



# Farm Facts

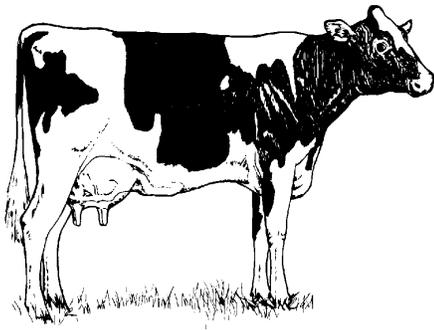


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## Tennessee's January-March Milk Production Down 7 Percent



**Tennessee Milk Production:** January-March 2003 quarterly production of milk was 325 million pounds, down 7 percent from the January-March period in 2002. The average number of milk cows was 82,000 head, 8,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

October-December 2002 quarterly production of milk at 305 million pounds, was down 5 percent from the October-December period in 2001. The average number of milk cows for the quarter was 84,000 head, 5,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

**Milk Cows and Production: Selected States and United States, Preliminary January-March, 2002-2003**

State	Jan-Mar Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Jan-Mar Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		Change From 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
Alabama	20	18	79	70	-11.4
Arkansas	33	30	107	96	-10.3
Georgia	85	85	395	399	1.0
Kentucky	123	120	432	392	-9.3
Mississippi	34	32	139	122	-12.2
Missouri	139	133	513	495	-3.5
North Carolina	65	62	298	279	-6.4
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
Virginia	120	118	496	463	-6.7
United States	9,112	9,155	42,397	42,958	1.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. <sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**United States:** Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from March 2002. February revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from February 2002. The February revision represented a decrease of 8 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,664 pounds for March, 10 pounds above March 2002. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 67,000 head more than March 2002, and 2,000 head more than February 2003.

**January-March Milk Production:** Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 43.0 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

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**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, Average Live Weight, Pounds Certified, and Post-Mortem Condemnations, by Month and Annual Total, Tennessee, 2002**

Month	Number Slaughtered	Live Weight	Average Live Weight	Pounds Certified <sup>1</sup>	Post-Mortem Condemnations	
					NY Dressed Weight	Percent <sup>2</sup>
	1,000 Head	1,000 Pounds	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Percent
Jan	20,940	100,035	4.78	73,075	777	0.86
Feb	18,683	87,172	4.67	62,568	649	0.83
Mar	19,002	89,802	4.73	65,447	633	0.78
Apr	19,852	92,620	4.67	66,630	651	0.78
May	20,810	100,965	4.85	73,265	674	0.74
Jun	18,812	91,174	4.85	66,242	605	0.74
Jul	20,326	95,731	4.71	69,523	638	0.74
Aug	19,767	93,261	4.72	68,407	675	0.80
Sep	18,782	89,797	4.78	64,797	579	0.72
Oct	20,882	100,881	4.83	69,053	645	0.71
Nov	17,553	84,698	4.83	58,083	530	0.69
Dec	15,641	83,500	5.34	61,423	682	0.91
Total	231,050	1,109,636	4.80	798,513	7,738	0.77

<sup>1</sup> Total chilled and frozen pounds certified, ready-to-cook weights. <sup>2</sup> Pounds condemned as a percent of N.Y. dressed weight inspected.

**U.S. Egg Production:** U.S. egg production totaled 7.36 billion during March 2003, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,181 eggs, down 1 percent from March 2002.

**Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced, Selected States and United States, During March 2002 and 2003**

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	2,578	2,360	10,410	9,856	1,912	1,928
Arkansas	4,977	4,722	15,235	15,731	1,897	1,894
Georgia	10,864	11,287	20,420	20,734	2,120	2,088
North Carolina	3,214	3,300	11,330	11,152	1,906	1,928
All Other States <sup>2</sup>	249,823	250,243	280,052	280,125	2,242	2,223
United States	271,456	271,912	337,447	337,598	2,198	2,181

<sup>1</sup> Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. <sup>2</sup> Tennessee included in other states.

**U.S. Livestock Slaughter:** Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.70 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 3.68 billion pounds produced in March 2002. March 2003 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, up 1 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 1,234 pounds, down 7 pounds from March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 85,100 head, up 10 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 323 pounds, down 1 pounds from March a year ago. Hog kill totaled 8.15 million head, 2 percent above March 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, up 1 pound from March a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 264,100 head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from March a year ago.

**Livestock Slaughter<sup>1</sup>: United States, March 2002 and 2003**

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	2,738	2,770	3,397,480	3,417,508	1,241	1,234
Calves	77	85	25,062	27,464	324	323
Hogs	7,987	8,152	2,132,885	2,181,874	267	268
Sheep & lambs	324	264	44,622	36,411	138	138

<sup>1</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

**National Agricultural Summary**  
**April 14 - April 20, 2003**

**Highlights:** Field preparation and planting resumed in the Southeast and Tennessee Valley as excess moisture gradually drained from soggy fields. Warmer-than-normal temperatures early in the week encouraged farmers to prepare soils for planting many areas of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Later in the week, rainfall brought nearly all fieldwork to a halt, then high temperatures and strong winds negated much of the benefit from the showers activity in some areas. The precipitation in the Rocky Mountains provided slight improvement to the crop condition and soil moisture. Excellent weather along the Gulf Coast allowed field activity to escalate. Late season showers provided relief to the Pacific Coast and Great Basin, while delaying fieldwork and planting.

**Corn:** Planting was 12-percent complete, the same as this time last year but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Ideal weather conditions supported rapid progress in Tennessee and Kentucky. Planting was very active in the central Great Plains and middle Mississippi Valley. Cool soil temperature continued to delay planting in Iowa, Michigan, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Planting also progressed slightly below the 5-year average in Colorado. Planting resumed as the soil dried in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, where North Carolina growers were 24 percentage points behind last year's pace.

**Cotton:** Planting advanced to 12-percent complete, 2 percentage points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Planting progress in California and Arizona increased significantly even though below normal temperatures were reported. The cold, wet winter continued to delay planting in North Carolina. Drying fields allowed planting in the Delta. Land preparations in Texas continued in the Panhandle as producers pre-irrigated and applied herbicides. Moisture shortages were common in central, northern, and western areas.

**Corn: Percent Planted, Selected States <sup>1</sup>**

State	Week Ending			1998-2002 Avg.
	Apr 20, 2003	Apr 13, 2003	Apr 20, 2002	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	3	1	3	4
IL	21	3	16	13
IN	9	1	2	5
IA	3	0	10	4
KS	27	16	24	21
KY	44	22	28	33
MI	1	0	1	1
MN	3	0	3	3
MO	48	30	48	35
NE	4	1	7	5
NC	32	16	56	53
ND	2	0	0	1
OH	4	0	2	4
PA	1	0	6	3
SD	0	0	1	1
<b>TN</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>51</b>
TX	68	63	65	59
WI	0	0	0	1
18 Sts.	12	5	12	10

<sup>1</sup> These 18 States planted 92% of last year's corn acreage.

**Cotton: Percent Planted, Selected States <sup>1</sup>**

State	Week Ending			1998-2002 Avg.
	April 20, 2003	Apr 13, 2003	Apr 20, 2001	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	13	5	20	17
AZ	35	17	51	42
AR	1	0	5	2
CA	30	17	56	44
GA	3	1	11	8
LA	6	0	8	7
MS	10	0	4	5
MO	4	1	9	4
NC	0	0	6	5
OK	3	0	1	2
SC	1	1	13	8
<b>TN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
TX	18	15	16	14
VA	0	0	5	4
14 Sts.	12	8	14	12

<sup>1</sup> These 14 States planted 98% of last year's cotton acreage.

For the complete report go to: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/weather/2003/>.

## U.S. Fresh and Processed Vegetables

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the spring quarter is forecast at 217,100 acres, up 2 percent from last year. Acreage decreases for snap beans, carrots, and head lettuce were more than offset by acreage increases for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, bell peppers, and tomatoes. Celery acreage remained the same. Melon acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 78,800 acres, up 1 percent from last year's comparable States. Cantaloup acreage is up 2 percent from a year ago. Honeydew acreage is unchanged. Watermelon acreage is down 1 percent from comparable States in 2002. Asparagus acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 59,000 acres, down 11 percent from last year. Strawberry acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 33,700 acres, up 4 percent from comparable States in 2002.

Processors expect to contract 1.28 million acres of the five major processed vegetable crops in the U.S. this year, virtually unchanged from last year. Acreage increases are forecast for cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes while snap beans and sweet corn show decreases. Freezing firms expect a 2 percent decrease from 2002, with 411,300 acres under contract. Green pea acreage is up 4 percent from 2002. Sweet corn acreage is down 3 percent. Snap bean acreage is down 8 percent from last year. Canneries contracted for 873,100 acres, up 1 percent from 2002. Sweet corn acreage is up 1 percent, cucumbers for pickles, up 20 percent, and green pea acreage is up 10 percent from a year ago. Tomato acreage is up less than 1 percent. Acreage for snap beans is down 13 percent from last season. Total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2003 is forecast at 161,960 acres, down 4 percent from last year. Spring Onions will be harvested from 33,500 acres in 2003, down 2 percent from 2002. Georgia and Texas combined production is forecast at 6.81 million cwt, 10 percent above last year. Summer non-storage onion planted acreage, at 23,200 acres, is up 1 percent. Total summer onion acreage, at 127,060 acres, is down 2 percent from the previous year.

## Water Quality Grants Available

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Nonpoint Source Program (TDA-NPS) is seeking to partner with other agencies and organizations to fund projects that improve water quality and reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution.

"The purpose of the NSP is to make a real difference in the quality of our water resources by reducing sediment, chemicals, and other runoff," said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. "This is a great opportunity for local governments and agencies to partner with the department in addressing water quality problems and to improve water stewardship in their area." Local governments, regional agencies, public institutions, private nonprofit organizations and other state agencies are eligible to apply for federal dollars administered by TDA-NPS. Priority will be given to those projects that seek to make measurable improvements to waters impaired by nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution is soil, urban runoff, fertilizers, chemicals, and other contaminants that come from many different sources and degrade surface and groundwater quality. The deadline for submitting a grant proposal is July 1. Proposals will be evaluated based on program goals and objectives, performance evaluation criteria and applicable EPA Nonpoint Source grant guidelines. Applications can be found online at <http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/nps> by scrolling down to "Request for Proposals FY 2004," or calling TDA's Nonpoint Pollution Program at (615) 837-5495, or via e-mail at [Non.Point@state.tn.us](mailto:Non.Point@state.tn.us).