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February Milk Production up 2.4 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during February totaled 17.4 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from February 2023. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to leap year causes February milk production to be down 1.1 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 18.3 billion pounds, was down 1.0 percent from January 2023. The January revision represented a decrease of 6 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 1,955 pounds for February, 58 pounds above February 2023.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.88 million head, 61,000 head less than February 2023, but 8,000 head more than January 2024.

February Milk Production in the United States up 2.2 Percent

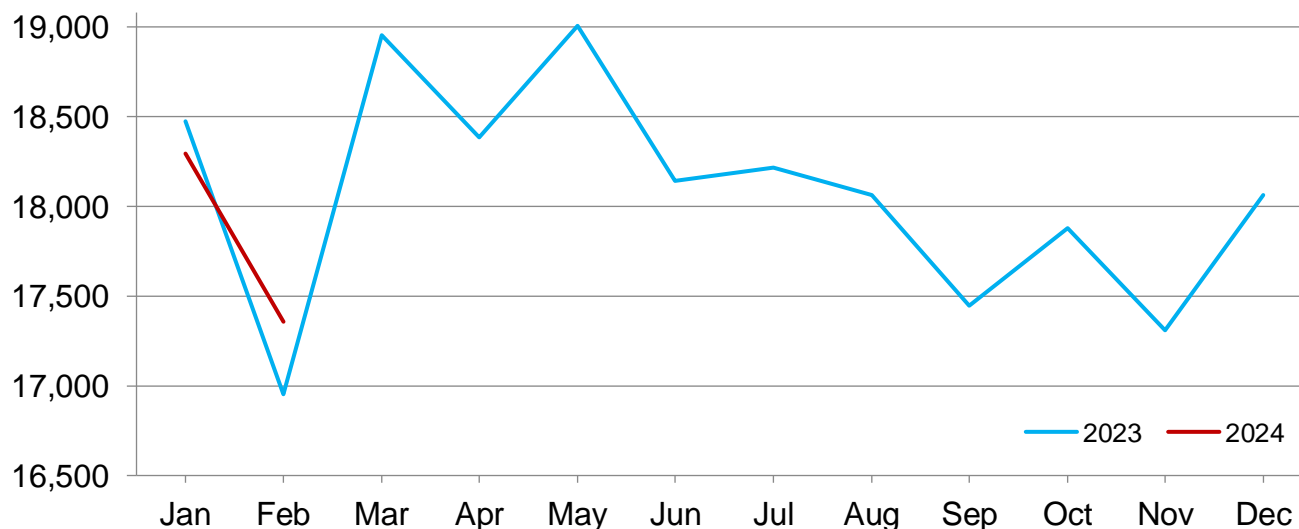
Milk production in the United States during February totaled 18.1 billion pounds, up 2.2 percent from February 2023.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,941 pounds for February, 60 pounds above February 2023.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.33 million head, 89,000 head less than February 2023, but 10,000 head more than January 2024.

Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2023-2024

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

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,418		6,035		56,837		
April-June	9,410		6,164		58,004		
July-September	9,366		5,978		55,994		
October-December	9,349		5,940		55,529		
Annual	9,386		24,117		226,364		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2023-2024

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

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,922	8,870	2,071	2,062	18,474	18,294	-1.0
February	8,939	8,878	1,897	1,955	16,953	17,357	2.4
March	8,952		2,118		18,956		
April	8,941		2,056		18,386		
May	8,945		2,125		19,006		
June	8,925		2,033		18,141		
July	8,909		2,045		18,216		
August	8,906		2,028		18,065		
September	8,907		1,958		17,444		
October	8,900		2,009		17,880		
November	8,891		1,947		17,311		
December	8,894		2,031		18,061		
Annual	8,919		24,318		216,893		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2023-2024

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

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,401	9,320	2,054	2,047	19,308	19,080	-1.2
February	9,419	9,330	1,881	1,941	17,718	18,105	2.2
March	9,433		2,100		19,811		
April	9,414		2,040		19,204		
May	9,418		2,108		19,852		
June	9,397		2,016		18,948		
July	9,368		2,027		18,985		
August	9,365		2,010		18,828		
September	9,366		1,941		18,181		
October	9,355		1,993		18,645		
November	9,345		1,932		18,051		
December	9,348		2,015		18,833		
Annual	9,386		24,117		226,364		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: February 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

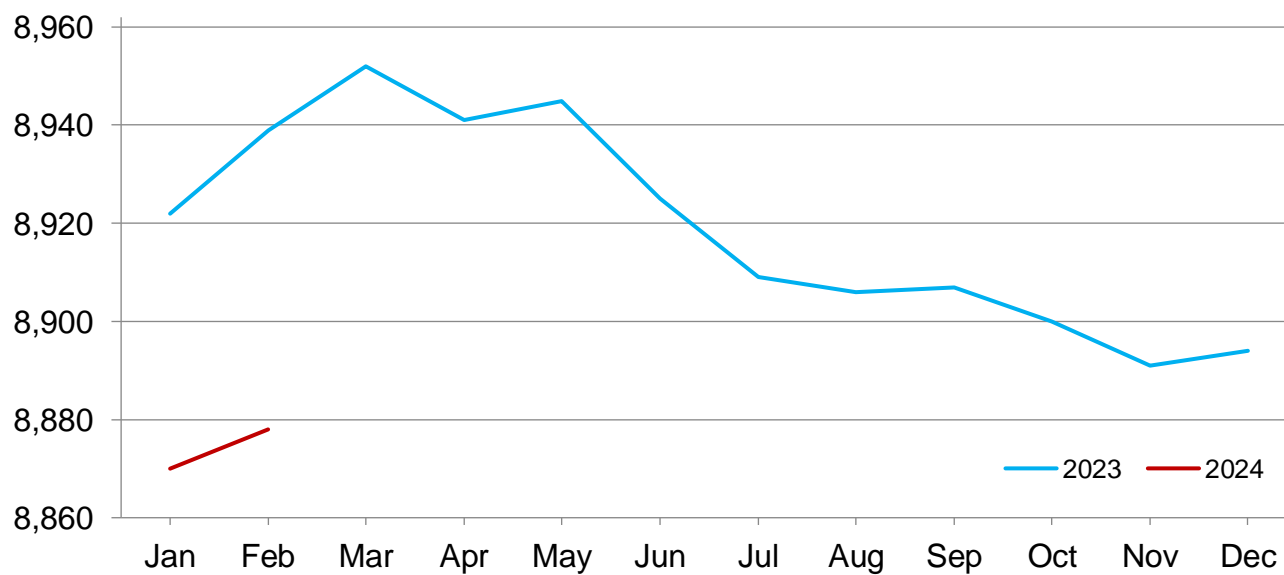
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	194	196	2,000	2,060	388	404	4.1
California	1,718	1,710	1,905	1,965	3,273	3,360	2.7
Colorado	201	198	1,995	2,065	401	409	2.0
Florida	91	98	1,715	1,735	156	170	9.0
Georgia	92	87	1,840	1,850	169	161	-4.7
Idaho	668	663	1,935	1,965	1,293	1,303	0.8
Illinois	79	79	1,710	1,785	135	141	4.4
Indiana	189	190	1,845	1,870	349	355	1.7
Iowa	240	240	1,915	1,990	460	478	3.9
Kansas	178	172	1,850	1,905	329	328	-0.3
Michigan	435	439	2,135	2,185	929	959	3.2
Minnesota	455	448	1,795	1,850	817	829	1.5
New Mexico	280	243	1,955	2,030	547	493	-9.9
New York	630	630	1,950	2,000	1,229	1,260	2.5
Ohio	252	254	1,730	1,785	436	453	3.9
Oregon	124	114	1,620	1,640	201	187	-7.0
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,675	1,710	781	795	1.8
South Dakota	189	208	1,750	1,825	331	380	14.8
Texas	655	645	2,025	2,115	1,326	1,364	2.9
Utah	90	89	1,770	1,830	159	163	2.5
Vermont	118	116	1,665	1,725	196	200	2.0
Virginia	68	67	1,640	1,710	112	115	2.7
Washington	257	257	1,865	1,910	479	491	2.5
Wisconsin	1,270	1,270	1,935	2,015	2,457	2,559	4.2
24-State Total	8,939	8,878	1,897	1,955	16,953	17,357	2.4

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: January 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2023
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	194	196	2,115	2,125	410	417	1.7
California	1,719	1,710	2,055	2,070	3,533	3,540	0.2
Colorado	200	198	2,205	2,205	441	437	-0.9
Florida	89	98	1,790	1,835	159	180	13.2
Georgia	92	88	1,990	1,925	183	169	-7.7
Idaho	664	663	2,120	2,080	1,408	1,379	-2.1
Illinois	79	79	1,850	1,855	146	147	0.7
Indiana	188	190	2,030	2,000	382	380	-0.5
Iowa	240	240	2,095	2,110	503	506	0.6
Kansas	175	173	2,040	2,030	357	351	-1.7
Michigan	435	439	2,345	2,320	1,020	1,018	-0.2
Minnesota	455	449	1,970	1,955	896	878	-2.0
New Mexico	282	240	2,155	2,130	608	511	-16.0
New York	630	630	2,135	2,115	1,345	1,332	-1.0
Ohio	251	255	1,885	1,885	473	481	1.7
Oregon	124	115	1,760	1,730	218	199	-8.7
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,820	1,795	848	835	-1.5
South Dakota	187	208	1,925	1,925	360	400	11.1
Texas	650	635	2,230	2,195	1,450	1,394	-3.9
Utah	91	89	1,945	1,950	177	174	-1.7
Vermont	118	116	1,855	1,820	219	211	-3.7
Virginia	68	67	1,780	1,800	121	121	-
Washington	255	257	2,030	2,035	518	523	1.0
Wisconsin	1,270	1,270	2,125	2,135	2,699	2,711	0.4
24-State Total	8,922	8,870	2,071	2,062	18,474	18,294	-1.0

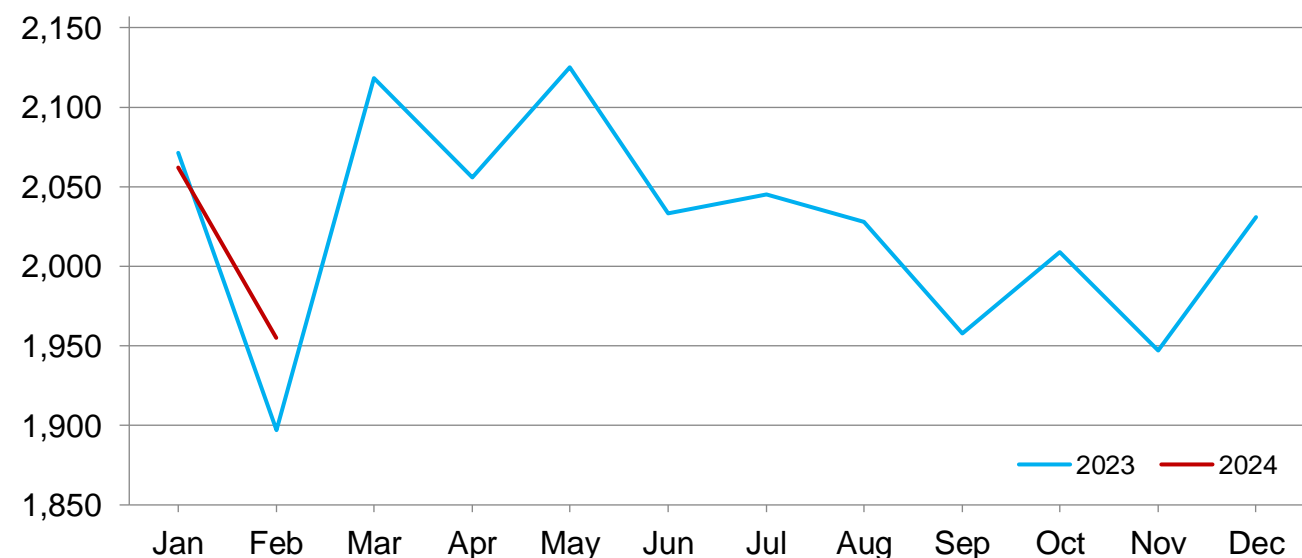
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 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 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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 17.4 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.4 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	0.4	30	0	101	8	15
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	5	0	14	4	16

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.

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Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(512) 501-3266
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448

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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@usda.gov.

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2024 USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

April 16, 2024

**Register at: nass.usda.gov/go/data_users
Free and open to the public**

USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

Join Us Online or in Chicago

April 16, 2024

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2024 Spring 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 provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users).