

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

May 10, 1934

MILK PRODUCTION ON MAY 1, 1934

Milk production per cow showed about the usual increase during April but on May 1 the daily average per cow secured by crop correspondents was about 4 percent below the milk production per cow reported on that date last year and was still averaging below the production reported for the same season in any of the last nine years. With feed supplies running short and prices high in comparison with prices of dairy products in most areas, milk cows were being fed less liberally than on May 1 in any recent year even though pastures were furnishing less feed than usual for that season of the year. The proportion of the cows being milked was also very low with all groups of States, excepting the Northeastern showing a smaller proportion being milked than on any May 1 since 1926.

Crop correspondents were securing a daily average of 13.75 pounds of milk per cow in their herds compared with 14.39 pounds reported on May 1 last year and a May 1 average of 15.50 pounds per day during the previous five years. In a few Western States, where pastures were better than last year and in some Northeastern States production per cow was above that reported on May 1 last year but in all other groups of States production per cow was the lowest reported since 1925. Production was extremely low in parts of the Dakotas and other drought areas where much old straw is being fed and where feed supplies on many farms have been exhausted leaving farmers dependent on feed supplied by relief agencies to carry their cows through until new pasturage is available.

With the low production per cow being partially offset by the increase in the number of milk cows on farms, total daily milk production on May 1, in the country as a whole appears to have been averaging around 1 percent below production on that date last year.

PASTURE CONDITIONS MAY 1, 1934

Pastures have been suffering severely from drought. Their condition on May 1, as reported by crop correspondents, averaged only 66.2 percent of normal, this being the first time in 50 years that the May condition has fallen below 71. The situation is most serious in the Dakotas and parts of adjoining States affected by drought and grasshoppers last year, but pastures are poor in the whole area from the Dakotas and Kansas eastward to New York and North Carolina with half of the States in this area reporting the lowest pasture condition on record for May 1. Pastures appear to be good in the Pacific northwest, and in parts of New England and Texas but in no other States is the condition up to the 10-year average for May.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
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MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS ^{1/}				
S T A T E	: May 1 :(Avg.) 1925-1931 :	May 1 1932 :	May 1 1933 :	May 1 1934
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Me.	15.2	13.6	13.3	13.5
N.H.	16.2	14.4	13.6	14.2
Vt.	16.3	14.5	15.0	15.5
Mass.	18.8	18.2	17.9	16.2
R.I.	18.6	18.6	21.6	18.7
Conn.	18.0	17.7	16.9	18.2
N.Y.	19.2	17.7	17.9	18.7
N.J.	20.2	18.8	20.2	19.1
Pa.	18.1	17.1	16.7	16.7
N. ATL.	18.35	17.14	17.01	17.28
Ohio	16.9	16.3	16.2	14.7
Ind.	16.0	14.5	15.2	14.3
Ill.	16.0	15.6	15.8	15.2
Mich.	18.8	18.3	17.5	17.0
Wis.	19.1	18.1	17.8	16.1
E. N. CENT.	17.77	16.97	16.84	15.56
Minn.	17.7	16.9	17.6	15.6
Iowa	14.9	15.0	15.2	14.3
Mo.	11.3	11.2	10.8	10.6
N. Dak.	14.1	12.9	12.4	10.8
S. Dak.	13.9	12.2	13.7	10.1
Nebr.	15.1	14.7	14.7	14.3
Kans.	15.4	15.4	15.0	14.2
W. N. CENT.	14.83	14.24	14.48	13.24
Del.	15.7	14.5	13.5	12.6
Md.	15.8	14.6	14.2	13.2
Va.	12.4	11.1	10.9	10.0
W. Va.	12.3	11.9	10.5	10.3
N. C.	12.4	11.3	10.4	10.0
S. C.	10.3	10.1	10.6	9.5
Ga.	9.9	8.9	8.5	8.0
Fla.	7.2	6.6	7.4	6.8
S. ATL.	11.82	10.89	10.41	9.82
Ky.	12.9	12.1	11.3	10.7
Tenn.	11.7	10.3	10.5	9.2
Ala.	8.8	8.3	7.9	7.1
Miss.	9.4	9.0	8.0	7.8
Ark.	10.5	9.7	9.0	8.7
La.	8.0	7.1	6.9	6.9
Okla.	13.1	13.0	11.2	10.9
Tex.	10.4	10.3	9.8	9.4
S. CENT.	10.94	10.78	9.80	9.52
Mont.	14.0	13.4	12.9	15.3
Idaho	18.4	17.0	17.0	16.3
Wyo.	12.6	12.3	11.2	12.3
Colo.	14.3	13.4	12.8	13.4
N. Mex.	11.1	10.2	11.4	8.8
Ariz.	17.1	13.7	17.7	17.4
Utah	16.0	16.1	17.6	16.8
Nev.	14.8	12.3	12.2	14.4
Wash.	19.6	19.7	16.6	19.5
Oreg.	19.4	18.3	15.6	18.6
Calif.	19.8	20.5	21.0	19.1
WEST	16.73	15.83	15.09	15.93
U. S.	15.39	14.65	14.39	13.75

^{1/} 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.