

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

June 12, 1937.

MILK PRODUCTION JUNE 1, 1937

A record increase in milk production during May this year was announced by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This increase reflects a rapid recovery in areas where new grass has relieved acute feed shortages, a very sharp increase in the proportion of milk cows being milked, and continued heavy production in Northeastern dairy areas. On June 1 milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was between 2 and 3 percent above that on June 1 last year and the highest for that date since 1931. With about 2 percent fewer milk cows on farms than a year ago total milk production appears to have been slightly above that on June 1, 1936. Taking into consideration the upward trend of population, milk production per capita was about the same as on June 1 last year and slightly above the 1925-34 average for June 1. This represents a substantially higher level than during the period from February to April this year when the per capita milk supply was about 5 percent below the 10-year average.

An outstanding development of the past month has been the unusually sharp increase in the proportion of milk cows reported milked. The increase was particularly marked in the Western Corn Belt and Great Plains area where many of the milk cows are of dual purpose type and where the proportion milked is usually rather low because it is customary to let some of the calves run with the cows. On June 1 farmers in those States as a group were apparently supplementing their reduced incomes by milking a substantially larger proportion of their cows than in any of the past dozen years. In the country as a whole the June 1 reports showed that 76.5 percent of the milk cows in the herds kept by crop correspondents were being milked. The highest percentage previously reported for June 1 was 75.5 in 1928 and 1930, and the 1925-34 average was 74.7 percent. With the opening of the pasture season in Northern States during May, new grass relieved serious feed shortages in the 1936 drought areas and caused sharp increases in milk production even though pastures in parts of the Great Plains area were still very poor. In the dairy sections from Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri eastward, pastures were close to or above average on June 1. In the western part of this area milk production per cow increased more sharply than usual during May, while in the Northeast about the normal seasonal increase maintained milk production at a very high level. In the United States as a whole, milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on June 1 averaged 17.39 pounds compared with 16.99 pounds on June 1, 1936 and a 1925-34 average of 16.99 pounds for that date.

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DAIRY PASTURES JUNE 1, 1937

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Although pastures have been late in starting and were still below average on June 1, some improvement has occurred since that time and present prospects appear rather favorable for summer pasturage in the more important dairy areas. Reports from crop correspondents on June 1 weighted in proportion to the importance of various States in dairy production, showed an average condition of pastures for the United States of 79.8 percent of normal, compared with 77.0 percent last year, 78.8 percent on June 1, 1935, and a 1923-32 average of 81.0 percent. In practically the whole area from Minnesota to Arkansas and eastward, pastures were much better on June 1 than they were a year ago and in most of these States pastures were reported close to or better than average for that date. In the southern portions of all the Gulf States, prior to the rains of early June, pasture conditions were rather poor as a result of short rainfall in May. Extremely poor pastures were reported in the Great Plains States, but following the rains of the past two weeks some improvement has occurred in most of this area with the exception of eastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota which are still dry. In the western States, pastures were retarded by poor growing conditions earlier and were reported below average generally with very poor conditions being reported in parts of northern California.

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CROP REPORTING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY CROP REPORTERS 1/

State	: June 1 : (Avg.) 1925-34	: June 1 : 1935	: June 1 : 1936	: June 1 : 1937
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
N. Eng.	17.80	17.94	18.86	17.52
N.Y.	22.6	22.9	23.9	24.1
N.J.	21.2	21.6	22.5	21.5
Pa.	20.4	21.2	21.6	21.4
N. Atl.	20.66	20.99	21.85	21.65
Ohio	19.8	19.3	19.5	20.3
Ind.	17.8	17.5	17.5	17.9
Ill.	17.6	17.0	17.5	18.1
Mich.	22.3	21.5	22.8	22.7
Wis.	22.0	22.1	23.3	22.7
E. N. Cent.	20.40	19.98	20.89	21.00
Minn.	19.8	20.3	20.9	20.7
Iowa	17.5	17.7	17.9	18.8
Mo.	12.7	13.5	11.8	13.6
N. Dak.	16.0	14.1	16.2	16.4
S. Dak.	15.8	14.1	15.7	16.1
Nebr.	16.9	15.6	17.9	17.4
Kans.	16.8	15.5	16.5	17.2
W. N. Cent.	16.74	16.08	16.97	17.44
Md.	17.7	16.9	17.1	16.5
Va.	14.1	14.0	12.7	14.1
W. Va.	14.9	13.5	13.3	14.4
N. C.	13.1	11.7	11.8	12.6
S. C.	10.8	9.8	10.7	11.1
S. Atl.	12.87	11.85	12.25	12.56
Ky.	14.8	13.1	12.7	14.6
Penn.	12.6	11.5	11.2	12.5
Miss.	9.2	8.4	8.1	8.5
Ark.	10.8	9.8	11.0	11.4
Okla.	13.5	13.4	12.0	13.2
Tex.	10.5	9.8	10.7	10.6
S. Cent.	11.38	10.82	10.63	11.31
Mont.	15.8	16.3	16.8	17.1
Idaho	20.1	20.0	20.1	20.3
Wyo.	15.2	13.1	16.2	16.2
Colo.	16.0	12.8	15.9	16.8
Wash.	22.0	22.2	22.5	23.4
Oreg.	20.3	20.6	20.8	20.8
Calif.	19.7	20.4	21.1	20.0
West.	18.00	17.69	18.72	19.18
U.S.	16.99	16.41	16.99	17.39

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.

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