

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

October 14, 1935.

MILK PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1, 1935.

Milk production in the United States declined very sharply between September 1 and October 1, but part of the change appears to have been due to weather conditions on the two dates. With about 4 percent fewer milk cows on the farms than a year ago, the reports received would seem to indicate that total milk production on October 1 was about 1 percent below production at the same time last year, while on September 1 it was about 4 percent above last year.

The most marked change in production between the two dates occurred in the West North Central States, an important butter producing region, where production per cow declined 15 percent compared with the usual September decline of about 9 percent. In Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and in much of Kansas production was reported even lower on October 1 than on that date last year when local pastures were by far the poorest on record.

The causes of this low production are not yet evident. In most of the Corn Belt States, some tendency to shift from dairying towards beef production is to be expected as a result of present prices, but the unusually high proportion of the milk cows being milked on October 1 would seem to indicate that such a shift has not yet occurred. Very little grain was being fed to milk cows in the Corn Belt on October 1, and hay is so abundant that grain feeding may continue light for some time, but with fair to good pasturage still available in most of the dairy sections, the sharp decrease in production can hardly be explained by lack of feed. It seems more likely that the decrease is a result of the close culling of dry cows in the drought areas during the summer and fall of last year, which left a small proportion of the cows to freshen this fall. While it is possible that the cold snap shortly before the last of September and the unusual epidemic of flies that preceded it in some States were responsible for part of the change in production, most of the decrease appears to be due to a seasonal decline that is likely to continue for a few months unless the price of butterfat rises sufficiently to cause butterfat producers to practice heavier feeding than has been customary during the last two or three years.

In most of the North Atlantic States and in Michigan and Wisconsin, milk production showed more than the usual seasonal decline during September, but production per cow on October 1, as reported, was well above average and close to previous high records.

In the country as a whole, crop correspondents were securing about October 1 a daily average production per cow of 12.24 pounds of milk compared with 11.87 pounds last year, 11.81 pounds in 1933, and an October 1 average of 12.45 pounds during the previous 5 years. Correspondents' reports indicated that on October 1 they were milking 71.7 percent of their cows. The highest previously reported on that date was 70.4 percent last year and the October 1 average for the preceding 5 years was 69.3. The high percentage being milked cannot be explained by conditions unfavorable for producing veals or for using the cows only for raising calves. It apparently indicates that an unusually small percentage of cows are dry, which usually indicates that a correspondingly small percentage are due to freshen during the next few months.

DAIRY PASTURES

The condition of dairy pastures has continued generally favorable through the month of September. Condition on October 1 was the highest since 1928 for the United States as a whole being 75.1 percent, compared to 59.2 percent a year ago, 63.7 on October 1, 1933, and a 10-year average (1923-1932) of 73.0.

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

October 10, 1935.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS 1/				
	: October 1	: October 1	: October 1	: October 1
	:(Avg.)1925-1932:	1933	1934	1935
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	13.3	13.5	13.2	13.5
N. H.	14.2	13.7	13.8	13.1
Vt.	12.8	13.8	12.9	13.9
Mass.	17.8	17.1	16.6	16.7
R. I.	19.2	20.1	18.6	19.0
Conn.	16.6	17.6	16.4	17.2
N. Y.	15.6	15.9	15.7	16.4
N. J.	18.2	17.4	18.7	18.8
Pa.	15.4	15.4	16.0	16.4
N. ATL.	15.42	15.68	15.68	16.24
Ohio	14.6	14.0	14.4	14.6
Ind.	13.9	12.7	13.5	13.3
Ill.	12.5	12.7	13.4	12.1
Mich.	15.5	14.0	15.5	15.8
Wis.	14.0	12.9	13.8	15.0
E. N. CENT.	14.08	13.14	13.98	14.36
Minn.	12.2	11.1	10.7	12.3
Iowa	12.0	12.3	12.2	11.8
Mo.	10.5	9.4	9.8	9.1
N. Dak.	11.0	9.2	9.4	11.3
S. Dak.	9.8	9.3	8.3	9.4
Nebr.	10.9	12.1	11.3	10.9
Kans.	11.2	12.3	10.2	10.2
W. N. CENT.	11.27	11.02	10.49	10.86
Del.	12.9	12.6	12.5	14.0
Md.	14.9	14.5	14.8	14.9
Va.	12.1	10.9	12.1	12.5
W. Va.	12.6	12.4	11.7	12.5
N. C.	11.8	10.3	11.4	11.9
S. C.	9.6	10.0	9.8	9.8
Ga.	8.8	8.0	8.1	8.1
Fla.	7.0	5.6	8.3	6.3
S. ATL.	11.30	10.44	11.05	11.34
Ky.	12.0	11.4	11.9	11.9
Tenn.	10.4	9.6	9.2	10.4
Ala.	8.0	7.0	6.7	7.2
Miss.	7.6	6.8	6.4	6.2
Ark.	9.1	7.6	6.6	7.6
La.	6.2	6.1	5.2	5.7
Okla.	9.7	8.9	8.1	8.5
Tex.	9.1	8.1	8.3	9.3
S. CENT.	9.33	8.61	8.48	8.62
Mont.	12.1	12.1	12.0	10.5
Idaho	16.4	15.0	15.0	16.1
Wyo.	12.2	11.5	11.2	13.6
Colo.	12.0	11.4	10.9	11.8
N. Mex.	8.8	10.0	9.0	9.7
Ariz.	14.3	11.8	15.9	19.1
Utah	14.9	14.1	14.1	14.7
Nev.	13.9	13.8	11.9	14.2
Wash.	16.6	15.3	16.1	16.0
Oreg.	13.9	13.5	13.7	14.0
Calif.	16.4	16.4	16.2	17.5
WEST.	13.92	13.36	13.41	14.04
U. S.	12.40	11.81	11.87	12.24

1/ These are not estimates but averages obtained by dividing reported daily production of herds kept by reporters by number of milk cows in these herds.