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August Milk Production up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during August totaled 19.2 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from August 2025. July revised production, at 19.3 billion pounds, was also up 1.8 percent from July 2025. The July revision represented a decrease of 100 million pounds or 0.5 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,070 pounds for August, 4 pounds above August 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 9.26 million head, 151,000 head more than August 2025, and 15,000 head more than July 2026.

August Milk Production in the United States up 1.7 Percent

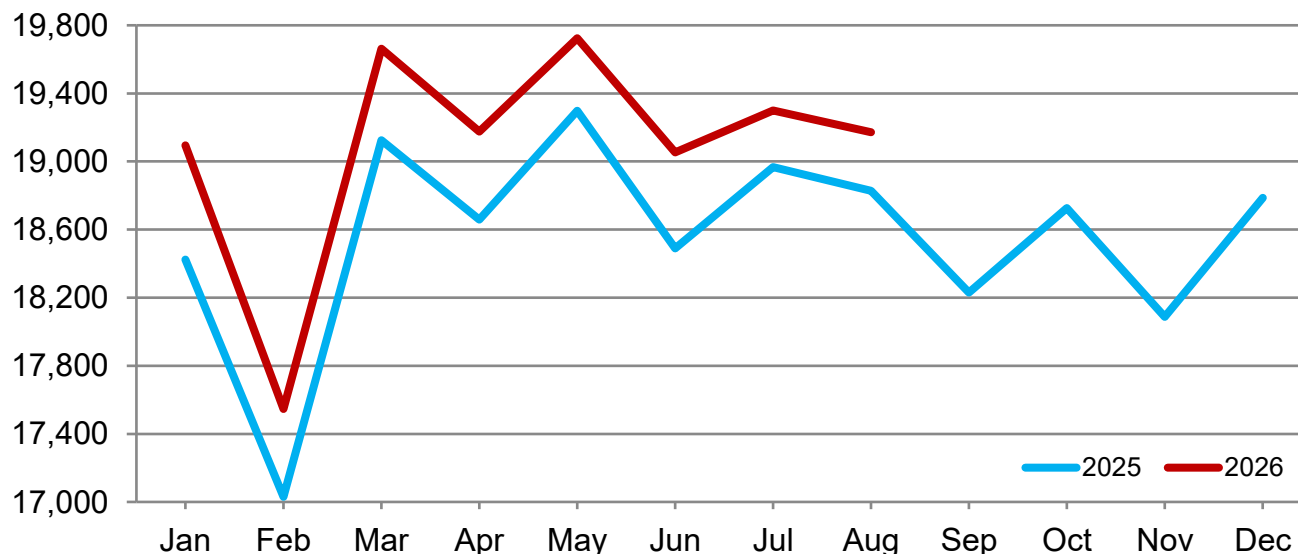
Milk production in the United States during August totaled 19.9 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from August 2025.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,049 pounds for August, 1 pound below August 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.71 million head, 167,000 head more than August 2025, and 15,000 head more than July 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	9,622	6,043	6,091	56,865	58,603	3.1
April-June	9,474	9,677	6,205	6,233	58,783	60,318	2.6
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	9,213	2,134	2,141	19,298	19,724	2.2
June	9,046	9,265	2,044	2,057	18,489	19,054	3.1
July	9,082	9,249	2,088	2,087	18,967	19,299	1.8
August	9,113	9,264	2,066	2,070	18,827	19,172	1.8
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	9,610	2,044	2,068	19,194	19,875	3.5
February	9,404	9,614	1,887	1,900	17,746	18,263	2.9
March	9,434	9,641	2,112	2,123	19,925	20,465	2.7
April	9,455	9,664	2,055	2,065	19,432	19,960	2.7
May	9,481	9,658	2,120	2,126	20,097	20,529	2.1
June	9,485	9,710	2,030	2,042	19,254	19,829	3.0
July	9,511	9,695	2,072	2,068	19,706	20,045	1.7
August	9,543	9,710	2,050	2,049	19,560	19,900	1.7
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: August 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	202	197	1,890	1,880	382	370	-3.1
California	1,715	1,716	1,990	1,975	3,413	3,389	-0.7
Colorado	211	218	2,210	2,220	466	484	3.9
Florida	97	101	1,675	1,710	162	173	6.8
Georgia	89	92	1,930	1,995	172	184	7.0
Idaho	722	734	2,220	2,220	1,603	1,629	1.6
Illinois	75	74	1,750	1,755	131	130	-0.8
Indiana	190	198	1,990	2,000	378	396	4.8
Iowa	244	243	2,065	2,080	504	505	0.2
Kansas	218	247	2,010	2,020	438	499	13.9
Michigan	455	466	2,340	2,345	1,065	1,093	2.6
Minnesota	450	456	2,005	2,020	902	921	2.1
New Mexico	236	235	2,035	2,035	480	478	-0.4
New York	649	655	2,205	2,205	1,431	1,444	0.9
Ohio	251	251	1,905	1,905	478	478	-
Oregon	123	132	1,800	1,805	221	238	7.7
Pennsylvania	460	457	1,755	1,775	807	811	0.5
South Dakota	234	253	1,995	2,000	467	506	8.4
Texas	700	729	2,190	2,210	1,533	1,611	5.1
Utah	98	95	1,995	1,990	196	189	-3.6
Vermont	115	114	1,870	1,875	215	214	-0.5
Virginia	66	69	1,735	1,740	115	120	4.3
Washington	237	236	2,050	2,055	486	485	-0.2
Wisconsin	1,276	1,296	2,180	2,180	2,782	2,825	1.5
24-State Total	9,113	9,264	2,066	2,070	18,827	19,172	1.8

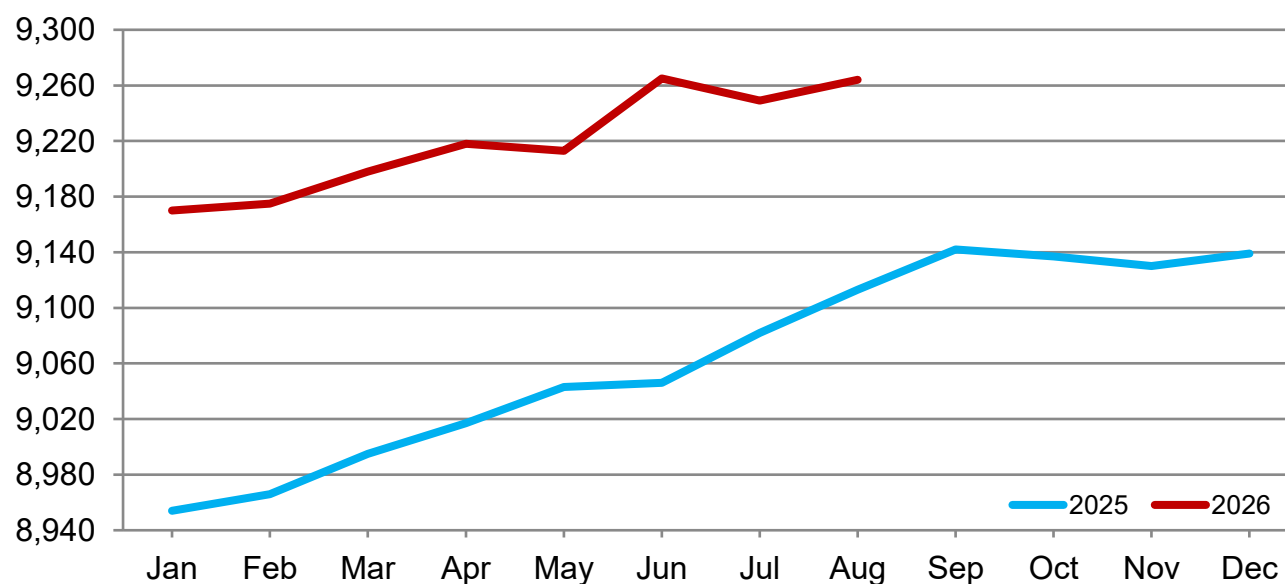
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Production (September 2026)

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: July 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	196	199	1,950	1,950	382	388	1.6
California	1,715	1,716	2,045	2,025	3,507	3,475	-0.9
Colorado	211	218	2,220	2,230	468	486	3.8
Florida	97	102	1,765	1,775	171	181	5.8
Georgia	89	92	1,950	2,030	174	187	7.5
Idaho	723	734	2,230	2,225	1,612	1,633	1.3
Illinois	74	74	1,810	1,815	134	134	-
Indiana	189	196	2,010	2,010	380	394	3.7
Iowa	242	243	2,100	2,095	508	509	0.2
Kansas	213	245	2,010	2,020	428	495	15.7
Michigan	453	463	2,355	2,355	1,067	1,090	2.2
Minnesota	445	456	2,030	2,035	903	928	2.8
New Mexico	236	238	2,065	2,070	487	493	1.2
New York	644	650	2,210	2,205	1,423	1,433	0.7
Ohio	252	249	1,925	1,920	485	478	-1.4
Oregon	120	130	1,815	1,810	218	235	7.8
Pennsylvania	460	456	1,760	1,780	810	812	0.2
South Dakota	234	251	2,005	2,005	469	503	7.2
Texas	700	729	2,205	2,225	1,544	1,622	5.1
Utah	98	96	2,020	2,005	198	192	-3.0
Vermont	114	114	1,875	1,880	214	214	-
Virginia	66	67	1,735	1,740	115	117	1.7
Washington	239	234	2,055	2,045	491	479	-2.4
Wisconsin	1,272	1,297	2,185	2,175	2,779	2,821	1.5
24-State Total	9,082	9,249	2,088	2,087	18,967	19,299	1.8

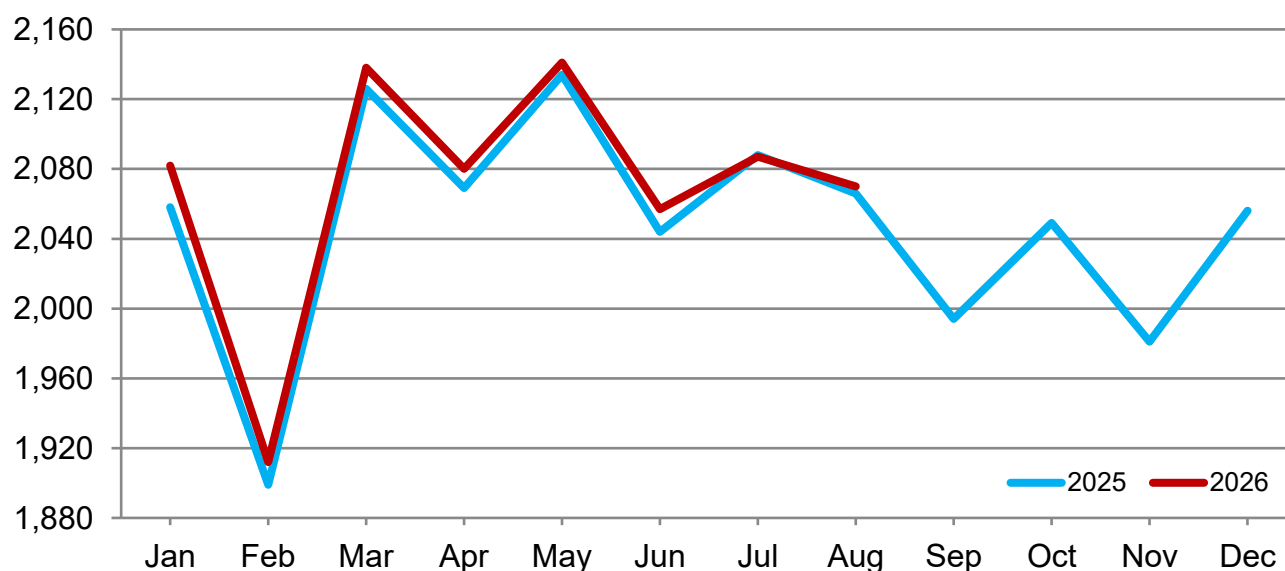
- Represents zero.

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 19.2 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	61	1	161	17	7
All Milk cows	0.2	0.4	18	1	42	18	6

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - Estimation Branch Contacts

For more information about specific data items, please contact the Estimation Branch staff members below. You can also email inquiries to nass@usda.gov.

Anthony Prillaman, Associate Deputy Administrator (202) 720-2127

Darin Jantzi, Section Chief..... (701) 412-5953

Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Eggs, Hogs and Pigs, Layers, Sheep and Goats

Jeff Lemmons, Section Chief..... (202) 973-3272

Cattle, Cattle on Feed, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage

Fleming Gibson, Section Chief (Acting)..... (202) 236-2428

Catfish, Census of Aquaculture, Dairy Products, Livestock Slaughter, Poultry Slaughter, Trout, Turkey Hatchery, Turkey Raised

Julie Weber, Section Chief (202) 317-0165

Cost of Pollination, Egg Products, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Milk Production

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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.

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