



# Milk Production

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## March Milk Production up 2.4 Percent

**Milk production** in the 24 major States during March totaled 19.6 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from March 2025. February revised production, at 17.5 billion pounds, was up 3.0 percent from February 2025. The February revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 24 major States averaged 2,133 pounds for March, 7 pounds above March 2025.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 24 major States was 9.18 million head, 188,000 head more than March 2025, and 8,000 head more than February 2026.

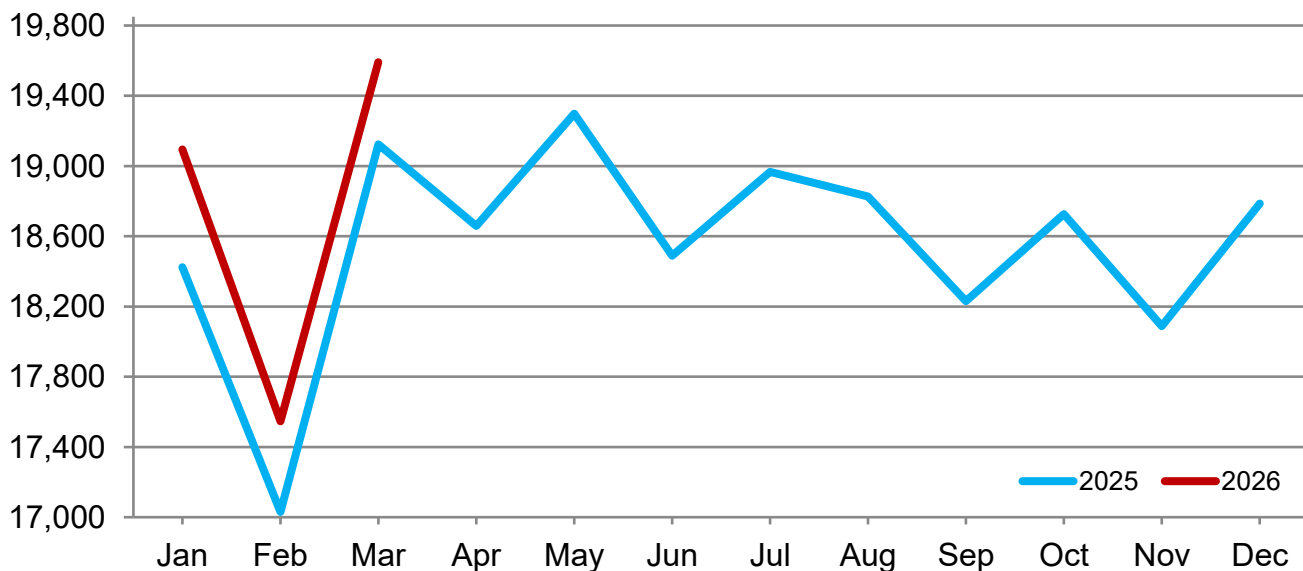
## January-March Milk Production up 2.9 Percent

**Milk production** in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 58.5 billion pounds, up 2.9 percent from the January - March quarter last year.

**The average number of milk cows** in the United States during the quarter was 9.61 million head, 50,000 head more than the October - December quarter, and 204,000 head more than the same period last year.

## Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



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

[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>		
	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	9,614	6,043	6,088	56,865	58,527	2.9
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		

<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: 2025-2026

[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>		
	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	9,175	1,899	1,912	17,030	17,546	3.0
March .....	8,995	9,183	2,126	2,133	19,124	19,591	2.4
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		

<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: 2025-2026

[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>		
	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	9,607	2,044	2,069	19,194	19,874	3.5
February .....	9,404	9,613	1,887	1,900	17,746	18,262	2.9
March .....	9,434	9,621	2,112	2,119	19,925	20,391	2.3
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		

<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 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

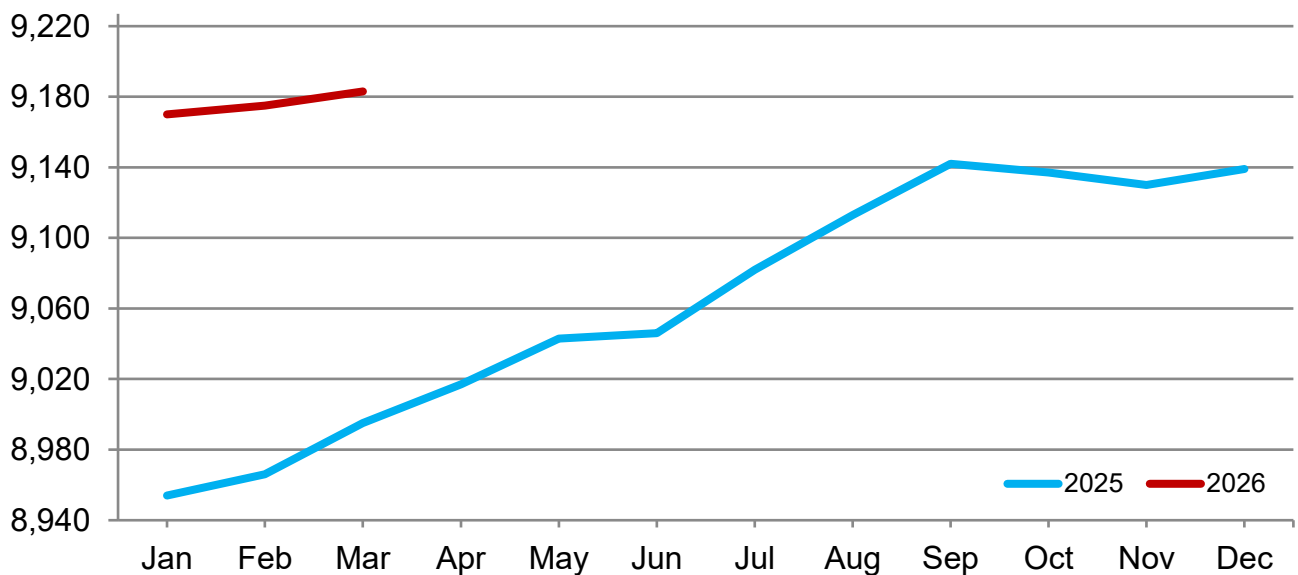
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	191	194	2,275	2,270	435	440	1.1
California .....	1,710	1,707	2,085	2,105	3,565	3,593	0.8
Colorado .....	209	217	2,235	2,240	467	486	4.1
Florida .....	95	98	1,965	1,970	187	193	3.2
Georgia .....	85	86	2,125	2,130	181	183	1.1
Idaho .....	700	724	2,155	2,155	1,509	1,560	3.4
Illinois .....	77	76	1,950	1,955	150	149	-0.7
Indiana .....	192	200	2,050	2,060	394	412	4.6
Iowa .....	244	245	2,135	2,150	521	527	1.2
Kansas .....	187	234	2,100	2,105	393	493	25.4
Michigan .....	446	462	2,385	2,385	1,064	1,102	3.6
Minnesota .....	442	453	2,040	2,040	902	924	2.4
New Mexico .....	243	234	2,215	2,225	538	521	-3.2
New York .....	635	653	2,215	2,200	1,407	1,437	2.1
Ohio .....	254	256	1,955	1,965	497	503	1.2
Oregon .....	116	123	1,810	1,815	210	223	6.2
Pennsylvania .....	464	452	1,865	1,870	865	845	-2.3
South Dakota .....	226	241	1,985	1,990	449	480	6.9
Texas .....	688	719	2,275	2,280	1,565	1,639	4.7
Utah .....	95	100	1,965	1,980	187	198	5.9
Vermont .....	113	113	1,905	1,915	215	216	0.5
Virginia .....	66	67	1,875	1,880	124	126	1.6
Washington .....	251	236	2,070	2,075	520	490	-5.8
Wisconsin .....	1,266	1,293	2,195	2,205	2,779	2,851	2.6
24-State Total .....	8,995	9,183	2,126	2,133	19,124	19,591	2.4

<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 2025 and 2026

[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 2025
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	192	194	2,015	2,010	387	390	0.8
California .....	1,709	1,710	1,850	1,890	3,162	3,232	2.2
Colorado .....	208	215	2,005	2,015	417	433	3.8
Florida .....	95	97	1,760	1,745	167	169	1.2
Georgia .....	85	88	1,920	1,915	163	169	3.7
Idaho .....	700	724	1,940	1,945	1,358	1,408	3.7
Illinois .....	77	76	1,730	1,745	133	133	-
Indiana .....	192	200	1,840	1,850	353	370	4.8
Iowa .....	244	245	1,910	1,925	466	472	1.3
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	229	1,975	1,950	474	447	-5.7
New York .....	632	653	1,980	1,970	1,251	1,286	2.8
Ohio .....	252	256	1,760	1,760	444	451	1.6
Oregon .....	116	123	1,620	1,625	188	200	6.4
Pennsylvania .....	464	452	1,670	1,670	775	755	-2.6
South Dakota .....	221	241	1,790	1,795	396	433	9.3
Texas .....	684	718	2,040	2,045	1,395	1,468	5.2
Utah .....	94	99	1,770	1,785	166	177	6.6
Vermont .....	113	113	1,700	1,705	192	193	0.5
Virginia .....	66	66	1,675	1,685	111	111	-
Washington .....	251	236	1,850	1,860	464	439	-5.4
Wisconsin .....	1,265	1,293	1,960	1,980	2,479	2,560	3.3
24-State Total .....	8,966	9,175	1,899	1,912	17,030	17,546	3.0

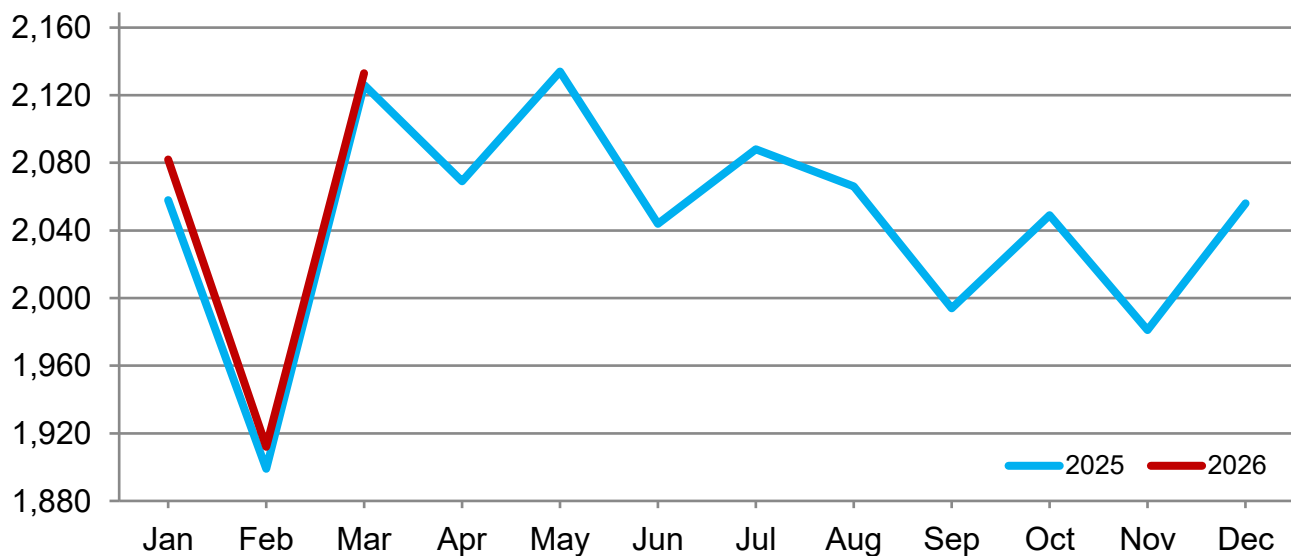
- Represents zero.

<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 2024 and 2025

[May not add due to rounding]

State	October - December milk cows <sup>1</sup>		October - December milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2024	2025	2024	2025	Change from 2024
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	2.2	(D)	6.5	(D)	(NA)
Alaska .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Arizona .....	189.0	196.0	1,137.0	1,174.0	3.3
Arkansas .....	2.0	(D)	5.5	(D)	(NA)
California .....	1,708.0	1,712.0	9,370.0	10,197.0	8.8
Colorado .....	205.0	210.0	1,329.0	1,359.0	2.3
Connecticut .....	17.5	(D)	104.0	(D)	(NA)
Delaware .....	2.6	(D)	11.2	(D)	(NA)
Florida .....	97.0	98.0	477.0	500.0	4.8
Georgia .....	85.0	89.0	496.0	531.0	7.1
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Idaho .....	686.0	722.0	4,289.0	4,538.0	5.8
Illinois .....	77.0	76.0	411.0	407.0	-1.0
Indiana .....	190.0	194.0	1,132.0	1,166.0	3.0
Iowa .....	244.0	245.0	1,500.0	1,513.0	0.9
Kansas .....	180.0	223.0	1,071.0	1,335.0	24.6
Kentucky .....	41.0	38.0	200.0	186.0	-7.0
Louisiana .....	7.0	(D)	22.0	(D)	(NA)
Maine .....	24.0	23.0	133.0	133.0	-
Maryland .....	38.0	37.0	201.0	195.0	-3.0
Massachusetts .....	9.0	(D)	44.0	(D)	(NA)
Michigan .....	441.0	459.0	3,034.0	3,162.0	4.2
Minnesota .....	442.0	455.0	2,573.0	2,673.0	3.9
Mississippi .....	5.0	(D)	14.5	(D)	(NA)
Missouri .....	56.0	54.0	185.0	180.0	-2.7
Montana .....	8.5	(D)	48.0	(D)	(NA)
Nebraska .....	49.0	50.0	309.0	309.0	-
Nevada .....	31.0	33.0	197.0	210.0	6.6
New Hampshire .....	9.5	(D)	50.0	(D)	(NA)
New Jersey .....	3.8	(D)	20.0	(D)	(NA)
New Mexico .....	241.0	233.0	1,461.0	1,403.0	-4.0
New York .....	629.0	650.0	3,960.0	4,159.0	5.0
North Carolina .....	37.0	36.0	203.0	204.0	0.5
North Dakota .....	9.5	(D)	56.0	(D)	(NA)
Ohio .....	251.0	254.0	1,411.0	1,435.0	1.7
Oklahoma .....	41.0	44.0	189.0	202.0	6.9
Oregon .....	117.0	120.0	603.0	623.0	3.3
Pennsylvania .....	465.0	457.0	2,409.0	2,368.0	-1.7
Rhode Island .....	0.5	(D)	2.1	(D)	(NA)
South Carolina .....	8.0	(D)	35.0	(D)	(NA)
South Dakota .....	215.0	238.0	1,261.0	1,394.0	10.5
Tennessee .....	24.0	22.0	107.0	100.0	-6.5
Texas .....	675.0	704.0	4,408.0	4,599.0	4.3
Utah .....	91.0	97.0	522.0	562.0	7.7
Vermont .....	113.0	115.0	616.0	627.0	1.8
Virginia .....	66.0	66.0	342.0	342.0	-
Washington .....	256.0	236.0	1,504.0	1,404.0	-6.6
West Virginia .....	4.0	(D)	14.5	(D)	(NA)
Wisconsin .....	1,266.0	1,283.0	7,961.0	8,130.0	2.1
Wyoming .....	9.0	(D)	62.9	(D)	(NA)
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	0.9	95.3	2.0	481.7	(NA)
United States .....	9,369.0	9,564.0	55,499.0	57,802.0	4.1

- 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 states not published.

## Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary January - March 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

State	January - March milk cows <sup>1</sup>		January - March milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	192.0	194.0	1,234.0	1,249.0	1.2
California .....	1,710.0	1,710.0	10,079.0	10,326.0	2.5
Colorado .....	208.0	215.0	1,338.0	1,390.0	3.9
Florida .....	95.0	97.0	533.0	545.0	2.3
Georgia .....	85.0	88.0	518.0	538.0	3.9
Idaho .....	700.0	724.0	4,358.0	4,507.0	3.4
Illinois .....	77.0	76.0	427.0	425.0	-0.5
Indiana .....	192.0	199.0	1,135.0	1,184.0	4.3
Iowa .....	244.0	245.0	1,497.0	1,516.0	1.3
Kansas .....	183.0	232.0	1,099.0	1,398.0	27.2
Kentucky .....	41.0	37.0	210.0	194.0	-7.6
Maine .....	24.0	23.0	137.0	133.0	-2.9
Maryland .....	38.0	37.0	206.0	204.0	-1.0
Michigan .....	445.0	462.0	3,051.0	3,169.0	3.9
Minnesota .....	441.0	453.0	2,585.0	2,659.0	2.9
Missouri .....	55.0	54.0	191.0	188.0	-1.6
Nebraska .....	49.0	51.0	307.0	316.0	2.9
Nevada .....	32.0	35.0	198.0	217.0	9.6
New Mexico .....	240.0	231.0	1,517.0	1,454.0	-4.2
New York .....	632.0	653.0	4,022.0	4,133.0	2.8
North Carolina .....	35.0	36.0	207.0	213.0	2.9
Ohio .....	252.0	256.0	1,424.0	1,448.0	1.7
Oklahoma .....	43.0	46.0	206.0	221.0	7.3
Oregon .....	116.0	123.0	604.0	638.0	5.6
Pennsylvania .....	464.0	453.0	2,482.0	2,417.0	-2.6
South Dakota .....	222.0	242.0	1,276.0	1,394.0	9.2
Tennessee .....	22.0	22.0	104.0	103.0	-1.0
Texas .....	683.0	717.0	4,445.0	4,705.0	5.8
Utah .....	94.0	99.0	534.0	567.0	6.2
Vermont .....	113.0	113.0	618.0	621.0	0.5
Virginia .....	66.0	66.0	354.0	358.0	1.1
Washington .....	252.0	236.0	1,495.0	1,406.0	-6.0
Wisconsin .....	1,265.0	1,292.0	7,952.0	8,185.0	2.9
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	99.8	96.8	521.6	506.4	-2.9
United States .....	9,410.0	9,614.0	56,865.0	58,527.0	2.9

<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 states not published.

## 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 58.5 billion pounds by more than 0.1 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 .....	0.1	0.3	68	4	175	8	12
All milk cows .....	0.1	0.2	8	1	17	9	11

## 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).

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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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- 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.

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