

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

August 11, 1937.

MILK PRODUCTION AUGUST 1, 1937.

Milk production continued at a relatively high level through July with less than the usual seasonal decrease occurring during the month. Reports from all groups of States show a higher production per cow than has been reported on August 1 in any of the past seven years. The heavy milk flow appears to reflect the extension of good pastures into mid-summer, increased feed supplies, and the continued tendency of farmers to milk more than the usual proportion of their milk cows. In the herds kept by crop correspondents milk production per cow on August 1 averaged the highest for that date since 1929 and was about 8 percent higher than on August 1, 1936 when production was reduced by drought. With the number of milk cows on farms about 1 percent less than a year ago, total milk production on August 1 appears to have been about 7 percent more than on the same date last year. Allowing for the steady increase in population, milk production per capita was about the same on August 1 this year as it was two years earlier, but nearly 3 percent higher than the 1925-34 average for that date and higher than in any recent year except 1935.

In the United States as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents averaged 14.85 pounds on August 1 compared with 13.71 pounds on the same date last year and a 1925-34 average of 14.28 pounds for August 1. The proportion of milk cows reported milked was at or near record levels for August 1 in all sections and was particularly high in areas where many beef and dual purpose cows are milked. For the United States as a whole, 76.8 percent of the milk cows were reported milked compared with 75.7 percent on August 1, 1936, the highest figure previously reported for that date.

MILK COW NUMBERS: A reduction in the number of milk cows since last year in the area affected by the 1936 drought was indicated by the 1937 June livestock survey. About a dozen States extending from Montana and North Dakota southeastward to Oklahoma and Kentucky had from 2 to 11 percent fewer milk cows on farms than in June 1936. Little change in numbers was noted in the Great Lakes dairy section but small increases in the number of milk cows were reported in New England, in several other Atlantic Coast States, and in most of the area extending from Texas northwest to Oregon. For the country as a whole, the number of milk cows on farms decreased about 1 percent between June 1936 and June 1937.

DAIRY PASTURES AUGUST 1, 1937.

The condition of dairy pastures on August 1 averaged 76.1 percent of normal, which, except for 1935, is the best reported for that date since 1929. This compares with 40.9 percent on August 1 last year and the 1923-32 average of 74.7 percent. However, rather sharp declines in pasture condition occurred during July in an important dairy area centering in Wisconsin and extending into Michigan and Minnesota. Pastures were still very short and even poorer than they were on July 1 in a wide but irregular belt that covered much of Montana, western and southern North Dakota, eastern Colorado, a considerable part of South Dakota, most of Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma and considerable areas in both North Central and Southern Texas. In other sections of the country pastures were mostly in fair to excellent condition on August 1, except for scattered local areas, principally in the Southeast.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

State	MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}				MILK COWS ON FARMS ^{2/}
	August 1 (Avg.) 1925-34:	August 1 1935	August 1 1936	August 1 1937	Number June 1937 as percent of June 1936
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
N. Eng.	15.50	16.36	16.43	16.70	101.8
N. Y.	17.5	18.6	17.3	18.5	101
N. J.	18.2	18.7	20.1	19.0	103
Pa.	16.9	17.9	17.5	17.7	100
N. Atl.	16.85	17.81	17.40	17.89	101.0
Ohio	16.2	15.7	16.1	17.1	100
Ind.	15.2	14.9	14.1	15.5	99
Ill.	14.4	14.4	13.7	15.4	98
Mich.	17.6	17.4	17.8	18.1	101
Wis.	17.4	18.4	16.7	17.6	99
E. N. Cent.	16.44	16.79	15.85	16.99	99.3
Minn.	15.3	15.7	14.8	15.9	100
Iowa	14.2	14.2	12.8	14.5	97
Mo.	10.9	12.1	9.3	11.8	96
N. Dak.	14.7	15.4	13.2	16.3	97
S. Dak.	13.4	11.4	11.5	12.7	97
Nebr.	14.1	13.7	13.0	14.3	96
Kans.	13.3	13.5	11.1	12.3	93
W. N. Cent.	13.80	13.80	12.43	14.12	97.0
Md.	15.2	14.9	15.5	16.1	104
Va.	13.2	13.5	13.0	14.4	100
W. Va.	14.1	13.7	13.2	14.5	98
N. C.	12.8	13.0	12.4	12.9	100
S. C.	10.5	10.4	11.3	11.5	101
S. Atl.	12.08	11.82	12.05	12.68	100.6
Ky.	13.5	13.2	11.8	13.6	93
Tenn.	11.8	12.0	12.5	11.9	100
Miss.	8.7	7.5	8.5	8.1	99
Ark.	9.9	9.1	9.2	10.9	102
Okla.	11.4	11.1	9.7	11.7	95
Tex.	9.6	10.0	10.8	10.3	103
S. Cent.	10.27	10.25	9.98	10.67	99.2
Mont.	14.8	15.2	12.6	16.9	89
Idaho	18.4	19.0	18.8	20.2	100
Wyo.	14.5	15.4	14.6	17.3	94
Colo.	14.5	14.6	13.9	15.3	103
Wash.	18.8	18.8	22.3	20.5	100
Oreg.	17.2	17.5	18.7	19.4	102
Calif.	17.9	19.0	18.2	18.6	101
West.	16.08	16.63	17.04	18.23	100.0
U. S.	14.28	14.41	13.71	14.85	99.0

^{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.

^{2/} Based on reports for about 138,000 herds collected largely through cooperation with the Rural Mail Carriers.