



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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## ***JANUARY - MARCH 2006 MILK PRODUCTION UP***

**SIOUX FALLS, April 18, 2006** -- The **January - March 2006** quarterly milk production for South Dakota totaled 364 million pounds, 4 percent above last year's 350 million pounds and 2 percent above last quarter, according to the South Dakota office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

During the first quarter of 2006, the **average number of milk cows**, at 81,000, is unchanged from last year. This is also unchanged from last quarter.

During 2005, the number of **milk cows** averaged 81,000, up 1,000 head from the previous year. **Milk produced per cow** averaged 17,741 pounds, up from 16,838 pounds in 2004. **Total milk** produced in 2005, at 1,437 million pounds, was up 7 percent from 2004.

*Access this complete report at:*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/dairy/pmp-bb/2006/mkpr0406.pdf>