

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
CROP REPORT  
as of  
CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.,  
May 14, 1951

May 1, 1951

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MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production on farms in the United States during April totaled 10.3 billion pounds, 2 percent less than in the same month last year and lower than for April in 4 of the last 6 years. On a per capita basis, milk production during April averaged 2.24 pounds per day which was the lowest for the month in more than 20 years, with the exception of 1935 and 1937 when milk production was reduced sharply as a result of the droughts. Late development of pasture feed slowed the spring up-surge in milk production in many areas this year, but most farmers appear to have been feeding liberal quantities of grain, hay, and silage to their milk cows. High prices for cull milk cows, coupled with favorable income prospects from alternative enterprises such as raising meat animals, appear to have encouraged close culling of milking herds in some areas.

During the first 4 months of 1951, milk production on farms totaled 37.5 billion pounds, about 2 percent less than in the same period a year ago when milk production was unusually high during the early months of the year. The 4 months' total was also a little below that in 1945 and 1947, but was higher than output in the same period in any other year in the quarter century for which records are available.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop reporters on May 1 averaged 18.55 pounds. Although slightly below production per cow on May 1 a year ago, this was about 10 percent above the 1940-49 average for the date. In many areas, it appears that the seasonal upturn in milk production per cow lagged through much of April, but output responded to good weather and improving pastures late in the month. Between April 1 and May 1, the seasonal increase this year was 7 percent; except for last year this was the smallest change during April in 11 years. The average seasonal increase between April 1 and May 1 is about 10 percent.

Regionally, milk production per cow in the South Central group of States was 5 percent lower than on May 1 a year ago and only 2 percent above the 10-year average for the date as compared with increases ranging from 4 to 12 percent in earlier months this year. In Texas, milk production per cow on May 1 was the lowest for the date since 1925 and in Oklahoma it equalled the lowest figure since 1936. In both of these States, pasture feed has been held back this season by dry weather and low temperatures. In other regions, milk production per cow on May 1 was not much different from last year and ranged from 8 to 14 percent above the 10-year average for the date. Only in the East North Central States was production per cow appreciably higher than on May 1, 1950.

The proportion of milk cows in crop reporters' herds reported being milked on May 1 averaged 73.9 percent, somewhat less than last year and the same as for May 1 of both 1948 and 1949. The percentage milked was slightly higher than the 10-year average for the date. Regionally, the percentage milked was well above average in the North Atlantic, East North Central, and Western groups of States, and was a little above average in the West North Central and South Atlantic States, but was well below average in the South Central region.

Among the 29 States for which current monthly milk production estimates are available, new high records for April were established in Michigan, Virginia, and North Carolina. April production has been equalled or exceeded in only 1 or 2 other years in several other States, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and California. On the other hand, in Oklahoma and Montana, milk production on farms was the smallest for April in records covering about 20 years. In Iowa and Nebraska, April milk production was the lowest since 1937. In

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the Dakotas, milk output on farms was about one-sixth below the 10-year average for April and in Illinois, Kansas, Texas, Idaho, and Oregon, it ranged from 7 to 10 per cent below average. In most of these States, the number of milk cows now on farms is considerably reduced from the average level of recent years. Wisconsin continued to lead all States with an April milk production of 1,473 million pounds, followed by Minnesota with 791 million pounds, California with 562 million pounds and Pennsylvania with 522 million pounds.

**MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES, 1940-49 AVERAGE, 1950 and 1951**

| Month | Monthly total  |         |        | Daily average per capita |         |      |      |
|-------|----------------|---------|--------|--------------------------|---------|------|------|
|       | Average        | 1950    | 1951   | 1951                     | Average | 1950 | 1951 |
|       | 1940-49        |         |        | 1950                     | 1940-49 |      |      |
|       | Million pounds |         |        | Percent                  | Pounds  |      |      |
| Jan.  | 8,548          | 9,067   | 8,960  | 99                       | 1.99    | 1.94 | 1.89 |
| Feb.  | 8,246          | 8,721   | 8,527  | 98                       | 2.10    | 2.06 | 1.99 |
| Mar.  | 9,538          | 9,991   | 9,690  | 97                       | 2.22    | 2.13 | 2.04 |
| Apr.  | 10,146         | 10,506  | 10,328 | 98                       | 2.43    | 2.31 | 2.24 |
| May   | 11,885         | 11,840  |        |                          | 2.76    | 2.52 |      |
| June  | 12,392         | 12,533  |        |                          | 2.97    | 2.75 |      |
| July  | 11,621         | 11,870  |        |                          | 2.69    | 2.52 |      |
| Aug.  | 10,505         | 10,620  |        |                          | 2.43    | 2.25 |      |
| Sept. | 9,274          | 9,396   |        |                          | 2.21    | 2.06 |      |
| Oct.  | 8,835          | 9,081   |        |                          | 2.04    | 1.92 |      |
| Nov.  | 8,125          | 8,402   |        |                          | 1.93    | 1.83 |      |
| Dec.  | 8,334          | 8,523   |        |                          | 1.92    | 1.80 |      |
| Year  | 117,448        | 120,555 |        |                          | 2.31    | 2.17 |      |

**ESTIMATED MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/**

| State  | April av.      | April | March | April | State  | April av.      | April  | March | April  |
|--------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|--------|-------|--------|
|        | 1940-49        | 1950  | 1951  | 1951  |        | 1940-49        | 1950   | 1951  | 1951   |
|        | Million pounds |       |       |       |        | Million pounds |        |       |        |
| N.J.   | 89             | 101   | 102   | 101   | S.C.   | 50             | 56     | 53    | 55     |
| Pa.    | 456            | 529   | 500   | 522   | Ky.    | 170            | 184    | 156   | 181    |
| Ohio   | 426            | 451   | 434   | 465   | Tenn.  | 179            | 196    | 165   | 197    |
| Ind.   | 290            | 274   | 277   | 277   | Ala.   | 111            | 122    | 111   | 117    |
| Ill.   | 468            | 446   | 432   | 433   | Miss.  | 120            | 129    | 116   | 129    |
| Mich.  | 464            | 504   | 476   | 506   | Okla.  | 227            | 187    | 168   | 180    |
| Wis.   | 1,364          | 1,482 | 1,371 | 1,473 | Tex.   | 382            | 359    | 330   | 346    |
| Minn.  | 804            | 817   | 813   | 791   | Mont.  | 58             | 47     | 42    | 46     |
| Iowa   | 567            | 496   | 488   | 482   | Idaho  | 115            | 107    | 96    | 105    |
| Mo.    | 335            | 379   | 314   | 361   | Utah   | 58             | 62     | 57    | 60     |
| N.Dak. | 176            | 146   | 132   | 146   | Wash.  | 191            | 183    | 158   | 181    |
| S.Dak. | 143            | 120   | 111   | 120   | Oreg.  | 133            | 128    | 97    | 123    |
| Nebr.  | 229            | 196   | 180   | 190   | Calif. | 522            | 553    | 523   | 562    |
| Kans.  | 273            | 241   | 223   | 247   | Other  |                |        |       |        |
| Va.    | 136            | 166   | 164   | 174   | States | 1,487          | 1,702  | 1,466 | 1,610  |
| N.C.   | 123            | 143   | 135   | 148   | U.S.   | 10,146         | 10,506 | 9,690 | 10,328 |

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

DAIRY PASTURES

Early spring pasture feed made slow progress over most of the Nation during April. Cool temperatures and wet weather in the northern States and unusually dry conditions in some southwestern areas during most of the month limited grass growth. However, May 1 dairy pasture conditions in the Atlantic and North Central regions were above the very unfavorable May 1 pasture conditions of a year ago. For the country as a whole, dairy pasture conditions on May 1 averaged 80 percent of normal, 5 points above May 1 a year ago, but 2 points below the 10-year average condition for that date. Warm weather in the last week of the month in the eastern two-thirds of the United States and late April rains in the West, greatly improved May pasture prospects. With moisture conditions favorable in all areas except the Southwest, continued warm weather should result in rapid growth of grass for livestock feed.

Poorest May 1 pastures were reported in the South Central States where continued lack of rain, particularly in Texas, has seriously hurt growth of green feed. The May 1 dairy pasture condition in the South Central region of 71 percent of normal was the lowest since 1940, 3 points under last year, and the fourth lowest May 1 condition in 70 years of records. Condition of Texas pastures reported as a near record low for May 1 reflect the continued drought in that State. Pasture grass has been slow in developing and new feed is very short. Although rains in northeast Texas have been helpful, additional moisture and warm weather are needed to bring pastures along. Oklahoma pastures are very late due to cool weather and lack of moisture, but rains in late April greatly improved the moisture supply in that State. Grass development in other States in this area was delayed by the cool weather but warm weather late in April brought pastures along rapidly.

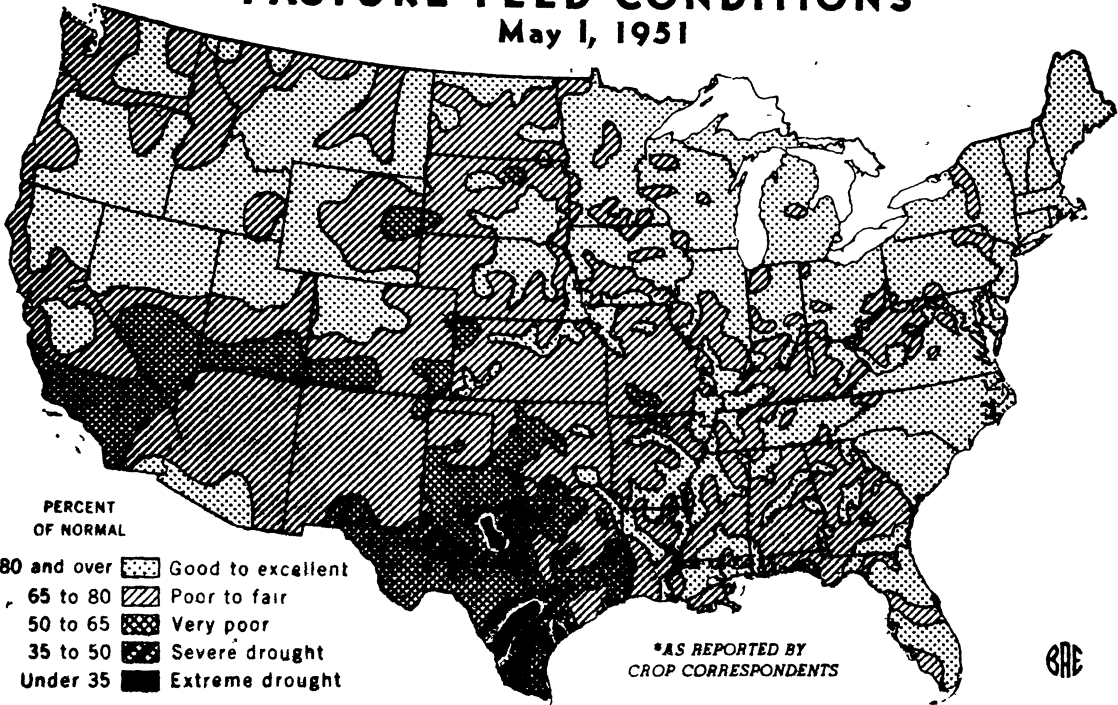
Dairy pasture conditions in the North Atlantic States were generally in above average condition. Pastures in this area provided little forage for livestock during April, but ample soil moisture and warmer temperatures in the latter half of the month set the stage for development of good forage in May. In the South Atlantic area all States except West Virginia and Georgia also showed above average pasture conditions on May 1. Pastures in the southeast improved rapidly in the last two weeks of April due to high temperatures and good soil moisture. Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina reported May 1 pasture conditions 5 points or more above average.

Pasture conditions in the East North Central area were a little above average on May 1. Conditions were very uniform in all States of this region. Cool weather had retarded pasture development in April and there was very little green feed available on May 1. However, warmer temperatures beginning in late April improved pastures markedly. Moisture conditions are very good and pasture prospects are favorable. Pastures in the West North Central States were also very late and in much of this area grass showed the first significant growth of the spring in late April. In Missouri and Kansas where some feed is normally available by May 1, pasture condition was 8 points below average. In other States of this area, pasture condition was closer to average, and in all States condition was well above that on May 1, 1950. The combination of warm weather beginning the last week of April and very favorable soil moisture conditions should promote rapid growth of grass during May.

In the West, May 1 pasture conditions were slightly below a year ago, and well below average. Irrigated pastures, however, have been very good. In the Pacific Coast States below average rainfall deteriorated pastures sharply during April, but late April rains greatly improved prospects. California's extended dry spell was broken by rains in southern California in mid-April, followed by general rains over the States. However, cool weather late in the month retarded pasture development somewhat. In the Rocky Mountains and Intermountain States, new feed has been delayed by cool weather and lack of moisture but general rains have improved pasture prospects in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Nevada.

# PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS\*

May 1, 1951



PERCENT  
OF NORMAL

- 80 and over Good to excellent
- 65 to 80 Poor to fair
- 50 to 65 Very poor
- 35 to 50 Severe drought
- Under 35 Extreme drought

\*AS REPORTED BY  
CROP CORRESPONDENTS



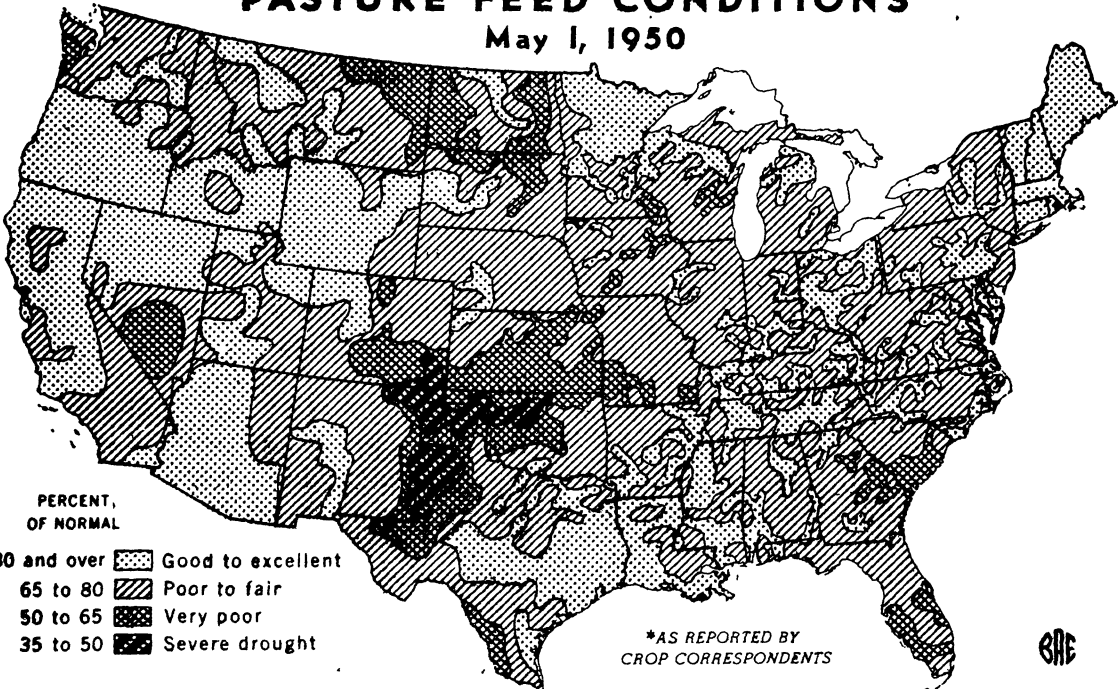
\*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 48162 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

# PASTURE FEED CONDITIONS\*

May 1, 1950



PERCENT,  
OF NORMAL

- 80 and over Good to excellent
- 65 to 80 Poor to fair
- 50 to 65 Very poor
- 35 to 50 Severe drought

\*AS REPORTED BY  
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\*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 47653 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CROP REPORT

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Washington, D. C.,

as of

CROP REPORTING BOARD

May 10, 1951

May 1, 1951

3:00 P.M. (E.D.T.)

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

| State and Division | Average 1940-49 | 1949  | May 1 1950 | 1951  |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|
|                    | Pounds          |       |            |       |
| Me.                | 15.8            | 16.6  | 17.4       | 13.3  |
| N.H.               | 15.8            | 16.5  | 18.5       | 19.5  |
| Vt.                | 18.0            | 19.5  | 20.1       | 20.0  |
| Mass.              | 19.2            | 20.4  | 21.6       | 20.8  |
| Conn.              | 19.1            | 21.0  | 20.2       | 21.5  |
| N.Y.               | 21.6            | 22.8  | 24.8       | 24.9  |
| N.J.               | 22.1            | 24.1  | 24.7       | 24.5  |
| Pa.                | 20.0            | 21.8  | 23.0       | 22.4  |
| N.Atl.             | 20.12           | 21.55 | 22.97      | 22.93 |
| Ohio               | 17.8            | 19.2  | 18.6       | 19.8  |
| Ind.               | 16.9            | 18.1  | 17.0       | 17.6  |
| Ill.               | 18.1            | 19.6  | 19.3       | 19.6  |
| Mich.              | 20.4            | 21.6  | 22.1       | 23.3  |
| Wis.               | 21.5            | 23.3  | 23.5       | 23.5  |
| E.N.Cent.          | 19.67           | 21.49 | 21.47      | 21.93 |
| Minn.              | 20.1            | 23.1  | 24.1       | 23.4  |
| Iowa               | 18.2            | 18.9  | 18.9       | 18.6  |
| Mo.                | 13.0            | 15.1  | 14.5       | 13.4  |
| N.Dak.             | 16.2            | 17.3  | 16.4       | 17.8  |
| S.Dak.             | 14.4            | 14.8  | 15.3       | 15.9  |
| Nebr.              | 17.0            | 18.1  | 18.0       | 18.1  |
| Kans.              | 16.8            | 18.0  | 17.0       | 17.6  |
| W.N.Cent.          | 16.86           | 13.31 | 18.53      | 18.54 |
| Md.                | 17.6            | 19.7  | 19.4       | 19.7  |
| Va.                | 13.3            | 16.0  | 15.8       | 16.1  |
| W.Va.              | 11.8            | 13.7  | 13.1       | 12.9  |
| N.C.               | 13.1            | 14.6  | 14.6       | 15.4  |
| S.C.               | 11.2            | 13.1  | 13.5       | 12.0  |
| Ga.                | 9.8             | 10.9  | 11.4       | 11.1  |
| S.Atl.             | 12.98           | 14.77 | 14.63      | 14.68 |
| Ky.                | 12.9            | 14.6  | 13.8       | 13.3  |
| Tenn.              | 12.2            | 13.6  | 13.1       | 13.6  |
| Ala.               | 9.8             | 11.5  | 10.9       | 10.0  |
| Miss.              | 8.4             | 8.9   | 9.3        | 9.5   |
| Ark.               | 9.9             | 11.0  | 10.4       | 10.3  |
| Okla.              | 12.5            | 13.6  | 12.9       | 11.8  |
| Tex.               | 9.9             | 9.8   | 10.4       | 9.0   |
| S.Cent.            | 11.01           | 12.24 | 11.78      | 11.21 |
| Mont.              | 17.4            | 17.3  | 17.3       | 17.2  |
| Idaho              | 20.3            | 21.9  | 21.5       | 22.0  |
| Wyo.               | 16.7            | 18.5  | 19.6       | 19.4  |
| Colo.              | 17.2            | 17.8  | 18.5       | 18.5  |
| Utah               | 19.7            | 20.8  | 22.3       | 23.4  |
| Wash.              | 21.8            | 22.7  | 23.0       | 22.9  |
| Oreg.              | 20.8            | 21.7  | 21.4       | 22.5  |
| Calif.             | 22.5            | 22.9  | 23.0       | 23.0  |
| West               | 20.26           | 21.48 | 21.96      | 21.87 |
| U.S.               | 16.83           | 18.37 | 18.61      | 18.55 |

1/ Averages represent daily milk production divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry). Figures for New England States and New Jersey are based on combined returns from crop and special dairy-reporters; others represent crop reporters only. Averages for some less important dairy States are not shown separately