

**Washington's 2004 Cash Receipts from Milk Reaches Record High**

**Milk Production:** Dairy farmers in Washington in 2004 realized record cash receipts from marketings of their milk. The total was a reported \$857 million compared with \$843 in 1998, the previous record high. Whereas milk production in 2004 dipped to 5.42 billion pounds, compared with 5.58 billion pounds the previous year, average returns were \$15.90 per hundredweight, tying the previous record, also set in 1998. Annual milk fat was a 3.68 percent, the highest level since 1992's 3.70 percent.

An average 237,000 cows were milked in 2004, a drop of 12,000 head from 2003. Despite a drop in milk cows, the annual average was 22,852 pounds per cow, up 18 pounds per cow from 2003.

Yakima County has the highest number of milk cows, rising from 62,200 head on January 1, 2002 to 67,600 on January 1, 2005. Whatcom County continues to show a loss of cows. During the period January 1, 2001 to January 1, 2005, milk cow numbers dropped from 62,900 head to 54,000 head.

**Milk Production and Disposition, Washington, 1995-2004**

Year	Production <sup>1</sup>			Disposition				
	Fat in All Milk Produced	Total		Milk Used Where Produced			Total Quantity <sup>2</sup>	Fluid Grade <sup>3</sup>
		Milk	Milkfat	Fed to Calves <sup>1</sup>	Milk, Cream, Butter	Total		
	Percent	Mil Pounds	Mil Pounds	Mil Pounds	Mil Pounds	Mil Pounds	Mil Pounds	Mil Pounds
1995	3.63	5,302	192.5	28	1	29	5,273	100
1996	3.64	5,279	192.2	27	1	28	5,251	100
1997	3.64	5,305	193.1	30	1	31	5,274	100
1998	3.66	5,326	194.9	26	1	27	5,299	100
1999	3.65	5,535	202.0	29	1	30	5,505	100
2000	3.65	5,593	204.1	35	2	37	5,556	100
2001	3.66	5,514	201.8	33	1	34	5,480	100
2002	3.67	5,620	206.3	27	1	28	5,592	100
2003	3.66	5,581	204.3	27	2	29	5,552	100
<b>2004</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>5,416</b>	<b>199.3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5,390</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>2</sup> Milk sold to plants and dealers as whole milk and equivalent amounts of milk for cream. Includes milk produced by dealers' own herds and milk sold directly to consumers. Also includes milk produced by institutional herds.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage of milk sold that is eligible for fluid use (Grade A in most States). Includes fluid-grade milk used in manufacturing dairy products.