

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

May 12, 1939.

MILK PRODUCTION MAY 1, 1939

Milk production in the United States showed less than the usual seasonal increase during April, but on May 1 was still record high for that season of the year. Retarded development of pastures this spring appears to have delayed the seasonal rise in milk production in some areas, but liberal feeding of grain to milk cows has aided in maintaining production, and farmers were milking an unusually large proportion of their milk cows on May 1.

The fairly normal seasonal increase in milk production per cow during the past three-month period as a whole contrasts with an unusually rapid increase in the same period a year ago. As the result of last year's unusually rapid increase, production per cow on May 1 this year was 1 percent below a year earlier, as compared with 5 percent above on February 1. In the past year the number of milk cows on farms has probably increased between 1 and 2 percent so that total milk production appears to be slightly higher than on May 1 last year. When allowances are made for changes in population, milk production per capita on May 1 was about the same as a year ago and only about 1 percent short of the high record for the date, set in 1931.

In all major geographic divisions of the country, milk production per cow on May 1 was well above the 1928-37 average for that date. However, in the North Atlantic, East North Central, and South Central groups of states, production per cow averaged less than a year ago. For the country as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on May 1 averaged 15.63 pounds compared with 15.79 pounds a year earlier and a 1928-37 average of 14.75 pounds for May 1. The proportion of the milk cows reported milked averaged 74.0 percent, the same as a year earlier, but otherwise the highest in the 15 years of record.

DAIRY PASTURES, MAY 1, 1939

This year the condition of dairy pastures on May 1 was about average for that date, with moderately good pastures and pasture prospects in the Eastern part of the country offsetting rather poor condition existing in dry areas of the Pacific Coast and Great Plains States.

In the Eastern and Northern Dairy Sections, pastures this year have been delayed by cool weather, in contrast to an unusually early pasture season a year ago. Reports from dairy correspondents indicate that on May 1, little or no feed was being secured from pastures by milk cows in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and New England. However, April rainfall was above normal in a broad belt extending from Missouri and Arkansas northeastward through New England, and pastures in this area may be expected to develop rapidly with the approach of warmer weather.

In California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and a belt of Plains States extending from Texas north to the Canadian line, pastures on May 1 were either in poor condition or in need of moisture. High temperatures and deficiency of moisture since the first of the month have probably caused further deterioration of pastures in the western half of the country.

For the United States as a whole, the condition of dairy pastures on May 1 averaged 78 percent of normal compared with 84 percent last year and 10-year averages of 74.1 percent in the 1928-37 period and 81.7 percent in the 1920-29 period prior to recent droughts.

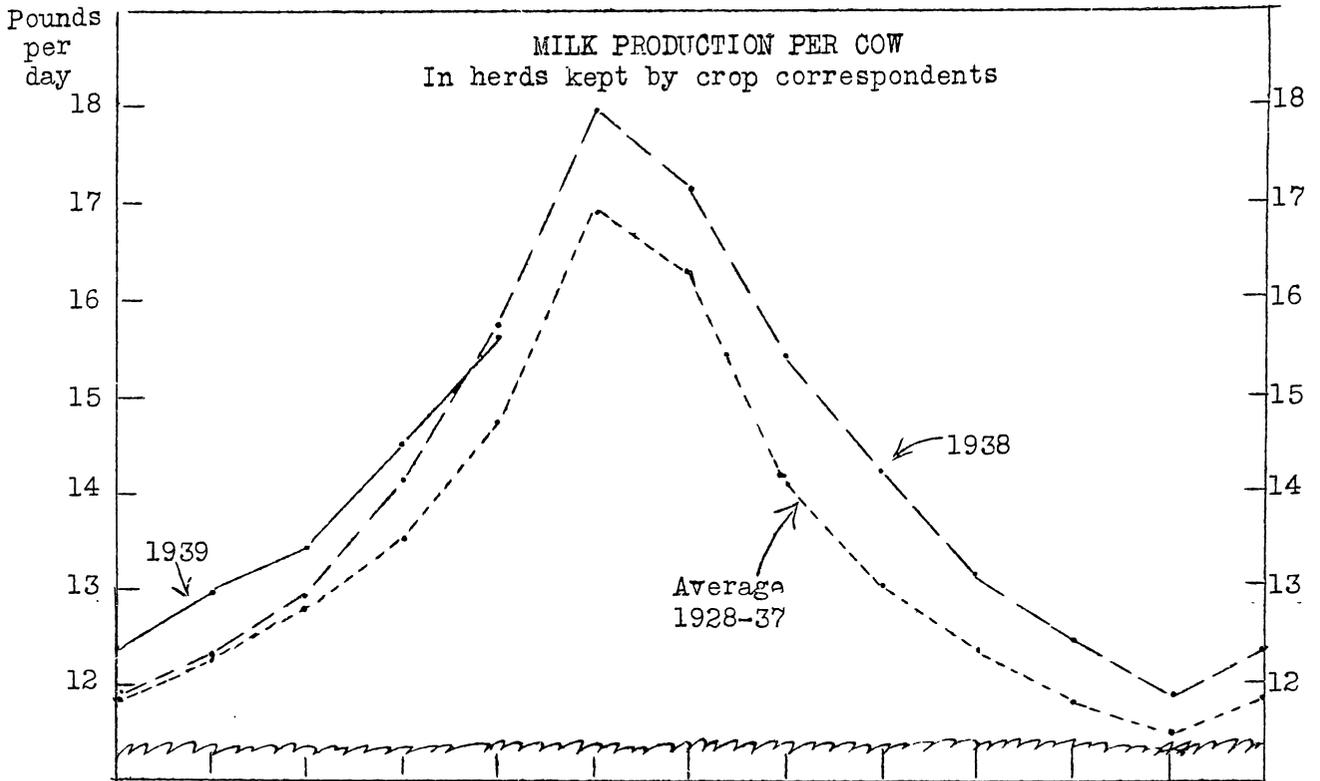
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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

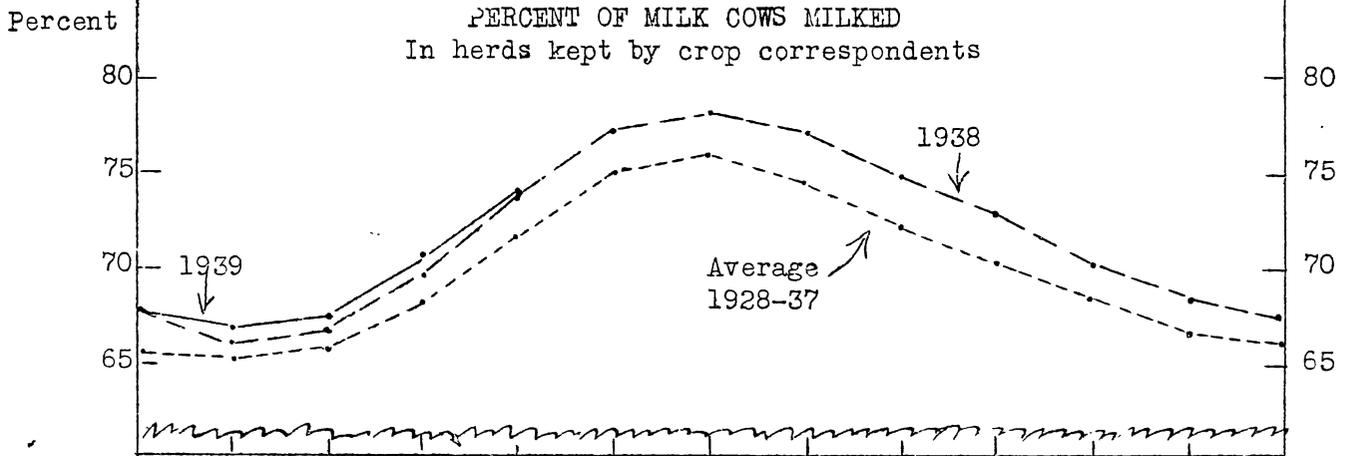
State	May 1 (Avg.) 1933-37	May 1 1937	May 1 1938	May 1 1939
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	16.36	16.91	17.07	16.76
N. Y.	18.9	19.8	19.4	19.5
N. J.	20.0	20.4	21.1	19.9
Pa.	17.8	18.1	19.1	17.9
N. Atl.	18.01	18.73	18.89	18.47
Ohio	16.4	16.6	16.8	16.6
Ind.	15.2	14.7	16.6	15.6
Ill.	15.8	15.9	16.7	16.3
Mich.	18.3	18.5	18.8	19.0
Wis.	18.4	18.5	19.3	18.6
M. N. Cent.	17.20	17.15	18.04	17.57
Minn.	17.4	16.6	18.5	18.8
Iowa	15.0	14.1	17.0	16.8
Mo.	11.3	11.2	12.2	11.9
N. Dak.	13.1	11.2	13.8	15.1
S. Dak.	12.8	10.5	13.0	14.0
Nebr.	14.9	13.0	15.2	16.1
Kans.	15.2	15.9	17.0	16.7
W. N. Cent.	14.47	13.53	15.62	15.93
Md.	14.9	14.7	15.7	17.2
Va.	11.4	11.3	12.4	11.5
W. Va.	11.4	10.6	11.4	10.9
N. C.	11.3	11.2	12.1	12.2
S. C.	10.0	10.2	8.6	10.7
S. Atl.	11.00	11.07	11.79	11.90
Ky.	11.8	11.8	13.2	11.7
Tenn.	10.8	10.2	11.5	11.7
Miss.	8.6	7.7	8.6	8.1
Ark.	9.8	9.8	11.1	10.3
Okla.	12.5	13.8	13.9	13.7
Tex.	10.6	10.9	11.2	10.1
S. Cent.	10.56	10.63	11.40	10.87
Mont.	14.0	13.8	16.5	18.0
Idaho	17.8	18.1	19.1	20.0
Wyo.	12.7	11.4	13.4	14.3
Colo.	13.8	13.6	15.4	16.0
Wash.	19.4	19.5	20.3	21.2
Oreg.	18.5	18.7	19.8	20.1
Calif.	20.8	21.2	22.7	21.3
West.	16.50	16.86	18.55	19.09
U. S.	14.75	14.58	15.79	15.63

^{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.

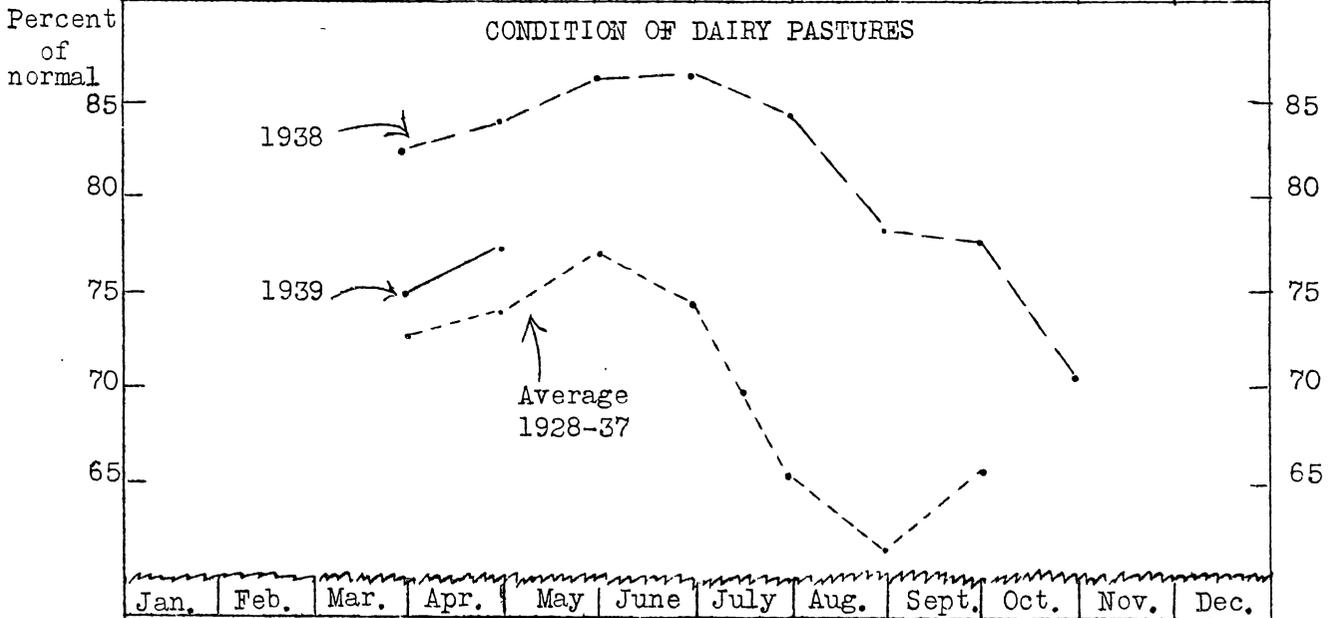
MILK PRODUCTION PER COW
In herds kept by crop correspondents



PERCENT OF MILK COWS MILKED
In herds kept by crop correspondents



CONDITION OF DAIRY PASTURES
Percent of normal



Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.