Milk Production

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October Milk Production up 2.5 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during October totaled 19.2 billion pounds, up 2.5 percent from October 2025. September revised production, at 18.7 billion pounds, was up 2.5 percent from September 2025. The September revision represented a decrease of 40 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,061 pounds for October, 12 pounds above October 2025.

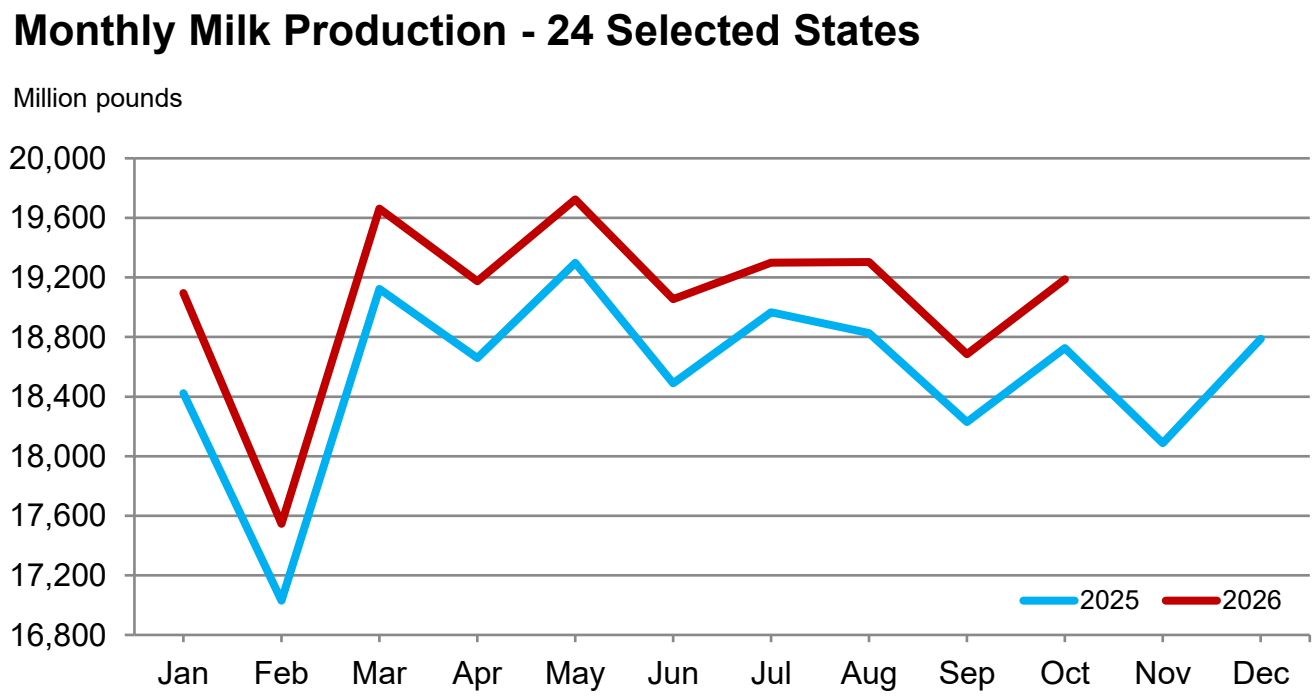
The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 9.31 million head, 172,000 head more than October 2025, and 9,000 head more than September 2026.

October Milk Production in the United States up 2.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during October totaled 19.9 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from October 2025.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,045 pounds for October, 10 pounds above October 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.75 million head, 179,000 head more than October 2025, and 7,000 head more than September 2026.



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	9,676	6,205	6,234	58,783	60,317	2.6
July-September	9,543	9,713	6,100	6,125	58,208	59,489	2.2
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	9,280	2,066	2,080	18,827	19,304	2.5
September	9,142	9,300	1,994	2,009	18,230	18,684	2.5
October	9,137	9,309	2,049	2,061	18,726	19,187	2.5
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	9,662	2,055	2,066	19,432	19,959	2.7
May	9,481	9,657	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	9,685	2,072	2,070	19,706	20,047	1.7
August	9,543	9,717	2,050	2,062	19,560	20,039	2.4
September	9,574	9,738	1,978	1,993	18,942	19,403	2.4
October	9,566	9,745	2,035	2,045	19,469	19,930	2.4
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.

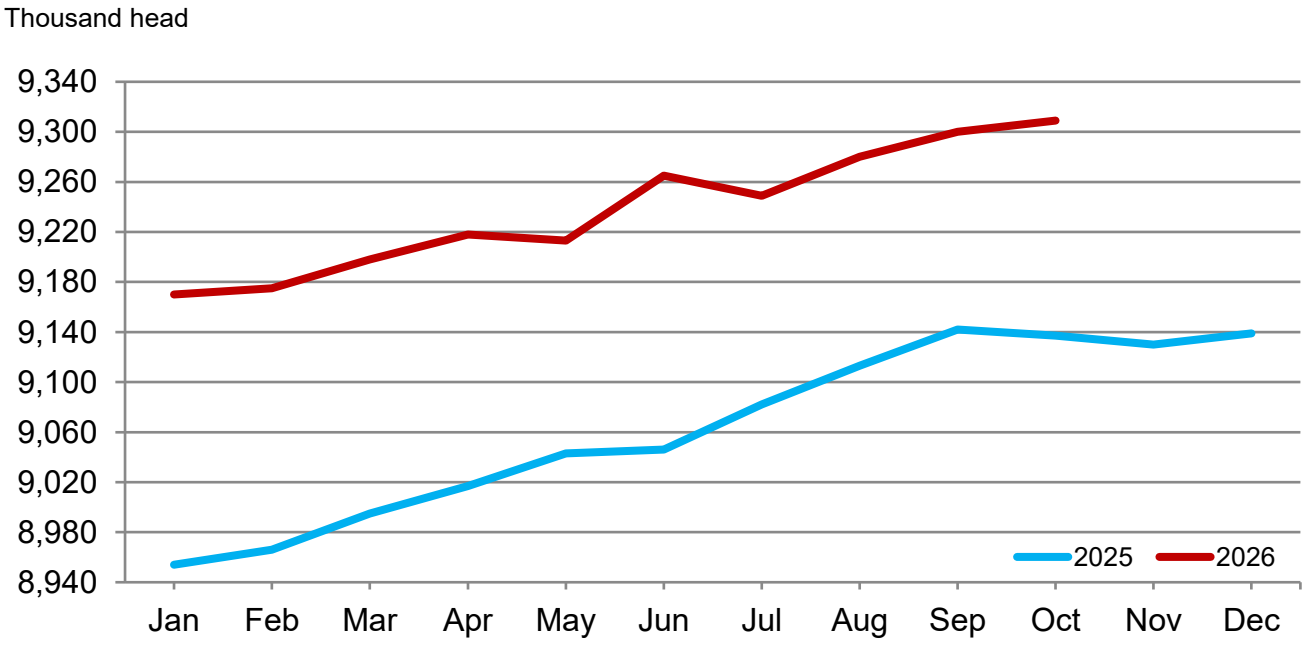
Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: October 2025 and 2026

[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	197	185	1,945	1,930	383	357	-6.8
California	1,713	1,717	1,990	1,990	3,409	3,417	0.2
Colorado	211	219	2,175	2,185	459	479	4.4
Florida	99	101	1,660	1,700	164	172	4.9
Georgia	89	91	1,980	2,040	176	186	5.7
Idaho	720	743	2,140	2,155	1,541	1,601	3.9
Illinois	77	76	1,770	1,790	136	136	-
Indiana	194	205	2,010	2,030	390	416	6.7
Iowa	246	248	2,080	2,085	512	517	1.0
Kansas	221	247	2,020	2,030	446	501	12.3
Michigan	459	472	2,330	2,340	1,069	1,104	3.3
Minnesota	455	464	1,990	2,015	905	935	3.3
New Mexico	235	235	2,020	2,035	475	478	0.6
New York	649	656	2,155	2,175	1,399	1,427	2.0
Ohio	254	255	1,885	1,895	479	483	0.8
Oregon	121	130	1,770	1,760	214	229	7.0
Pennsylvania	460	459	1,735	1,755	798	806	1.0
South Dakota	235	260	2,000	2,015	470	524	11.5
Texas	702	730	2,205	2,225	1,548	1,624	4.9
Utah	98	95	1,945	1,945	191	185	-3.1
Vermont	116	114	1,840	1,855	213	211	-0.9
Virginia	67	69	1,705	1,720	114	119	4.4
Washington	237	234	2,020	1,980	479	463	-3.3
Wisconsin	1,282	1,304	2,150	2,160	2,756	2,817	2.2
24-State Total	9,137	9,309	2,049	2,061	18,726	19,187	2.5

- Represents zero.
[1] Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.
[2] Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States



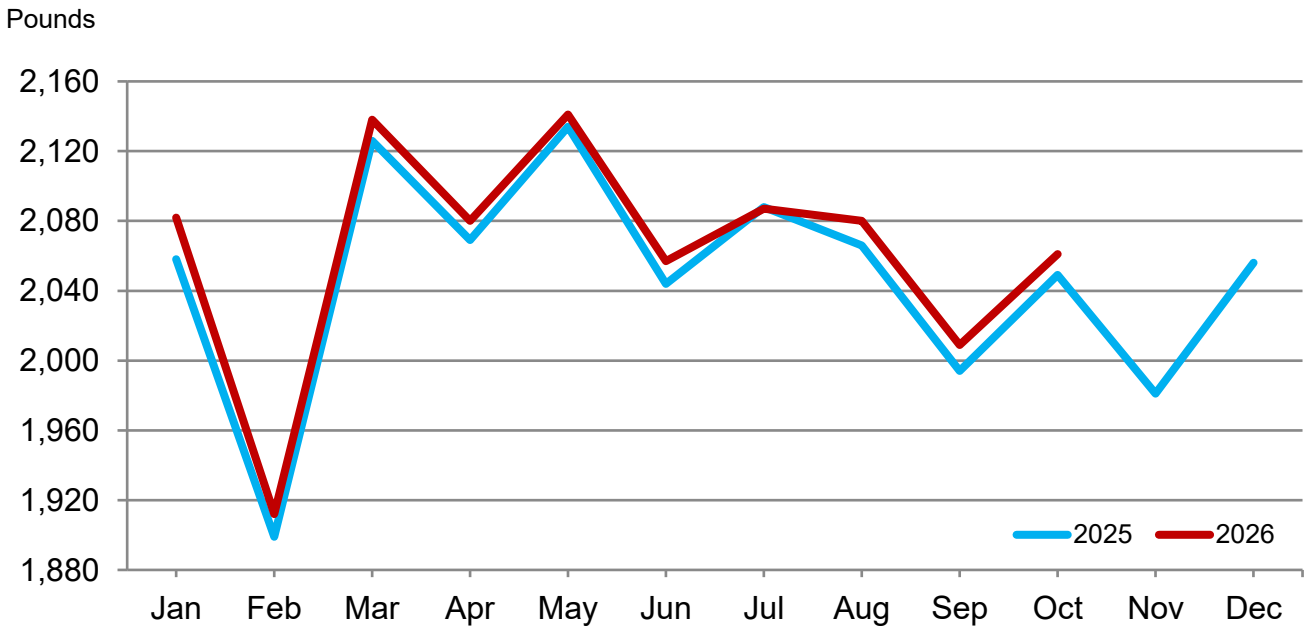
Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: September 2025 and 2026

[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	200	190	1,840	1,840	368	350	-4.9
California	1,713	1,717	1,920	1,925	3,289	3,305	0.5
Colorado	211	219	2,135	2,140	450	469	4.2
Florida	99	101	1,615	1,640	160	166	3.8
Georgia	89	92	1,885	1,950	168	179	6.5
Idaho	725	743	2,125	2,140	1,541	1,590	3.2
Illinois	79	75	1,725	1,725	136	129	-5.1
Indiana	193	204	1,950	1,980	376	404	7.4
Iowa	246	247	2,015	2,020	496	499	0.6
Kansas	219	247	1,960	1,975	429	488	13.8
Michigan	460	472	2,265	2,290	1,042	1,081	3.7
Minnesota	452	460	1,935	1,960	875	902	3.1
New Mexico	236	235	1,980	1,985	467	466	-0.2
New York	649	656	2,095	2,125	1,360	1,394	2.5
Ohio	252	252	1,820	1,830	459	461	0.4
Oregon	123	130	1,725	1,740	212	226	6.6
Pennsylvania	460	457	1,700	1,720	782	786	0.5
South Dakota	235	258	1,950	1,980	458	511	11.6
Texas	706	730	2,125	2,140	1,500	1,562	4.1
Utah	98	95	1,920	1,920	188	182	-3.2
Vermont	116	115	1,785	1,800	207	207	-
Virginia	67	67	1,665	1,670	112	112	-
Washington	234	235	1,970	1,985	461	466	1.1
Wisconsin	1,280	1,303	2,105	2,110	2,694	2,749	2.0
24-State Total	9,142	9,300	1,994	2,009	18,230	18,684	2.5

- Represents zero.
[1] Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.
[2] Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States



Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. NASS maintains a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. All known sources of producers are used to ensure that 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, statisticians 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: The Agricultural Statistics Board prepares these estimates by using a combination of survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. All data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with historical estimates.

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	57	0	161	16	7
All Milk cows	0.3	0.4	18	1	42	17	7

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

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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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