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February Milk Production up 3.1 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during February totaled 17.6 billion pounds, up 3.1 percent from February 2025. January revised production, at 19.1 billion pounds, was up 3.6 percent from January 2025. The January revision represented an increase of 37 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 1,912 pounds for February, 13 pounds above February 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 9.18 million head, 217,000 head more than February 2025, and 13,000 head more than January 2026.

February Milk Production in the United States up 2.9 Percent

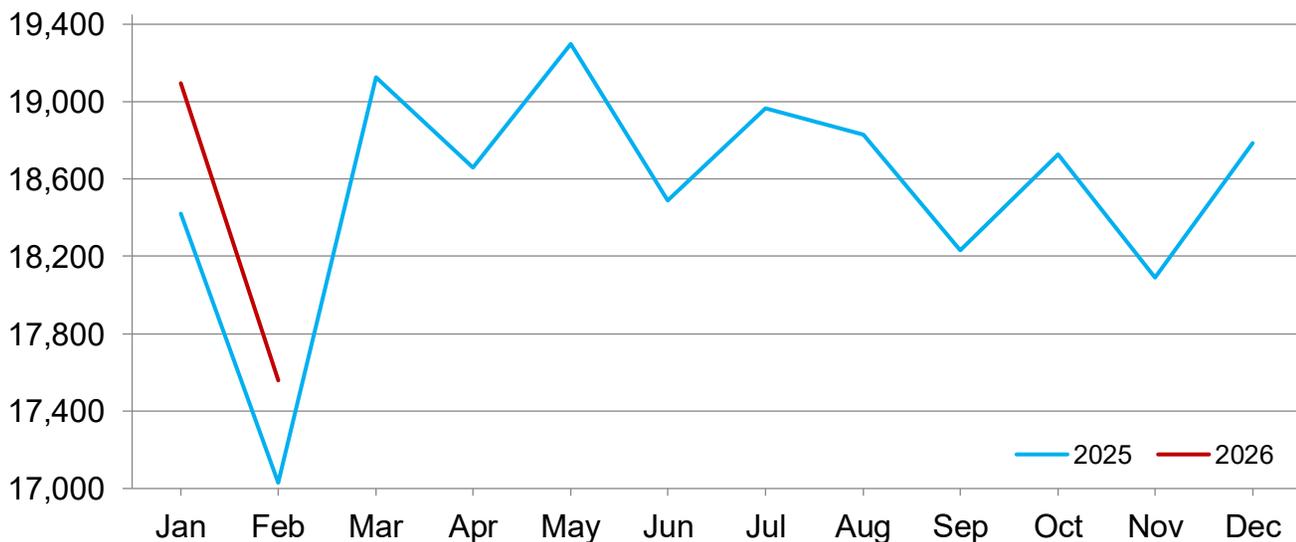
Milk production in the United States during February totaled 18.3 billion pounds, up 2.9 percent from February 2025.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,899 pounds for February, 12 pounds above February 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.62 million head, 211,000 head more than February 2025, and 15,000 head more than January 2026.

Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2025-2026

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,410		6,043		56,865		
April-June	9,474		6,205		58,783		
July-September	9,543		6,100		58,208		
October-December	9,564		6,044		57,802		
Annual	9,498		24,390		231,658		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2025-2026

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,954	9,170	2,058	2,082	18,423	19,095	3.6
February	8,966	9,183	1,899	1,912	17,030	17,559	3.1
March	8,995		2,126		19,124		
April	9,017		2,069		18,659		
May	9,043		2,134		19,298		
June	9,046		2,044		18,489		
July	9,082		2,088		18,967		
August	9,113		2,066		18,827		
September	9,142		1,994		18,230		
October	9,137		2,049		18,726		
November	9,130		1,981		18,088		
December	9,139		2,056		18,787		
Annual	9,064		24,564		222,648		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2025-2026

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,391	9,600	2,044	2,068	19,194	19,850	3.4
February	9,404	9,615	1,887	1,899	17,746	18,255	2.9
March	9,434		2,112		19,925		
April	9,455		2,055		19,432		
May	9,481		2,120		20,097		
June	9,485		2,030		19,254		
July	9,511		2,072		19,706		
August	9,543		2,050		19,560		
September	9,574		1,978		18,942		
October	9,566		2,035		19,469		
November	9,559		1,967		18,804		
December	9,566		2,042		19,529		
Annual	9,498		24,390		231,658		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: February 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

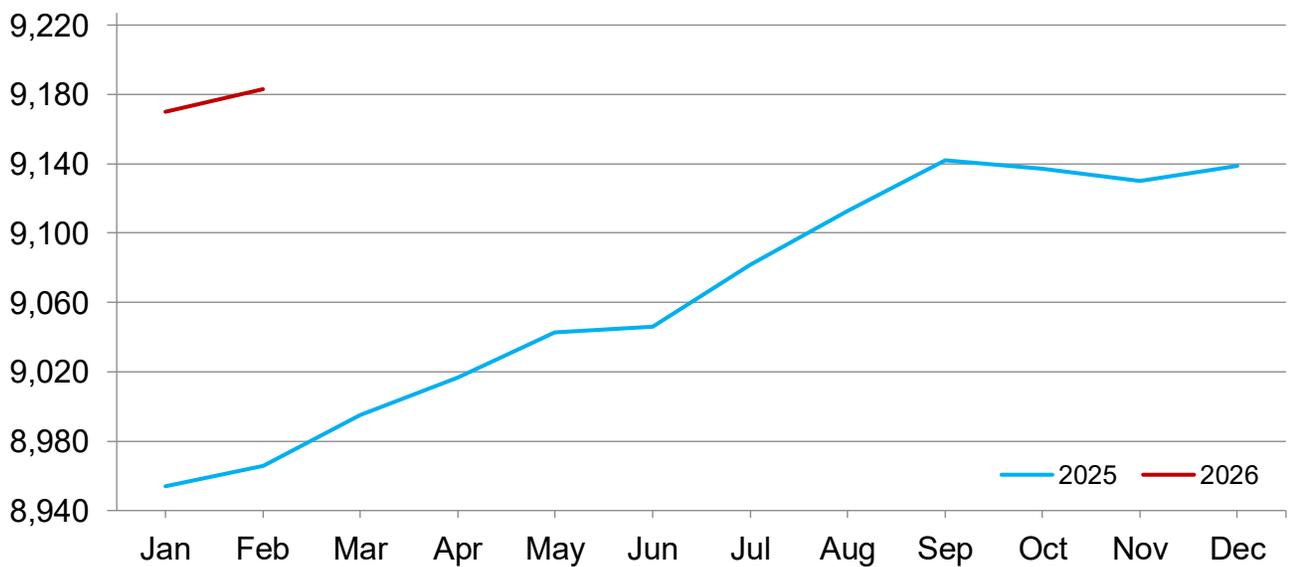
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2025
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	192	195	2,015	2,020	387	394	1.8
California	1,709	1,712	1,850	1,890	3,162	3,236	2.3
Colorado	208	215	2,005	2,015	417	433	3.8
Florida	95	96	1,760	1,755	167	168	0.6
Georgia	85	88	1,920	1,925	163	169	3.7
Idaho	700	724	1,940	1,940	1,358	1,405	3.5
Illinois	77	76	1,730	1,735	133	132	-0.8
Indiana	192	200	1,840	1,850	353	370	4.8
Iowa	244	245	1,910	1,930	466	473	1.5
Kansas	181	232	1,870	1,875	338	435	28.7
Michigan	445	462	2,130	2,135	948	986	4.0
Minnesota	440	453	1,825	1,830	803	829	3.2
New Mexico	240	227	1,975	1,970	474	447	-5.7
New York	632	653	1,980	1,975	1,251	1,290	3.1
Ohio	252	256	1,760	1,760	444	451	1.6
Oregon	116	123	1,620	1,625	188	200	6.4
Pennsylvania	464	455	1,670	1,670	775	760	-1.9
South Dakota	221	244	1,790	1,795	396	438	10.6
Texas	684	718	2,040	2,045	1,395	1,468	5.2
Utah	94	100	1,770	1,780	166	178	7.2
Vermont	113	114	1,700	1,695	192	193	0.5
Virginia	66	67	1,675	1,690	111	113	1.8
Washington	251	238	1,850	1,860	464	443	-4.5
Wisconsin	1,265	1,290	1,960	1,975	2,479	2,548	2.8
24-State Total	8,966	9,183	1,899	1,912	17,030	17,559	3.1

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: January 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

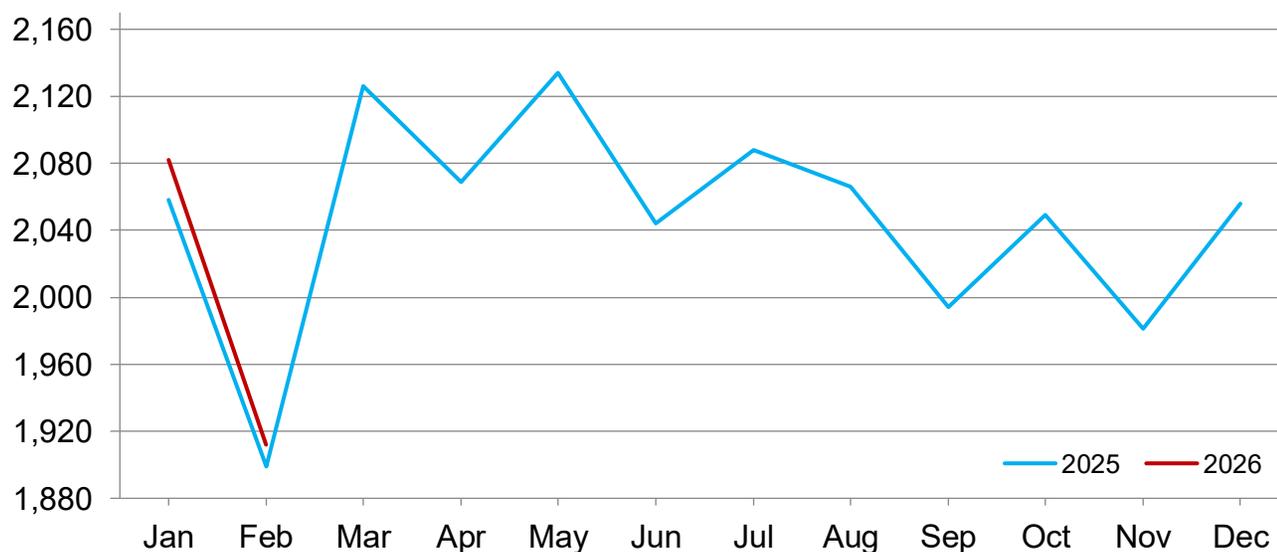
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2025
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	192	195	2,145	2,150	412	419	1.7
California	1,710	1,712	1,960	2,045	3,352	3,501	4.4
Colorado	206	213	2,205	2,210	454	471	3.7
Florida	95	97	1,885	1,885	179	183	2.2
Georgia	85	89	2,050	2,085	174	186	6.9
Idaho	700	724	2,130	2,125	1,491	1,539	3.2
Illinois	77	76	1,870	1,875	144	143	-0.7
Indiana	191	197	2,030	2,040	388	402	3.6
Iowa	245	245	2,080	2,110	510	517	1.4
Kansas	181	230	2,035	2,045	368	470	27.7
Michigan	445	462	2,335	2,340	1,039	1,081	4.0
Minnesota	440	453	2,000	2,000	880	906	3.0
New Mexico	238	230	2,120	2,115	505	486	-3.8
New York	630	653	2,165	2,160	1,364	1,410	3.4
Ohio	251	256	1,925	1,930	483	494	2.3
Oregon	117	122	1,760	1,760	206	215	4.4
Pennsylvania	465	454	1,810	1,800	842	817	-3.0
South Dakota	218	243	1,975	1,980	431	481	11.6
Texas	678	715	2,190	2,235	1,485	1,598	7.6
Utah	93	98	1,950	1,960	181	192	6.1
Vermont	113	114	1,865	1,860	211	212	0.5
Virginia	66	66	1,800	1,830	119	121	1.7
Washington	253	236	2,020	2,020	511	477	-6.7
Wisconsin	1,265	1,290	2,130	2,150	2,694	2,774	3.0
24-State Total	8,954	9,170	2,058	2,082	18,423	19,095	3.6

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States

Pounds



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 such as Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Dairy Market News. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Survey.

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 in the table below. 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 the 24 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 17.6 billion pounds by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.7 percent.

Reliability of Monthly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.4	0.7	62	1	161	18	6
All Milk cows	0.2	0.4	16	1	42	19	5

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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter.....	(202) 690-8632
Tiffany Byrne – Dairy Products	(651) 440-7789
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed.....	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production.....	(202) 720-3278
Fatema Haque – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised.....	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Trout	(202) 690-3237
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448
Shulonda Shaw – Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery.....	(202) 720-6147

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- Economics, Statistics, and Market Information (ESMIS) – National Agricultural Library (NAL) website houses NASS’s and other agency archived reports at <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov>. To receive the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the website, create a new account and subscribe to the reports. You should whitelist notifications@esmis.nal.usda.gov 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.

If you have specific questions you would like an expert to respond to, please visit our “Ask A Specialist” website at www.nass.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Ask_a_Specialist.

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Spring 2026

USDA Data Users' Meeting

April 22, 2026

1 p.m. CST

Join in-person or virtually

www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users



USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting **Join Us Online or in Kansas City** **April 22, 2026**

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
1 Memorial Drive
Kansas City, MO 64198

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2026 Spring Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users).