

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Quarterly Milk Production
Asia Soybean Rust

Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced an estimated 127 million pounds of milk during the January-March 2005 quarter, down 8 percent from the same period in 2004. The number of milk cows averaged 36,000 head during the quarter, down 10 percent from last year.



United States Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major states during March totaled 13.8 billion pounds, up 3.1 percent from March 2004. February's revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was down 0.5 percent from February 2004. However, production was up 3.1 percent on a per day basis after adjusting for the leap year. The February revision represented an increase of 30 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major states averaged 1,704 pounds for March, 43 pounds above March 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major states was 8.10 million head, 38,000 head more than March 2004, and 21,000 head more than February 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 43.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.0 million head, 2,000 head more than during the same period last year.

Milk Production: Selected States, January-March 2004 – 2005

| Selected States | January-March Milk Cows ¹ | | January-March Milk Production ² | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 |
| | -----Thousands----- | | -----Million Pounds----- | |
| Alabama | 17 | 16 | 71 | 63 |
| Arkansas | 25 | 23 | 86 | 82 |
| Louisiana | 40 | 36 | 139 | 127 |
| Mississippi | 28 | 26 | 109 | 109 |
| Oklahoma | 80 | 75 | 330 | 311 |
| Tennessee | 77 | 72 | 310 | 295 |
| Texas | 317 | 317 | 1,578 | 1,588 |
| 23 Major States ³ | 8,059 | 8,097 | 13,387 | 13,799 |
| United States | 8,993 | 8,995 | 42,759 | 43,238 |

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Asian Soybean Rust

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all states each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States were asked what they intend to plant during the upcoming growing season for a number of crops, including soybeans. Due to the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the United States and the heightened speculation of how growers would react to the fast-spreading, yield-reducing disease, questions were included in the March Agricultural Survey for the 31 soybean-producing states to measure farmer awareness of Asian soybean rust and how its discovery has affected their planting decisions for the 2005 crop.

Soybeans: Asian Rust Awareness by State and United States, Percent of All Farms and Farms Reporting Soybean Intentions, March 2005

| Selected States | Have you seen, read, or heard any information about Asian Rust? | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| | All Farms | | | Farms Reporting Soybean Intentions | | |
| | Yes | No | Don't Know | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Alabama | 32 | 58 | 10 | 91 | 9 | * |
| Arkansas | 38 | 58 | 4 | 88 | 10 | 2 |
| Delaware | 22 | 65 | 13 | 59 | 3 | 38 |
| Florida | 3 | 97 | * | 72 | 25 | 3 |
| Georgia | 30 | 70 | * | 90 | 10 | * |
| Illinois | 89 | 9 | 2 | 98 | 2 | * |
| Indiana | 62 | 32 | 6 | 81 | 18 | 1 |
| Iowa | 87 | 6 | 7 | 94 | 2 | 4 |
| Kansas | 61 | 32 | 7 | 89 | 8 | 3 |
| Kentucky | 35 | 64 | 1 | 65 | 29 | 6 |
| Louisiana | 52 | 25 | 23 | 91 | 4 | 5 |
| Maryland | 35 | 53 | 12 | 91 | 9 | * |
| Michigan | 36 | 61 | 3 | 93 | 6 | 1 |
| Minnesota | 59 | 33 | 8 | 82 | 13 | 5 |
| Mississippi | 42 | 57 | 1 | 88 | 12 | * |
| Missouri | 62 | 31 | 7 | 93 | 6 | 1 |
| Nebraska | 86 | 13 | 1 | 96 | 3 | 1 |
| New Jersey | 33 | 67 | * | 86 | 12 | 2 |
| New York | 22 | 76 | 2 | 75 | 23 | 2 |
| North Carolina | 37 | 63 | * | 84 | 16 | * |
| North Dakota | 60 | 32 | 8 | 96 | 4 | * |
| Ohio | 48 | 39 | 13 | 92 | 5 | 3 |
| Oklahoma | 24 | 74 | 2 | 70 | 29 | 1 |
| Pennsylvania | 34 | 66 | * | 87 | 12 | 1 |
| South Carolina | 38 | 58 | 4 | 82 | 18 | * |
| South Dakota | 76 | 20 | 4 | 95 | 5 | * |
| Tennessee | 26 | 71 | 3 | 85 | 9 | 6 |
| Texas | 15 | 76 | 9 | 69 | 28 | 3 |
| Virginia | 21 | 78 | 1 | 86 | 14 | * |
| West Virginia | 28 | 65 | 7 | 91 | 5 | 4 |
| Wisconsin | 63 | 26 | 11 | 78 | 8 | 14 |
| United States | 43 | 51 | 6 | 89 | 8 | 3 |

*Data rounds to less than 0.5 percent.

The Louisiana Farm Reporter (ISSN-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Periodicals Postage is Paid in Baton Rouge, LA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038.

Internet Access:

*For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication go to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm> or visit our homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/la/>

Periodical postage
is paid at
Jackson, MS 39201

Louisiana
Agricultural
Statistics
Service



Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
(225) 922-1362
5825 Florida Blvd., PO Box 65038
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038