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## March Milk Production up 2.4 Percent

**Milk production** in the 24 major States during March totaled 18.3 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from March 2019. February revised production at 17.0 billion pounds, was up 5.6 percent from February 2019. The February revision represented a decrease of 7 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Adjusting February production for the additional day due to leap year causes February revised production to be up 1.9 percent on a per day basis.

**Production per cow** in the 24 major States averaged 2,072 pounds for March, 34 pounds above March 2019.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 24 major States was 8.85 million head, 64,000 head more than March 2019, and 5,000 head more than February 2020.

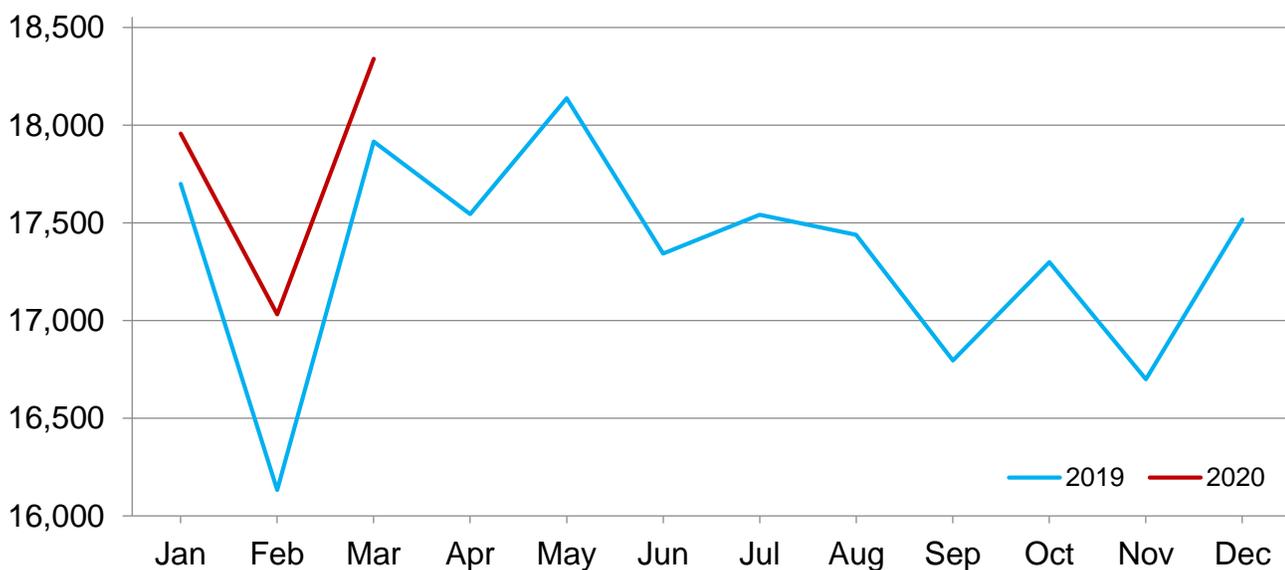
## January-March Milk Production up 2.9 Percent

**Milk production** in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 56.0 billion pounds, up 2.9 percent from the January - March quarter last year.

**The average number of milk cows** in the United States during the quarter was 9.37 million head, 27,000 head more than the October - December quarter, and 26,000 head more than the same period last year.

## Monthly Milk Production – 24 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2019-2020

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

Quarter	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March .....	9,346	9,372	5,823	5,976	54,423	56,006	2.9
April-June .....	9,331		5,971		55,716		
July-September .....	9,322		5,818		54,237		
October-December .....	9,345		5,779		54,006		
Annual .....	9,336		23,391		218,382		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2019-2020

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

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,805	8,834	2,010	2,033	17,699	17,956	1.5
February .....	8,803	8,848	1,833	1,925	16,132	17,031	5.6
March .....	8,789	8,853	2,038	2,072	17,916	18,340	2.4
April .....	8,788		1,996		17,544		
May .....	8,790		2,063		18,137		
June .....	8,784		1,974		17,342		
July .....	8,785		1,997		17,542		
August .....	8,789		1,984		17,439		
September .....	8,805		1,908		16,796		
October .....	8,819		1,962		17,299		
November .....	8,817		1,894		16,699		
December .....	8,816		1,987		17,517		
Annual .....	8,799		23,646		208,062		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2019-2020

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

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,354	9,361	1,990	2,015	18,612	18,860	1.3
February .....	9,352	9,375	1,814	1,908	16,966	17,886	5.4
March .....	9,333	9,380	2,019	2,053	18,845	19,260	2.2
April .....	9,332		1,975		18,433		
May .....	9,333		2,042		19,058		
June .....	9,327		1,954		18,225		
July .....	9,315		1,973		18,375		
August .....	9,318		1,960		18,267		
September .....	9,333		1,885		17,595		
October .....	9,347		1,940		18,135		
November .....	9,345		1,873		17,506		
December .....	9,343		1,966		18,365		
Annual .....	9,336		23,391		218,382		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: March 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

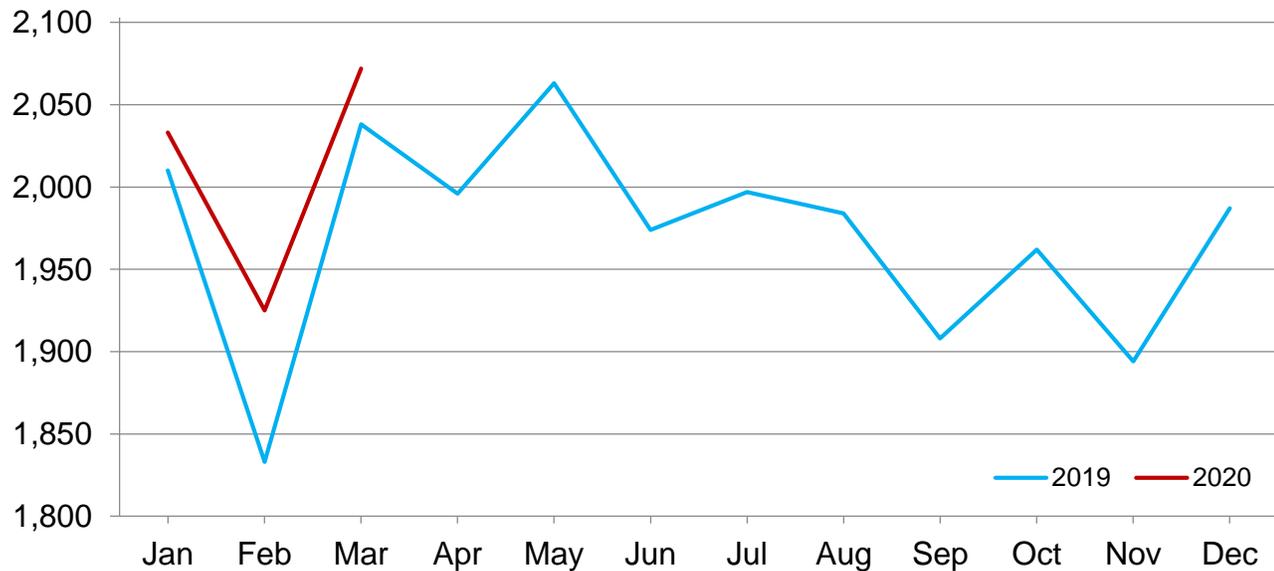
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	201	197	2,195	2,225	441	438	-0.7
California .....	1,726	1,723	2,070	2,100	3,573	3,618	1.3
Colorado .....	182	193	2,200	2,230	400	430	7.5
Florida .....	116	115	1,880	1,875	218	216	-0.9
Georgia .....	82	82	2,010	2,025	165	166	0.6
Idaho .....	618	647	2,095	2,105	1,295	1,362	5.2
Illinois .....	84	82	1,880	1,940	158	159	0.6
Indiana .....	180	176	1,985	2,045	357	360	0.8
Iowa .....	219	218	2,075	2,110	454	460	1.3
Kansas .....	163	170	1,970	2,030	321	345	7.5
Michigan .....	425	428	2,285	2,320	971	993	2.3
Minnesota .....	448	445	1,880	1,910	842	850	1.0
New Mexico .....	322	332	2,210	2,195	712	729	2.4
New York .....	627	626	2,055	2,100	1,288	1,315	2.1
Ohio .....	251	253	1,855	1,915	466	484	3.9
Oregon .....	122	125	1,780	1,775	217	222	2.3
Pennsylvania .....	495	485	1,795	1,870	889	907	2.0
South Dakota .....	124	129	1,895	1,945	235	251	6.8
Texas .....	557	590	2,125	2,180	1,184	1,286	8.6
Utah .....	98	98	1,940	1,960	190	192	1.1
Vermont .....	126	124	1,855	1,870	234	232	-0.9
Virginia .....	76	75	1,760	1,830	134	137	2.2
Washington .....	277	280	2,030	2,070	562	580	3.2
Wisconsin .....	1,270	1,260	2,055	2,070	2,610	2,608	-0.1
24-State Total .....	8,789	8,853	2,038	2,072	17,916	18,340	2.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk per Cow – 24 Selected States

Pounds



## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: February 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

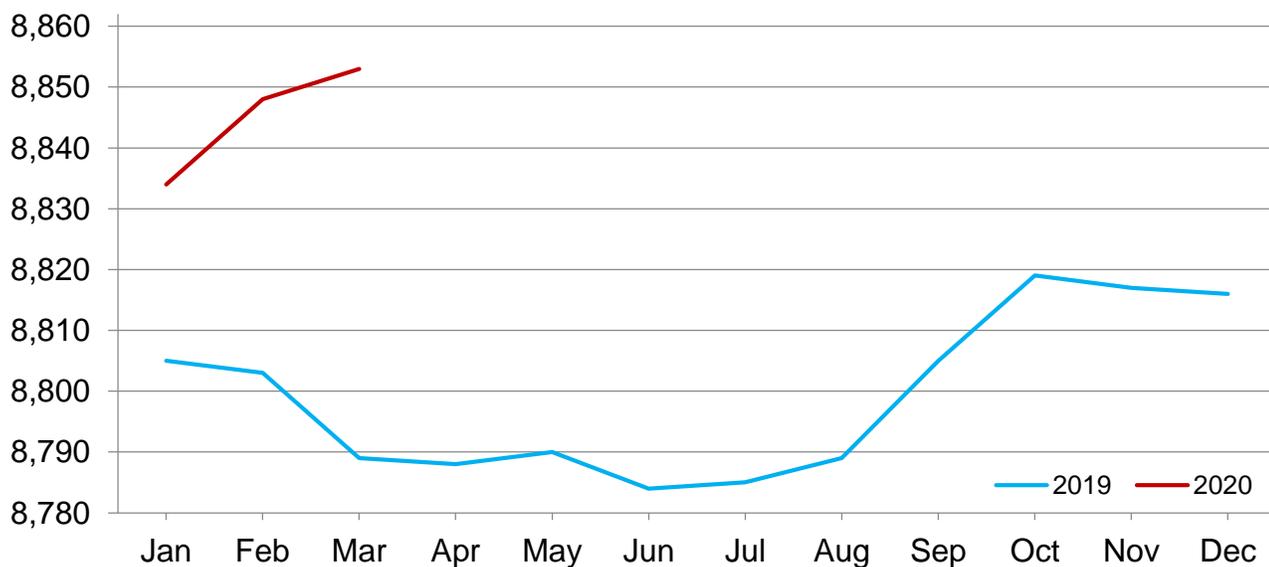
	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	202	196	1,960	2,080	396	408	3.0
California .....	1,726	1,723	1,860	1,960	3,210	3,377	5.2
Colorado .....	182	193	1,990	2,065	362	399	10.2
Florida .....	116	116	1,700	1,770	197	205	4.1
Georgia .....	82	82	1,800	1,855	148	152	2.7
Idaho .....	618	647	1,875	1,965	1,159	1,271	9.7
Illinois .....	85	82	1,690	1,790	144	147	2.1
Indiana .....	181	176	1,770	1,870	320	329	2.8
Iowa .....	220	217	1,890	1,975	416	429	3.1
Kansas .....	163	169	1,795	1,905	293	322	9.9
Michigan .....	424	427	2,055	2,150	871	918	5.4
Minnesota .....	450	445	1,700	1,780	765	792	3.5
New Mexico .....	322	333	1,970	2,025	634	674	6.3
New York .....	627	626	1,840	1,945	1,154	1,218	5.5
Ohio .....	253	253	1,660	1,760	420	445	6.0
Oregon .....	124	127	1,595	1,640	198	208	5.1
Pennsylvania .....	500	483	1,605	1,725	803	833	3.7
South Dakota .....	124	129	1,725	1,835	214	237	10.7
Texas .....	553	585	1,910	2,005	1,056	1,173	11.1
Utah .....	99	97	1,755	1,820	174	177	1.7
Vermont .....	126	124	1,665	1,725	210	214	1.9
Virginia .....	78	76	1,545	1,670	121	127	5.0
Washington .....	278	282	1,815	1,930	505	544	7.7
Wisconsin .....	1,270	1,260	1,860	1,930	2,362	2,432	3.0
24-State Total .....	8,803	8,848	1,833	1,925	16,132	17,031	5.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk Cows – 24 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Revised October - December 2018 and 2019

[May not add due to rounding]

State	October - December milk cows <sup>1</sup>		October - December milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2018	2019	2018	2019	Change from 2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	5.0	4.0	16.0	12.0	-25.0
Alaska .....	0.2	(D)	0.6	(D)	(NA)
Arizona .....	205.0	196.0	1,203.0	1,189.0	-1.2
Arkansas .....	5.0	5.0	16.0	15.0	-6.3
California .....	1,731.0	1,725.0	9,988.0	10,023.0	0.4
Colorado .....	178.0	190.0	1,148.0	1,219.0	6.2
Connecticut .....	19.5	19.5	104.0	107.0	2.9
Delaware .....	4.5	3.8	20.1	16.7	-16.9
Florida .....	117.0	117.0	544.0	565.0	3.9
Georgia .....	81.0	81.0	422.0	433.0	2.6
Hawaii .....	1.7	(D)	5.3	(D)	(NA)
Idaho .....	612.0	634.0	3,767.0	3,916.0	4.0
Illinois .....	85.0	82.0	435.0	424.0	-2.5
Indiana .....	181.0	176.0	1,016.0	997.0	-1.9
Iowa .....	220.0	216.0	1,328.0	1,318.0	-0.8
Kansas .....	160.0	165.0	927.0	977.0	5.4
Kentucky .....	53.0	49.0	233.0	223.0	-4.3
Louisiana .....	11.0	10.0	32.0	31.0	-3.1
Maine .....	29.0	28.0	151.0	147.0	-2.6
Maryland .....	44.0	42.0	215.0	208.0	-3.3
Massachusetts .....	10.5	10.0	48.0	48.0	-
Michigan .....	422.0	427.0	2,752.0	2,811.0	2.1
Minnesota .....	451.0	446.0	2,438.0	2,446.0	0.3
Mississippi .....	8.0	8.0	28.0	30.0	7.1
Missouri .....	81.0	77.0	270.0	254.0	-5.9
Montana .....	12.0	12.0	65.0	64.0	-1.5
Nebraska .....	59.0	58.0	354.0	355.0	0.3
Nevada .....	33.0	32.0	184.0	184.0	-
New Hampshire .....	12.0	11.0	60.0	57.0	-5.0
New Jersey .....	5.5	4.7	25.0	24.0	-4.0
New Mexico .....	326.0	330.0	1,965.0	2,006.0	2.1
New York .....	623.0	626.0	3,673.0	3,743.0	1.9
North Carolina .....	43.0	41.0	224.0	217.0	-3.1
North Dakota .....	15.0	15.0	82.0	80.0	-2.4
Ohio .....	254.0	252.0	1,331.0	1,343.0	0.9
Oklahoma .....	40.0	41.0	180.0	179.0	-0.6
Oregon .....	125.0	127.0	638.0	644.0	0.9
Pennsylvania .....	509.0	484.0	2,525.0	2,478.0	-1.9
Rhode Island .....	0.7	0.6	2.6	2.6	-
South Carolina .....	14.0	11.0	55.0	47.0	-14.5
South Dakota .....	122.0	127.0	683.0	717.0	5.0
Tennessee .....	36.0	31.0	143.0	130.0	-9.1
Texas .....	542.0	577.0	3,157.0	3,503.0	11.0
Utah .....	100.0	97.0	573.0	554.0	-3.3
Vermont .....	126.0	124.0	662.0	662.0	-
Virginia .....	80.0	74.0	380.0	365.0	-3.9
Washington .....	280.0	281.0	1,680.0	1,675.0	-0.3
West Virginia .....	7.0	6.0	25.0	21.0	-16.0
Wisconsin .....	1,272.0	1,264.0	7,563.0	7,507.0	-0.7
Wyoming .....	6.0	6.0	35.8	37.2	3.9
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	(NA)	1.1	(NA)	1.2	(NA)
United States .....	9,358.0	9,345.0	53,372.0	54,006.0	1.2

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3</sup> Other States includes Alaska and Hawaii.

# Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary January - March 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

State	January - March milk cows <sup>1</sup>		January - March milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	5.0	4.0	19.0	15.0	-21.1
Alaska .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Arizona .....	202.0	195.0	1,264.0	1,258.0	-0.5
Arkansas .....	5.5	5.0	18.0	18.0	-
California .....	1,727.0	1,723.0	10,291.0	10,521.0	2.2
Colorado .....	181.0	192.0	1,160.0	1,251.0	7.8
Connecticut .....	19.5	20.0	109.0	114.0	4.6
Delaware .....	4.5	3.8	21.6	19.0	-12.0
Florida .....	116.0	116.0	625.0	636.0	1.8
Georgia .....	82.0	82.0	472.0	479.0	1.5
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Idaho .....	618.0	646.0	3,737.0	3,981.0	6.5
Illinois .....	85.0	82.0	457.0	459.0	0.4
Indiana .....	181.0	176.0	1,030.0	1,036.0	0.6
Iowa .....	220.0	217.0	1,329.0	1,341.0	0.9
Kansas .....	163.0	169.0	934.0	1,011.0	8.2
Kentucky .....	52.0	49.0	253.0	251.0	-0.8
Louisiana .....	11.0	10.0	40.0	40.0	-
Maine .....	29.0	28.0	155.0	149.0	-3.9
Maryland .....	43.0	42.0	218.0	225.0	3.2
Massachusetts .....	10.5	10.0	48.0	52.0	8.3
Michigan .....	424.0	427.0	2,800.0	2,885.0	3.0
Minnesota .....	449.0	445.0	2,455.0	2,483.0	1.1
Mississippi .....	8.5	8.5	35.0	37.0	5.7
Missouri .....	79.0	77.0	285.0	280.0	-1.8
Montana .....	11.5	12.0	64.0	64.0	-
Nebraska .....	59.0	58.0	355.0	364.0	2.5
Nevada .....	33.0	31.0	190.0	185.0	-2.6
New Hampshire .....	11.5	11.0	60.0	61.0	1.7
New Jersey .....	5.0	4.7	26.0	26.0	-
New Mexico .....	323.0	333.0	2,036.0	2,114.0	3.8
New York .....	627.0	626.0	3,705.0	3,824.0	3.2
North Carolina .....	43.0	41.0	236.0	238.0	0.8
North Dakota .....	14.5	14.5	80.0	80.0	-
Ohio .....	252.0	253.0	1,343.0	1,398.0	4.1
Oklahoma .....	41.0	41.0	190.0	195.0	2.6
Oregon .....	124.0	126.0	637.0	650.0	2.0
Pennsylvania .....	498.0	483.0	2,565.0	2,606.0	1.6
Rhode Island .....	0.7	0.6	2.6	2.8	7.7
South Carolina .....	13.0	11.0	59.0	55.0	-6.8
South Dakota .....	124.0	129.0	688.0	738.0	7.3
Tennessee .....	33.0	31.0	150.0	144.0	-4.0
Texas .....	553.0	587.0	3,372.0	3,714.0	10.1
Utah .....	99.0	97.0	558.0	552.0	-1.1
Vermont .....	126.0	124.0	674.0	674.0	-
Virginia .....	77.0	76.0	387.0	398.0	2.8
Washington .....	278.0	281.0	1,640.0	1,701.0	3.7
West Virginia .....	6.5	6.0	24.0	23.0	-4.2
Wisconsin .....	1,270.0	1,260.0	7,588.0	7,617.0	0.4
Wyoming .....	6.0	6.5	35.9	40.0	11.4
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	1.3	1.0	2.1	1.5	-28.6
United States .....	9,346.0	9,372.0	54,423.0	56,006.0	2.9

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3</sup> Other States includes Alaska and Hawaii.

## 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. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Surveys.

**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 on the next page. 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 milk production estimates over the past 20 quarters is 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 56.0 billion pounds by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 percent.

### Reliability of Quarterly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 20 quarters]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Quarters	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production .....	0.1	0.2	39	3	124	12	8
All milk cows .....	0.1	0.2	9	0	26	15	4

## 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](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Heidi Lanouette – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106

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