

NEWS RELEASE

**Milk Production
January 18, 2005**

North Dakota October-December Milk Production

North Dakota

Milk production for the October-December, 2004 quarter is estimated at 127 million pounds, down 4 million pounds from the same period for 2003, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Average milk cows during the quarter, at 33,000 head, decreased 1,000 head from both the same period for 2003 and the previous July-September, 2004, quarter. Milk produced per cow during the October-December quarter was 3,860 pounds, down from 3,865 pounds a year earlier and 3,950 pounds during the July-September quarter.

United States

Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.9 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from the October-December quarter for 2003. Production per cow during the October-December quarter averaged 4,646 pounds, up from 4,609 pounds the same quarter for 2003. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.02 million head, 7,000 head more than the same period for 2003.

Milk Production: October - December

State ^{1/}	Milk Cows ^{2/}		Milk Production ^{3/}		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change from 2003
	-- 1,000 Head --		-- Million Pounds --		Percent
North Dakota	34	33	131	127	-3.1
California	1,696	1,741	8,695	9,130	5.0
Minnesota	465	460	1,993	1,974	-1.0
New York	661	647	2,871	2,826	-1.6
Wisconsin	1,249	1,237	5,444	5,418	-0.5
United States	9,011	9,018	41,532	41,895	0.9

1/ Published are a few selected states from the National release. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

For More Information Contact:

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