8.1	9.6
N. Dak.	12.3	12.4	10.8	11.7
S. Dak.	11.7	10.9	9.1	11.0
Nebr.	13.7	13.3	11.3	13.1
Kans.	14.4	13.9	12.5	15.5
W. N. Cent.	13.64	13.44	12.07	14.06
Md.	13.8	13.1	13.9	14.2
Va.	10.0	9.6	10.2	10.7
W. Va.	9.6	8.6	8.9	9.1
N. C.	10.4	10.0	10.2	10.8
S. C.	10.0	9.7	9.3	10.6
S. Atl.	10.18	9.70	9.96	10.62
Ky.	10.2	9.5	9.3	10.5
Tenn.	9.0	8.8	8.9	9.8
Miss.	7.2	6.6	6.4	7.3
Ark.	8.1	8.1	7.7	9.1
Okla.	10.9	10.4	10.9	12.2
Tex.	9.4	9.5	9.0	10.7
S. Cent.	9.11	8.79	8.69	9.93
Mont.	12.0	12.3	12.1	12.8
Idaho	16.2	16.1	15.6	16.3
Wyo.	11.4	11.3	11.1	12.7
Colo.	13.5	14.1	13.0	14.7
Wash.	16.8	16.8	17.0	17.2
Oreg.	15.8	16.1	15.7	15.4
Calif.	19.7	20.2	17.7	20.1
West.	15.06	15.54	14.71	15.74
U. S.	13.64	13.36	13.11	14.12

1/ 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; South Central, Alabama, Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada.