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May Milk Production up 2.4 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during May totaled 19.8 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from May 2025. April revised production, at 19.2 billion pounds, was up 2.8 percent from April 2025. The April revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,143 pounds for May, 9 pounds above May 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 9.23 million head, 182,000 head more than May 2025, and 7,000 head more than April 2026.

May Milk Production in the United States up 2.3 Percent

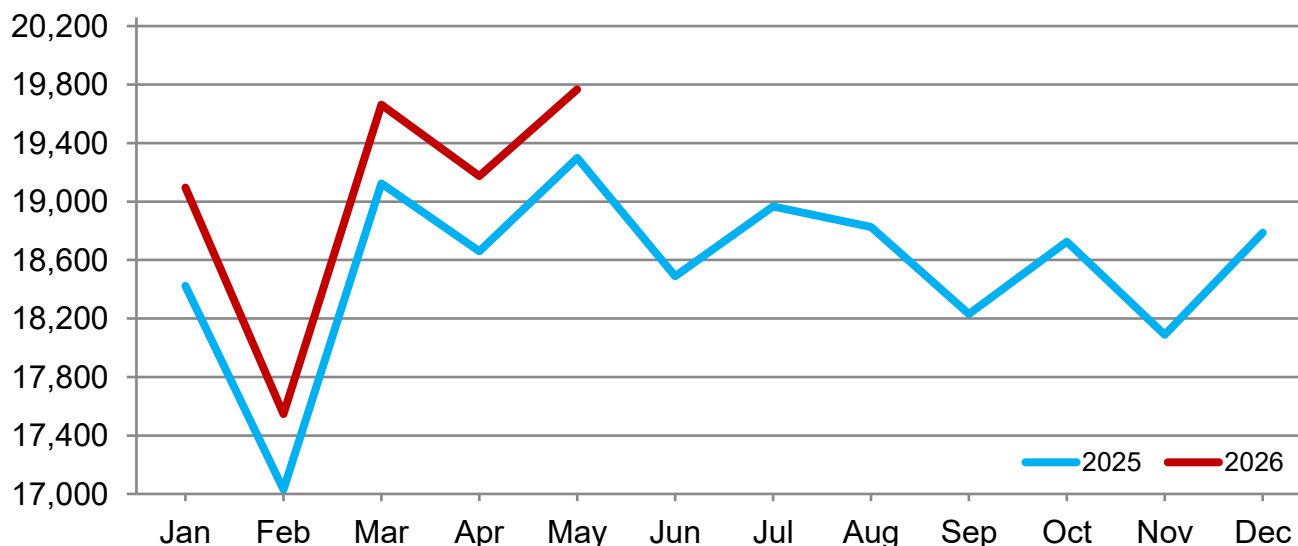
Milk production in the United States during May totaled 20.6 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from May 2025.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,128 pounds for May, 8 pounds above May 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.67 million head, 184,000 head more than May 2025, and 10,000 head more than April 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	9,618	6,043	6,093	56,865	58,598	3.0
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	9,175	1,899	1,912	17,030	17,546	3.0
March	8,995	9,198	2,126	2,138	19,124	19,662	2.8
April	9,017	9,218	2,069	2,080	18,659	19,175	2.8
May	9,043	9,225	2,134	2,143	19,298	19,767	2.4
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	9,607	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	9,635	2,112	2,124	19,925	20,462	2.7
April	9,455	9,655	2,055	2,067	19,432	19,955	2.7
May	9,481	9,665	2,120	2,128	20,097	20,565	2.3
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: May 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

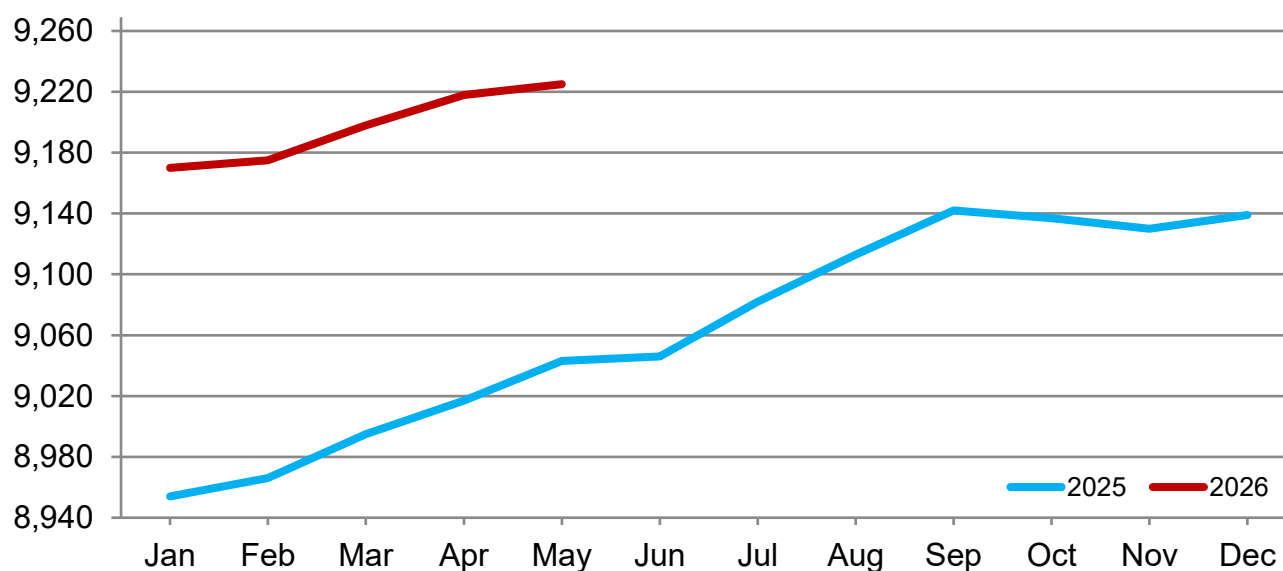
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	191	196	2,185	2,195	417	430	3.1
California	1,710	1,714	2,085	2,105	3,565	3,608	1.2
Colorado	210	219	2,235	2,240	469	491	4.7
Florida	97	102	1,915	1,915	186	195	4.8
Georgia	87	88	2,065	2,130	180	187	3.9
Idaho	710	727	2,210	2,220	1,569	1,614	2.9
Illinois	76	77	1,945	1,950	148	150	1.4
Indiana	194	198	2,075	2,075	403	411	2.0
Iowa	244	246	2,160	2,160	527	531	0.8
Kansas	202	243	2,080	2,095	420	509	21.2
Michigan	453	465	2,400	2,400	1,087	1,116	2.7
Minnesota	444	451	2,065	2,075	917	936	2.1
New Mexico	239	237	2,165	2,175	517	515	-0.4
New York	638	651	2,225	2,220	1,420	1,445	1.8
Ohio	258	258	1,960	1,980	506	511	1.0
Oregon	116	124	1,830	1,830	212	227	7.1
Pennsylvania	462	452	1,835	1,840	848	832	-1.9
South Dakota	233	244	1,995	1,995	465	487	4.7
Texas	694	722	2,265	2,265	1,572	1,635	4.0
Utah	97	101	2,040	2,045	198	207	4.5
Vermont	113	112	1,915	1,915	216	214	-0.9
Virginia	67	66	1,840	1,850	123	122	-0.8
Washington	240	235	2,080	2,105	499	495	-0.8
Wisconsin	1,268	1,297	2,235	2,235	2,834	2,899	2.3
24-State Total	9,043	9,225	2,134	2,143	19,298	19,767	2.4

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: April 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

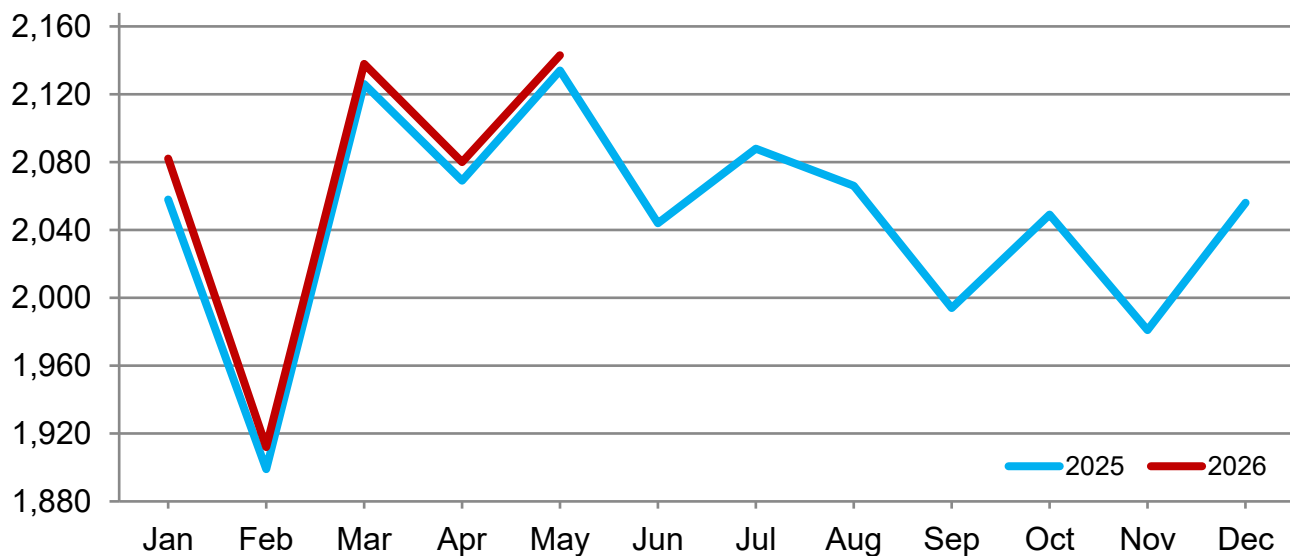
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	191	196	2,185	2,195	417	430	3.1
California	1,710	1,713	2,030	2,055	3,471	3,520	1.4
Colorado	209	219	2,170	2,180	454	477	5.1
Florida	95	102	1,895	1,910	180	195	8.3
Georgia	87	88	2,040	2,110	177	186	5.1
Idaho	704	727	2,130	2,135	1,500	1,552	3.5
Illinois	76	77	1,880	1,905	143	147	2.8
Indiana	189	199	2,000	2,005	378	399	5.6
Iowa	244	246	2,085	2,095	509	515	1.2
Kansas	196	240	2,020	2,040	396	490	23.7
Michigan	448	466	2,315	2,310	1,037	1,076	3.8
Minnesota	442	451	1,995	2,005	882	904	2.5
New Mexico	239	237	2,130	2,140	509	507	-0.4
New York	638	651	2,155	2,160	1,375	1,406	2.3
Ohio	254	256	1,890	1,910	480	489	1.9
Oregon	116	124	1,760	1,765	204	219	7.4
Pennsylvania	464	452	1,810	1,820	840	823	-2.0
South Dakota	230	242	1,925	1,925	443	466	5.2
Texas	690	722	2,190	2,200	1,511	1,588	5.1
Utah	97	101	1,940	1,955	188	197	4.8
Vermont	113	112	1,850	1,860	209	208	-0.5
Virginia	67	66	1,840	1,845	123	122	-0.8
Washington	251	234	2,050	2,040	515	477	-7.4
Wisconsin	1,267	1,297	2,145	2,145	2,718	2,782	2.4
24-State Total	9,017	9,218	2,069	2,080	18,659	19,175	2.8

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 19.8 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	58	1	161	17	7
All Milk cows	0.2	0.4	17	1	42	18	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.

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Shulonda Blackmon – Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage	(202) 720-3240
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
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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