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February Milk Production up 5.6 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during February totaled 17.0 billion pounds, up 5.6 Percent from February 2019. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to leap year causes February milk production to be up 2.0 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 18.0 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from January 2019. The January revision represented an increase of 38 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 1,927 pounds for February, 94 pounds above February 2019. When production is adjusted for the additional day due to leap year, February production per cow is 27 pounds above February 2019 on a per day basis.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.84 million head, 39,000 head more than February 2019, and 8,000 head more than January 2020.

February Milk Production in the United States up 5.3 Percent

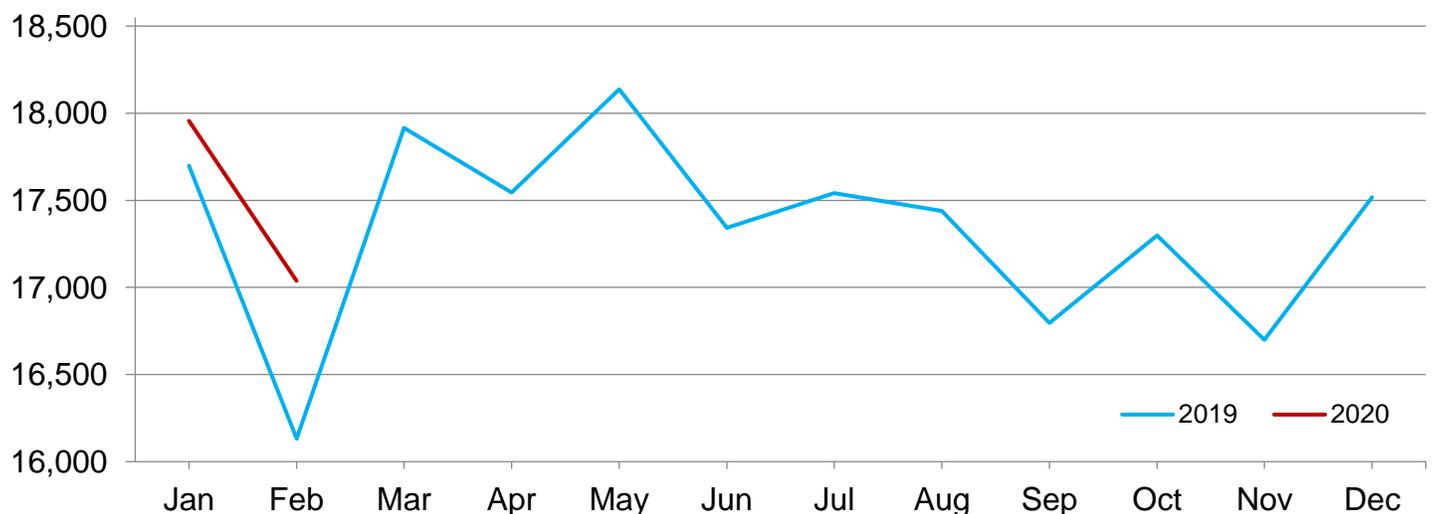
Milk production in the United States during February totaled 17.9 billion pounds, up 5.3 percent from February 2019.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,907 pounds for February, 93 pounds above February 2019.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.37 million head, 18,000 head more than February 2019, and 9,000 head more than January 2020.

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 ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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		5,823		54,423		
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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² 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 ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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	8,842	1,833	1,927	16,132	17,038	5.6
March	8,789		2,038		17,916		
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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² 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 ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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	2,011	18,612	18,825	1.1
February	9,352	9,370	1,814	1,907	16,966	17,865	5.3
March	9,333		2,019		18,845		
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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		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	2,075	396	407	2.8
California	1,726	1,723	1,860	1,980	3,210	3,412	6.3
Colorado	182	193	1,990	2,090	362	403	11.3
Florida	116	116	1,700	1,785	197	207	5.1
Georgia	82	82	1,800	1,880	148	154	4.1
Idaho	618	645	1,875	1,965	1,159	1,267	9.3
Illinois	85	82	1,690	1,770	144	145	0.7
Indiana	181	176	1,770	1,870	320	329	2.8
Iowa	220	215	1,890	1,965	416	422	1.4
Kansas	163	169	1,795	1,895	293	320	9.2
Michigan	424	427	2,055	2,135	871	912	4.7
Minnesota	450	445	1,700	1,785	765	794	3.8
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	1,645	198	209	5.6
Pennsylvania	500	483	1,605	1,725	803	833	3.7
South Dakota	124	128	1,725	1,815	214	232	8.4
Texas	553	585	1,910	2,000	1,056	1,170	10.8
Utah	99	96	1,755	1,810	174	174	-
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	1,925	2,362	2,426	2.7
24-State Total	8,803	8,842	1,833	1,927	16,132	17,038	5.6

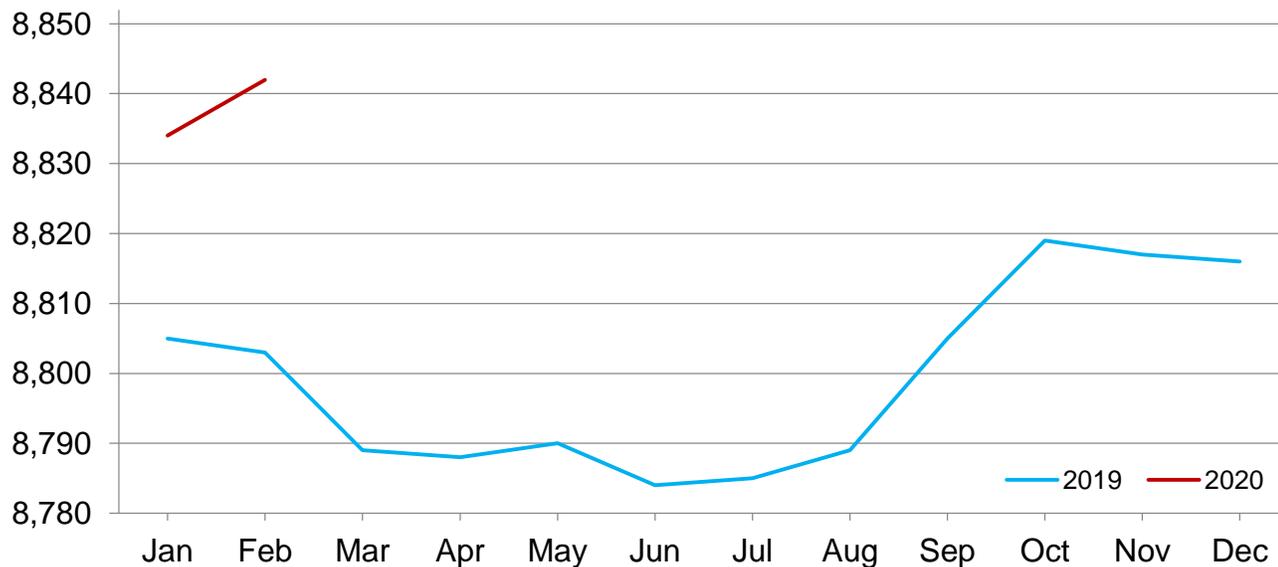
- Represents zero.

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 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

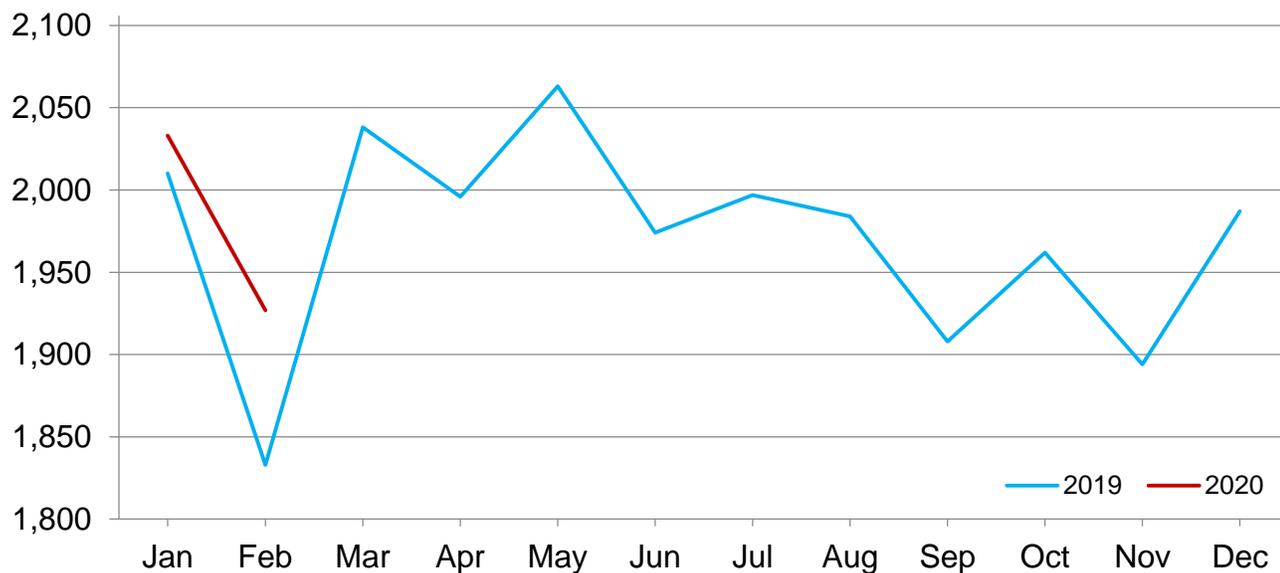
	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	204	193	2,095	2,135	427	412	-3.5
California	1,728	1,724	2,030	2,045	3,508	3,526	0.5
Colorado	180	191	2,210	2,210	398	422	6.0
Florida	116	116	1,810	1,850	210	215	2.4
Georgia	82	82	1,940	1,965	159	161	1.3
Idaho	617	645	2,080	2,090	1,283	1,348	5.1
Illinois	85	82	1,825	1,870	155	153	-1.3
Indiana	181	176	1,950	1,970	353	347	-1.7
Iowa	220	215	2,085	2,100	459	452	-1.5
Kansas	162	169	1,975	2,035	320	344	7.5
Michigan	424	427	2,260	2,280	958	974	1.7
Minnesota	450	445	1,885	1,890	848	841	-0.8
New Mexico	324	333	2,130	2,135	690	711	3.0
New York	627	625	2,015	2,065	1,263	1,291	2.2
Ohio	253	253	1,805	1,855	457	469	2.6
Oregon	126	127	1,760	1,735	222	220	-0.9
Pennsylvania	500	480	1,745	1,805	873	866	-0.8
South Dakota	124	128	1,925	1,950	239	250	4.6
Texas	548	585	2,065	2,145	1,132	1,255	10.9
Utah	100	96	1,935	1,905	194	183	-5.7
Vermont	126	124	1,825	1,840	230	228	-0.9
Virginia	78	76	1,690	1,765	132	134	1.5
Washington	280	282	2,045	2,045	573	577	0.7
Wisconsin	1,270	1,260	2,060	2,045	2,616	2,577	-1.5
24-State Total	8,805	8,834	2,010	2,033	17,699	17,956	1.5

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 17.0 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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	0.3	26	0	82	15	6
All Milk cows	0.1	0.2	8	0	23	18	3

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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- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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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