

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

October 12, 1934.

MILK PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1, 1934.

With pastures showing record improvement during September, milk production per cow has been well maintained and on October 1 was averaging about 1 per cent above production on that date last year. However, the heavy culling and marketing of milk cows during the past few months has left fewer milk cows on farms than a year ago. This decrease in milk cow numbers has apparently more than offset the increase in production per cow, and total daily milk production on October 1 appears to have been averaging 1 to 2 per cent below production on that date last year. In much of the area eastward from the Eastern Corn Belt States pastures on October 1 were better than they have been at any time since early spring and the improvement in pastures during September has been an important factor in holding milk production at a relatively high level compared with recent years, offsetting in part the effect of fewer fall fresh cows. Compared with last year, increased production per cow in this area and in the South Atlantic States, where pasture conditions were better than on October 1 last year, more than offset the very low production in the worst drought areas. In the country as a whole, crop correspondents were securing a daily average of 12.08 pounds of milk per cow on October 1 compared with 11.98 pounds last year, 12.12 pounds on October 1, 1932, and an average of 12.66 pounds during the previous 5 years. In all groups of States a larger proportion of the cows were being milked than in any recent year. Correspondents report 70.8 per cent of their milk cows being milked on October 1 compared with 69.4 per cent last year, 69.2 per cent on October 1, 1932 and a previous high of 70.3 per cent in 1928.

DAIRY PASTURE CONDITIONS, OCTOBER 1, 1934.

Dairy pastures improved markedly during September, particularly in most of the area from New York and Maryland westward into Minnesota, eastern Nebraska and Kansas, and Arkansas, Oklahoma and northern and eastern Texas. However, except along the Atlantic Coast pasture conditions were mostly below average. In the country as a whole the condition of dairy pastures on October 1 was reported as 59.2 per cent of normal compared with 63.7 per cent last year, 52.8 in 1930, when dairy pastures were the lowest on record, and an average of 73.9 during the ten years 1922 to 1931. In the whole area from the Mississippi River westward pastures are still exceedingly poor and in most States in this area, pasture and range conditions are much poorer than in any other year for which October 1 records are available.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 12, 1934.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS <sup>1/</sup>				
STATE	: October 1 : (Avg.) 1925-1931:	: October 1 : 1932	: October 1 : 1933	: October 1 : 1934
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Me.	13.2	14.2	13.5	13.2
N. H.	14.1	14.9	13.7	14.3
Vt.	12.7	13.5	13.8	12.9
Mass.	17.8	17.8	17.1	16.6
R. I.	19.3	18.9	20.1	18.6
Conn.	16.5	17.2	17.6	16.4
N. Y.	15.5	15.6	15.9	15.7
N. J.	18.2	18.0	17.4	18.7
Pa.	15.5	14.9	15.4	16.0
N. ATL.	15.42	15.42	15.68	15.70
Ohio	14.7	14.3	14.0	14.4
Ind.	13.9	13.9	12.7	13.5
Ill.	12.5	12.5	12.7	13.4
Mich.	15.4	16.1	14.0	15.5
Wis.	14.1	13.1	12.9	13.8
E. N. CENT.	14.14	13.70	13.14	13.98
Minn.	12.3	11.4	11.1	10.7
Iowa	11.9	12.7	12.3	12.2
Mo.	10.6	9.7	9.4	9.8
N. Dak.	11.1	10.2	9.2	9.4
S. Dak.	9.8	9.5	9.3	8.3
Nebr.	10.9	11.1	12.1	11.3
Kans.	11.1	11.5	12.3	10.2
W. N. CENT.	11.30	11.06	11.02	10.49
Del.	13.1	11.9	12.6	12.5
Md.	15.0	13.9	14.5	14.8
Va.	12.3	10.6	10.9	12.1
W. Va.	12.8	11.4	12.4	11.7
N. C.	11.9	10.7	10.3	11.4
S. C.	9.6	9.8	10.0	9.8
Ga.	8.9	8.6	8.0	8.1
Fla.	7.1	6.7	5.6	8.3
S. ATL.	11.46	10.19	10.44	11.05
Ky.	12.1	11.5	11.4	11.9
Tenn.	10.6	9.0	9.6	9.2
Ala.	8.0	8.1	7.0	6.7
Miss.	7.7	6.6	6.8	6.4
Ark.	9.3	8.2	7.6	6.6
La.	6.2	8.5	6.1	5.2
Okla.	9.8	9.1	8.9	8.1
Tex.	9.2	8.6	8.1	8.3
S. CENT.	9.42	8.73	8.61	8.48
Mont.	12.2	11.8	12.1	12.0
Ida.	16.2	17.8	15.0	15.0
Wyo.	12.4	10.7	11.5	11.2
Colo.	12.0	11.3	11.4	10.9
N. Mex.	8.6	9.7	10.0	9.0
Ariz.	14.6	12.0	11.8	15.9
Utah	14.8	15.4	14.1	14.1
Nev.	14.1	12.3	13.8	11.9
Wash.	16.6	16.1	15.3	16.1
Oreg.	13.8	14.7	13.5	13.7
Calif.	16.3	16.6	16.4	16.2
WEST.	13.97	13.57	13.36	13.44
U. S.	12.56	12.12	11.98	12.08

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

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MILK PRODUCTION NOVEMBER 1, 1934

Total milk production on November 1 appears to have been 2 or 3 percent below production on that date last year for the increased production per cow on hand, reported at one percent, appears to have been more than offset by a decrease of 3 or 4 percent in the number of milk cows. In most of the severe drought area, including most of Minnesota, and the western portions of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, production per milk cow is still very low. In the South outside of the drought area production per cow is about as low as at the same season in the past two years, due in part to the reduced supply of cottonseed products available for feeding. Elsewhere the mild fall weather, the close culling of low producers and dry cows and the sale of sucking calves resulted in a slight increase in milk production per cow even though grain feeding continues light. Taking the country as a whole, the crop correspondents of the Department were securing an average of 11.56 pounds of milk per cow on November 1 compared with 11.48 pounds on that date last year, 11.70 pounds in 1932 and the November 1 average of 12.30 pounds during the previous 5 years. With October weather mostly favorable for late pasturage, milk cows were securing an unusually large proportion of their feed from pastures for that season of the year. Less grain and concentrates were being fed per milk cow than in any recent year but the ration being fed was apparently more carefully balanced. Crop correspondents were milking 69.2 percent of their milk cows on November 1, compared with 68.2 percent last year, 68.3 percent in 1932 and the November 1 average of 68.1 percent during the previous 5 years. This relatively large proportion milked appears to have been due in part to fewer dry cows in the herd and in part, to fewer calves sucking.

PASTURE CONDITIONS, NOVEMBER 1, 1934

Pasturage has been partially relieved in some sections by the mildness of the fall which has made it possible for farmers to conserve supplies for winter use by keeping a larger proportion of their stock on pastures than is customary at this season of the year. In the upper Mississippi Valley area the reported condition of pastures, while still low, was higher on November 1 than in any previous month since April. In the Pacific Coast States and in portions of the Intermountain area pastures and ranges improved somewhat during October and they are expected to show some further improvement as a result of recent rains if the temperature continues favorable. In the Rocky Mountain States, however, and in the Great Plains portion of the adjoining States to the eastward, ranges and pastures have made little if any improvement and the feed situation continues very serious. In most other States the grass is short but cattle and sheep are able to get along with little supplementary feed. For the country as a whole pasture conditions were reported the same on November 1 as on October 1, while comparable November 1 reports are not available for other years, it is probable that pasture conditions usually decline considerably during October, particularly in the more northern States.