



Released April 19, 2023, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## March Milk Production up 0.6 Percent

**Milk production** in the 24 major States during March totaled 18.9 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from March 2022. February revised production, at 17.0 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from February 2022. The February revision represented an increase of 48 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 24 major States averaged 2,116 pounds for March, 3 pounds above March 2022.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 24 major States was 8.95 million head, 44,000 head more than March 2022, and 6,000 head more than February 2023.

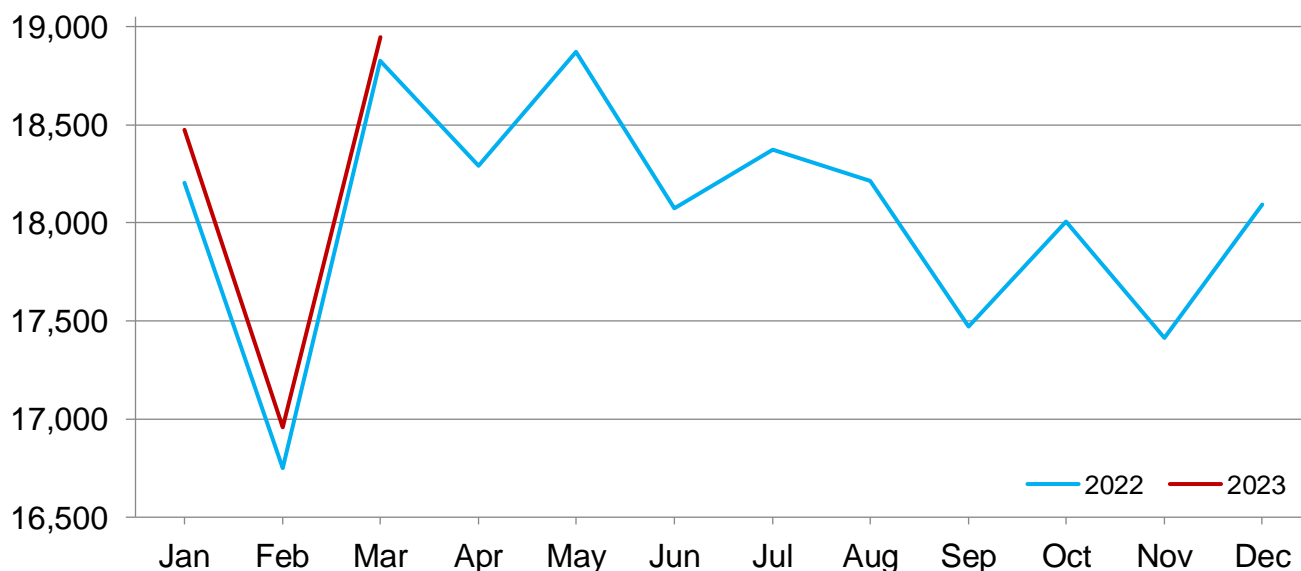
## January-March Milk Production up 1.0 Percent

**Milk production** in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 56.8 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from the January - March quarter last year.

**The average number of milk cows** in the United States during the quarter was 9.42 million head, 20,000 head more than the October - December quarter, and 40,000 head more than the same period last year.

## Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2022-2023

[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>		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March .....	9,384	9,424	6,000	6,032	56,305	56,842	1.0
April-June .....	9,411		6,144		57,822		
July-September .....	9,408		5,999		56,438		
October-December .....	9,404		5,944		55,897		
Annual .....	9,402		24,087		226,462		

<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: 2022-2023

[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>		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,876	8,927	2,051	2,069	18,205	18,474	1.5
February .....	8,885	8,946	1,885	1,896	16,750	16,958	1.2
March .....	8,908	8,952	2,113	2,116	18,827	18,946	0.6
April .....	8,908		2,053		18,291		
May .....	8,921		2,115		18,871		
June .....	8,915		2,027		18,074		
July .....	8,920		2,060		18,373		
August .....	8,927		2,040		18,212		
September .....	8,927		1,957		17,470		
October .....	8,931		2,016		18,005		
November .....	8,924		1,951		17,413		
December .....	8,918		2,029		18,093		
Annual .....	8,913		24,300		216,584		

<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: 2022-2023

[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>		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,367	9,407	2,034	2,053	19,050	19,311	1.4
February .....	9,380	9,429	1,870	1,880	17,540	17,726	1.1
March .....	9,404	9,435	2,096	2,099	19,715	19,805	0.5
April .....	9,404		2,036		19,147		
May .....	9,417		2,098		19,755		
June .....	9,413		2,010		18,920		
July .....	9,413		2,038		19,180		
August .....	9,406		2,022		19,016		
September .....	9,406		1,939		18,242		
October .....	9,412		1,998		18,809		
November .....	9,404		1,934		18,184		
December .....	9,396		2,012		18,904		
Annual .....	9,402		24,087		226,462		

<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 2022 and 2023

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	199	194	2,270	2,270	452	440	-2.7
California .....	1,721	1,722	2,160	2,115	3,717	3,642	-2.0
Colorado .....	203	203	2,230	2,230	453	453	-
Florida .....	98	91	1,870	1,900	183	173	-5.5
Georgia .....	90	92	2,030	2,040	183	188	2.7
Idaho .....	653	668	2,140	2,155	1,397	1,440	3.1
Illinois .....	80	79	1,940	1,950	155	154	-0.6
Indiana .....	187	189	2,065	2,080	386	393	1.8
Iowa .....	229	239	2,125	2,120	487	507	4.1
Kansas .....	171	179	2,060	2,060	352	369	4.8
Michigan .....	427	435	2,355	2,380	1,006	1,035	2.9
Minnesota .....	453	454	1,975	1,995	895	906	1.2
New Mexico .....	295	281	2,215	2,220	653	624	-4.4
New York .....	620	630	2,150	2,160	1,333	1,361	2.1
Ohio .....	250	252	1,920	1,945	480	490	2.1
Oregon .....	128	125	1,810	1,810	232	226	-2.6
Pennsylvania .....	467	466	1,870	1,870	873	871	-0.2
South Dakota .....	177	190	1,945	1,935	344	368	7.0
Texas .....	640	657	2,245	2,290	1,437	1,505	4.7
Utah .....	94	92	1,965	1,960	185	180	-2.7
Vermont .....	118	118	1,870	1,860	221	219	-0.9
Virginia .....	70	67	1,830	1,865	128	125	-2.3
Washington .....	265	260	2,080	2,085	551	542	-1.6
Wisconsin .....	1,273	1,269	2,140	2,155	2,724	2,735	0.4
24-State Total .....	8,908	8,952	2,113	2,116	18,827	18,946	0.6

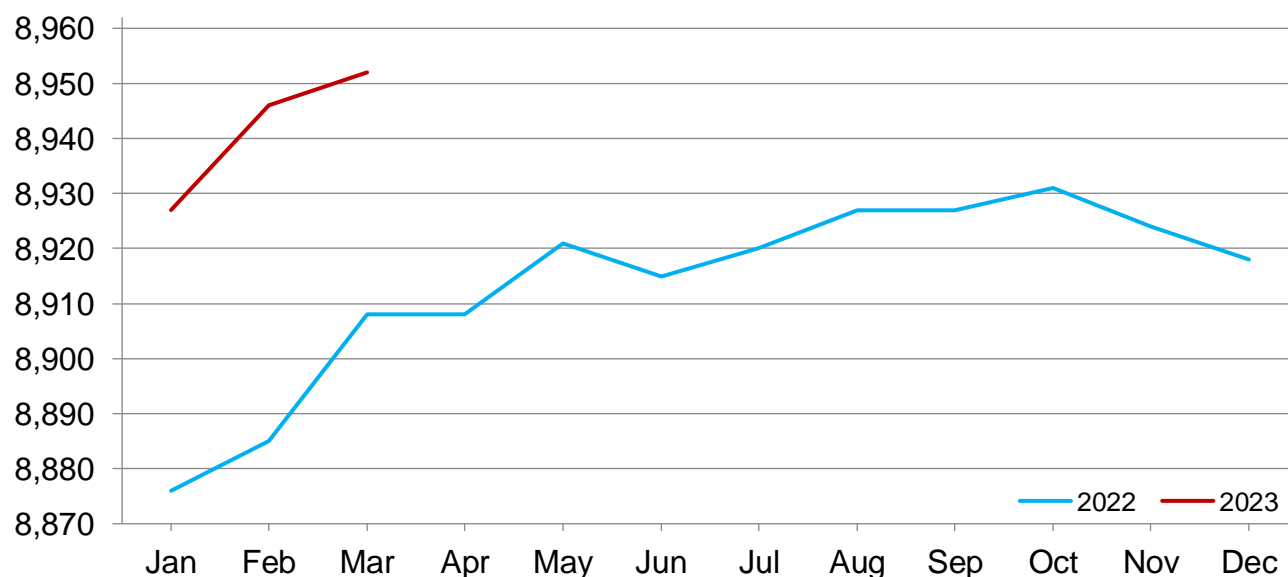
- Represents zero.

<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 – 24 Selected States: February 2022 and 2023

[May not add due to rounding]

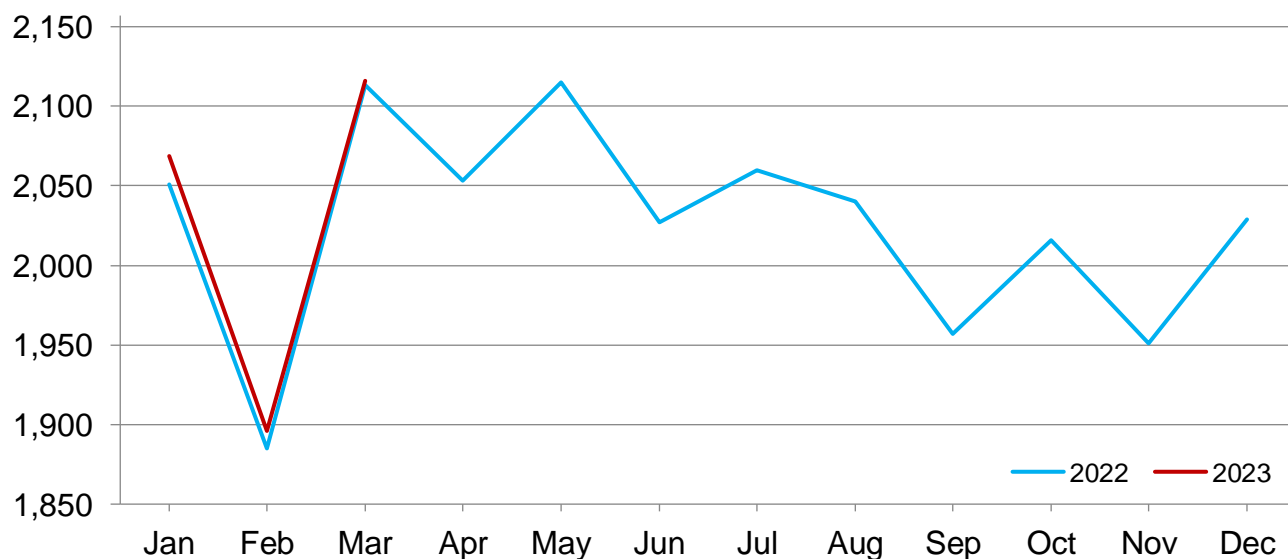
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2022
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	196	194	2,010	2,000	394	388	-1.5
California .....	1,720	1,723	1,925	1,900	3,311	3,274	-1.1
Colorado .....	202	201	1,990	1,995	402	401	-0.2
Florida .....	99	91	1,675	1,715	166	156	-6.0
Georgia .....	89	92	1,820	1,840	162	169	4.3
Idaho .....	652	668	1,905	1,935	1,242	1,293	4.1
Illinois .....	80	79	1,720	1,710	138	135	-2.2
Indiana .....	187	189	1,830	1,845	342	349	2.0
Iowa .....	226	240	1,910	1,915	432	460	6.5
Kansas .....	170	178	1,850	1,850	315	329	4.4
Michigan .....	428	435	2,100	2,135	899	929	3.3
Minnesota .....	453	455	1,775	1,795	804	817	1.6
New Mexico .....	292	280	1,955	1,955	571	547	-4.2
New York .....	620	630	1,915	1,950	1,187	1,229	3.5
Ohio .....	248	252	1,720	1,730	427	436	2.1
Oregon .....	127	124	1,620	1,620	206	201	-2.4
Pennsylvania .....	468	466	1,670	1,675	782	781	-0.1
South Dakota .....	175	189	1,750	1,750	306	331	8.2
Texas .....	633	655	1,985	2,025	1,257	1,326	5.5
Utah .....	94	92	1,770	1,770	166	163	-1.8
Vermont .....	119	118	1,660	1,665	198	196	-1.0
Virginia .....	71	68	1,615	1,640	115	112	-2.6
Washington .....	263	257	1,865	1,865	490	479	-2.2
Wisconsin .....	1,273	1,270	1,915	1,935	2,438	2,457	0.8
24-State Total .....	8,885	8,946	1,885	1,896	16,750	16,958	1.2

<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 – States and United States: Revised October - December 2021 and 2022

[May not add due to rounding]

State	October - December milk cows <sup>1</sup>		October - December milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2021	2022	2021	2022	Change from 2021
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	3.0	2.0	8.0	6.0	-25.0
Alaska .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Arizona .....	194.0	195.0	1,165.0	1,167.0	0.2
Arkansas .....	4.5	3.5	13.0	10.0	-23.1
California .....	1,720.0	1,724.0	10,286.0	10,214.0	-0.7
Colorado .....	201.0	204.0	1,304.0	1,315.0	0.8
Connecticut .....	18.5	18.5	105.0	105.0	-
Delaware .....	2.8	2.6	11.4	11.2	-1.8
Florida .....	105.0	93.0	511.0	448.0	-12.3
Georgia .....	82.0	92.0	449.0	504.0	12.2
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Idaho .....	651.0	661.0	4,014.0	4,103.0	2.2
Illinois .....	81.0	79.0	426.0	414.0	-2.8
Indiana .....	186.0	186.0	1,089.0	1,099.0	0.9
Iowa .....	225.0	239.0	1,377.0	1,466.0	6.5
Kansas .....	169.0	175.0	1,004.0	1,046.0	4.2
Kentucky .....	45.0	45.0	214.0	222.0	3.7
Louisiana .....	9.0	8.0	28.0	25.0	-10.7
Maine .....	26.0	25.0	136.0	134.0	-1.5
Maryland .....	41.0	40.0	207.0	205.0	-1.0
Massachusetts .....	9.5	9.0	46.0	44.0	-4.3
Michigan .....	434.0	430.0	2,908.0	2,937.0	1.0
Minnesota .....	461.0	454.0	2,603.0	2,611.0	0.3
Mississippi .....	7.0	6.0	23.0	19.0	-17.4
Missouri .....	69.0	65.0	230.0	218.0	-5.2
Montana .....	11.0	10.0	59.0	53.0	-10.2
Nebraska .....	58.0	57.0	351.0	356.0	1.4
Nevada .....	32.0	32.0	202.0	192.0	-5.0
New Hampshire .....	10.5	10.0	54.0	52.0	-3.7
New Jersey .....	4.2	4.1	21.0	20.0	-4.8
New Mexico .....	295.0	282.0	1,782.0	1,705.0	-4.3
New York .....	624.0	628.0	3,812.0	3,915.0	2.7
North Carolina .....	39.0	39.0	222.0	220.0	-0.9
North Dakota .....	15.0	14.0	82.0	77.0	-6.1
Ohio .....	250.0	250.0	1,361.0	1,372.0	0.8
Oklahoma .....	39.0	39.0	176.0	178.0	1.1
Oregon .....	125.0	123.0	644.0	635.0	-1.4
Pennsylvania .....	470.0	467.0	2,453.0	2,432.0	-0.9
Rhode Island .....	0.5	0.5	2.4	2.4	-
South Carolina .....	9.0	9.0	39.0	38.0	-2.6
South Dakota .....	166.0	185.0	960.0	1,061.0	10.5
Tennessee .....	27.0	26.0	118.0	118.0	-
Texas .....	625.0	653.0	3,929.0	4,144.0	5.5
Utah .....	94.0	92.0	541.0	525.0	-3.0
Vermont .....	120.0	118.0	629.0	633.0	0.6
Virginia .....	71.0	68.0	359.0	343.0	-4.5
Washington .....	262.0	255.0	1,551.0	1,512.0	-2.5
West Virginia .....	5.0	5.0	19.0	18.0	-5.3
Wisconsin .....	1,277.0	1,271.0	7,846.0	7,910.0	0.8
Wyoming .....	9.0	9.0	56.2	61.0	8.5
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.1	-8.3
United States .....	9,383.0	9,404.0	55,427.0	55,897.0	0.8

- 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 2022 and 2023

[May not add due to rounding]

State	January - March milk cows <sup>1</sup>		January - March milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	Change from 2022
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	3.0	2.5	10.0	9.0	-10.0
Alaska .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Arizona .....	196.0	194.0	1,256.0	1,238.0	-1.4
Arkansas .....	4.5	3.5	13.0	10.0	-23.1
California .....	1,720.0	1,723.0	10,563.0	10,450.0	-1.1
Colorado .....	202.0	201.0	1,300.0	1,295.0	-0.4
Connecticut .....	18.0	18.5	108.0	109.0	0.9
Delaware .....	2.8	2.7	13.0	13.0	-
Florida .....	100.0	90.0	534.0	488.0	-8.6
Georgia .....	89.0	92.0	519.0	540.0	4.0
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Idaho .....	652.0	667.0	4,005.0	4,141.0	3.4
Illinois .....	80.0	79.0	442.0	435.0	-1.6
Indiana .....	187.0	189.0	1,103.0	1,124.0	1.9
Iowa .....	227.0	240.0	1,390.0	1,470.0	5.8
Kansas .....	170.0	177.0	1,013.0	1,055.0	4.1
Kentucky .....	45.0	46.0	233.0	246.0	5.6
Louisiana .....	9.0	8.0	33.0	30.0	-9.1
Maine .....	26.0	25.0	137.0	135.0	-1.5
Maryland .....	41.0	40.0	218.0	213.0	-2.3
Massachusetts .....	9.5	9.0	48.0	45.0	-6.3
Michigan .....	428.0	435.0	2,888.0	2,980.0	3.2
Minnesota .....	454.0	455.0	2,581.0	2,622.0	1.6
Mississippi .....	7.0	6.0	26.0	22.0	-15.4
Missouri .....	68.0	65.0	238.0	226.0	-5.0
Montana .....	10.5	10.0	57.0	53.0	-7.0
Nebraska .....	57.0	55.0	352.0	340.0	-3.4
Nevada .....	32.0	33.0	202.0	190.0	-5.9
New Hampshire .....	10.5	10.0	56.0	53.0	-5.4
New Jersey .....	4.3	4.1	23.0	22.0	-4.3
New Mexico .....	294.0	281.0	1,858.0	1,779.0	-4.3
New York .....	620.0	630.0	3,816.0	3,935.0	3.1
North Carolina .....	39.0	39.0	238.0	236.0	-0.8
North Dakota .....	14.5	13.0	80.0	74.0	-7.5
Ohio .....	249.0	252.0	1,370.0	1,399.0	2.1
Oklahoma .....	40.0	40.0	189.0	190.0	0.5
Oregon .....	127.0	124.0	657.0	645.0	-1.8
Pennsylvania .....	468.0	466.0	2,502.0	2,500.0	-0.1
Rhode Island .....	0.5	0.5	2.5	2.4	-4.0
South Carolina .....	9.0	9.0	44.0	42.0	-4.5
South Dakota .....	174.0	189.0	980.0	1,059.0	8.1
Tennessee .....	27.0	26.0	126.0	126.0	-
Texas .....	634.0	654.0	4,072.0	4,281.0	5.1
Utah .....	94.0	92.0	533.0	521.0	-2.3
Vermont .....	119.0	118.0	635.0	633.0	-0.3
Virginia .....	71.0	68.0	368.0	358.0	-2.7
Washington .....	263.0	257.0	1,568.0	1,539.0	-1.8
West Virginia .....	5.0	5.0	19.0	18.0	-5.3
Wisconsin .....	1,273.0	1,270.0	7,829.0	7,891.0	0.8
Wyoming .....	9.0	9.0	56.1	58.6	4.5
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.4	7.7
United States .....	9,384.0	9,424.0	56,305.0	56,842.0	1.0

- 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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 56.8 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 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 .....	0.2	0.3	67	7	215	12	8
All milk cows .....	0.1	0.2	8	0	26	13	6

## 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
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows.....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-4448

## Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



**2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**



**RESPOND TODAY**

**YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR OPPORTUNITY.**

**USDA**  **United States Department of Agriculture**  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

#AgCensus  
 

THERE'S STILL TIME TO RESPOND  
TO THE 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE  
[nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)