

August Milk Production

Wisconsin milk production totaled 2.07 billion pounds in August, up 19 million pounds from a year ago. Milk per cow averaged 1,655 pounds, 10 pounds higher than last August. The number of milk cows in the state, at 1.25 million, was unchanged from July, but 4,000 more than last year. As of September 1, 2008, Wisconsin has 13,603 licensed milk cow herds, down 32 from last month and down 456 from September 2007.

Milk production in August in the 23 major states grew by 2 percent over the previous year, totaling 14.5 billion pounds. Milk per cow averaged 1,717 pounds, down 2 pounds from last August. The number of milk cows, at 8.47 million head, was down 3,000 from last month but up 137,000 head from a year ago.

The number of cows in California continued to decrease this month. Although they had 24,000 more cows than last August, they had 3,000 fewer cows than last month. Both Idaho and New Mexico decreased their number of cows by 1,000 head compared to July. On the other hand, Pennsylvania, which had been losing cows every month this year, added 2,000 cows. The number of cows in Texas increased by 2,000 head, as well.

Texas continued to experience double-digit growth in milk production, rising 17 percent in August from the previous year. Idaho and New Mexico also had significant increases in production of 6 and 5 percent, respectively. California and Pennsylvania both showed a decrease in production of 2 percent.

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State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Pro- duc- tion % chng 2008/07
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
WI	1,248	1,252	1,645	1,655	2,053	2,072	+1
CA	1,819	1,843	1,900	1,840	3,456	3,391	-2
ID	520	555	1,970	1,960	1,024	1,088	+6
MI	338	348	1,915	1,840	647	640	-1
MN	463	465	1,555	1,560	720	725	+1
NM	335	337	1,855	1,935	621	652	+5
NY	625	626	1,640	1,690	1,025	1,058	+3
PA	550	548	1,610	1,590	886	871	-2
TX	348	385	1,670	1,770	581	681	+17
23-state total	8,330	8,467	1,719	1,717	14,323	14,539	+2

1/Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO.