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## February Milk Production down 1.3 Percent

**Milk production** in the 24 major States during February totaled 16.8 billion pounds, down 1.3 percent from February 2020. However, production was 2.3 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production, at 18.4 billion pounds, was up 2.6 percent from January 2020. The January revision represented an increase of 150 million pounds or 0.8 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 24 major States averaged 1,882 pounds for February, 44 pounds below February 2020.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 24 major States was 8.94 million head, 88,000 head more than February 2020, and 2,000 head more than January 2021.

## February Milk Production in the United States down 1.5 Percent

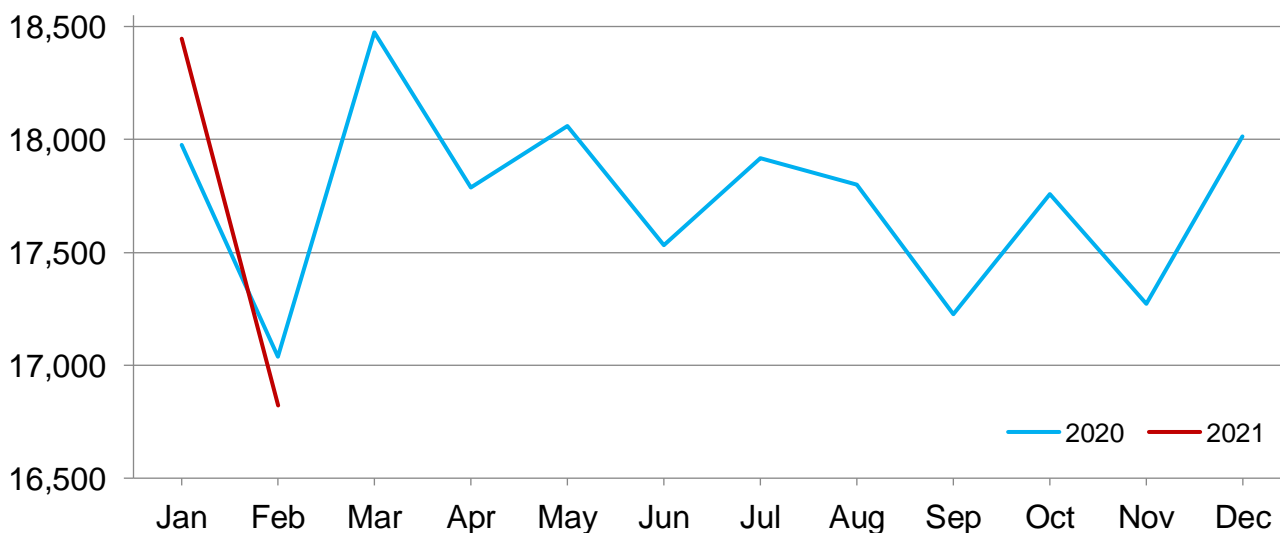
**Milk production** in the United States during February totaled 17.6 billion pounds, down 1.5 percent from February 2020. However, production was 2.0 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year.

**Production per cow** in the United States averaged 1,864 pounds for February, 44 pounds below February 2020.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the United States was 9.46 million head, 81,000 head more than February 2020, and 3,000 head more than January 2021.

## Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter - United States: 2020-2021

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Quarter	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Change from 2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March .....	9,378		5,990		56,174		
April-June .....	9,364		5,988		56,070		
July-September .....	9,380		5,908		55,419		
October-December .....	9,429		5,892		55,557		
Annual .....	9,388		23,777		223,220		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2020-2021

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Change from 2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,837	8,934	2,034	2,065	17,974	18,446	2.6
February .....	8,848	8,936	1,926	1,882	17,038	16,822	-1.3
March .....	8,861		2,085		18,474		
April .....	8,855		2,009		17,787		
May .....	8,838		2,044		18,061		
June .....	8,834		1,984		17,530		
July .....	8,854		2,024		17,919		
August .....	8,857		2,010		17,799		
September .....	8,877		1,941		17,226		
October .....	8,897		1,996		17,758		
November .....	8,914		1,938		17,274		
December .....	8,923		2,019		18,012		
Annual .....	8,866		24,008		212,852		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2020-2021

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Change from 2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,365	9,455	2,016	2,044	18,877	19,325	2.4
February .....	9,377	9,458	1,908	1,864	17,895	17,630	-1.5
March .....	9,391		2,066		19,402		
April .....	9,377		1,993		18,684		
May .....	9,360		2,027		18,972		
June .....	9,355		1,968		18,414		
July .....	9,372		2,001		18,756		
August .....	9,374		1,988		18,632		
September .....	9,395		1,919		18,031		
October .....	9,414		1,976		18,603		
November .....	9,432		1,919		18,103		
December .....	9,442		1,997		18,851		
Annual .....	9,388		23,777		223,220		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: February 2020 and 2021

[May not add due to rounding]

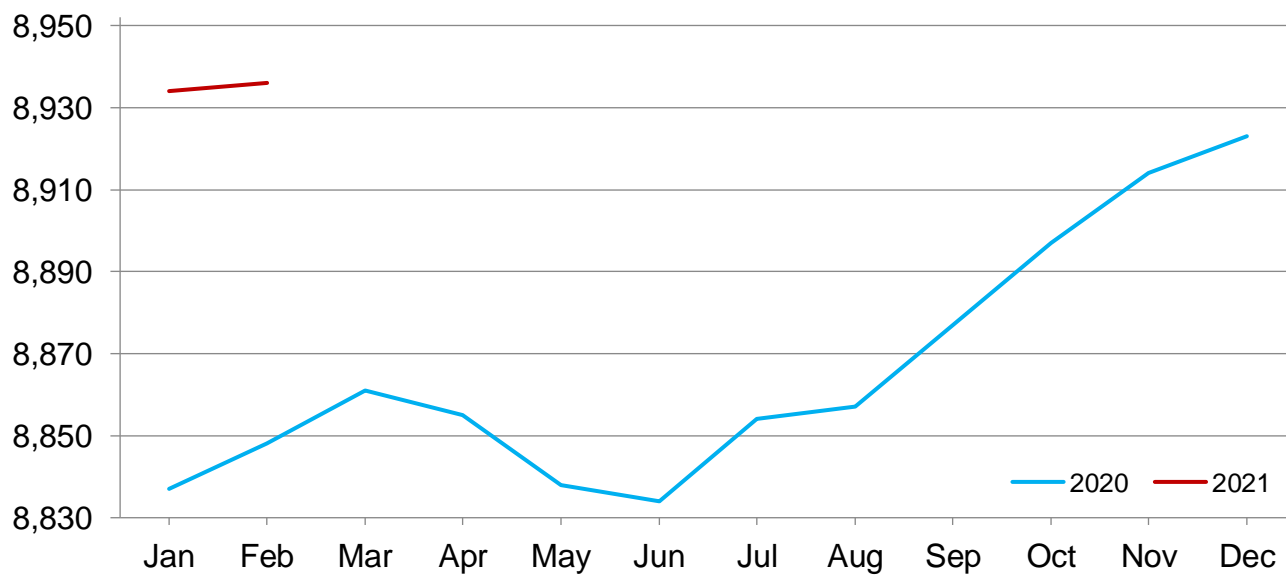
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2020 (percent)
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	
Arizona .....	198	197	2,100	2,020	416	398	-4.3
California .....	1,723	1,720	1,960	1,935	3,377	3,328	-1.5
Colorado .....	193	203	2,065	1,990	399	404	1.3
Florida .....	116	109	1,770	1,725	205	188	-8.3
Georgia .....	82	80	1,855	1,815	152	145	-4.6
Idaho .....	645	648	1,965	1,895	1,267	1,228	-3.1
Illinois .....	82	84	1,790	1,725	147	145	-1.4
Indiana .....	176	193	1,870	1,820	329	351	6.7
Iowa .....	217	222	1,975	1,900	429	422	-1.6
Kansas .....	169	174	1,905	1,860	322	324	0.6
Michigan .....	427	440	2,150	2,090	918	920	0.2
Minnesota .....	445	457	1,780	1,770	792	809	2.1
New Mexico .....	333	336	2,025	1,955	674	657	-2.5
New York .....	626	626	1,945	1,910	1,218	1,196	-1.8
Ohio .....	253	260	1,760	1,700	445	442	-0.7
Oregon .....	127	125	1,660	1,605	211	201	-4.7
Pennsylvania .....	483	475	1,725	1,680	833	798	-4.2
South Dakota .....	129	142	1,835	1,765	237	251	5.9
Texas .....	585	615	2,005	1,940	1,173	1,193	1.7
Utah .....	97	96	1,820	1,765	177	169	-4.5
Vermont .....	124	120	1,725	1,660	214	199	-7.0
Virginia .....	76	74	1,670	1,600	127	118	-7.1
Washington .....	282	278	1,930	1,845	544	513	-5.7
Wisconsin .....	1,260	1,262	1,930	1,920	2,432	2,423	-0.4
24-State Total .....	8,848	8,936	1,926	1,882	17,038	16,822	-1.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: January 2020 and 2021

[May not add due to rounding]

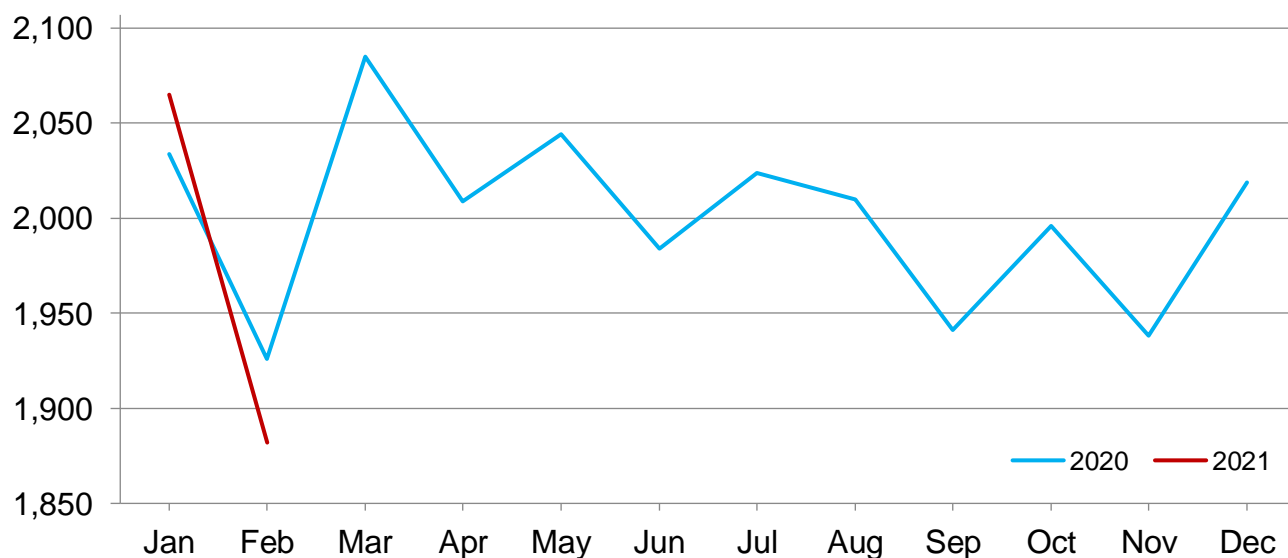
	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2020
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	196	197	2,140	2,150	419	424	1.2
California .....	1,724	1,720	2,050	2,095	3,534	3,603	2.0
Colorado .....	191	203	2,210	2,215	422	450	6.6
Florida .....	116	109	1,850	1,825	215	199	-7.4
Georgia .....	82	80	1,965	1,965	161	157	-2.5
Idaho .....	645	648	2,090	2,095	1,348	1,358	0.7
Illinois .....	82	84	1,870	1,870	153	157	2.6
Indiana .....	176	193	1,970	2,000	347	386	11.2
Iowa .....	215	222	2,105	2,105	453	467	3.1
Kansas .....	169	174	2,035	2,065	344	359	4.4
Michigan .....	427	440	2,280	2,310	974	1,016	4.3
Minnesota .....	445	457	1,885	1,955	839	893	6.4
New Mexico .....	333	337	2,135	2,140	711	721	1.4
New York .....	625	625	2,065	2,090	1,291	1,306	1.2
Ohio .....	253	259	1,855	1,875	469	486	3.6
Oregon .....	127	125	1,755	1,760	223	220	-1.3
Pennsylvania .....	480	475	1,805	1,840	866	874	0.9
South Dakota .....	128	142	1,950	1,955	250	278	11.2
Texas .....	585	615	2,145	2,150	1,255	1,322	5.3
Utah .....	96	95	1,935	1,945	186	185	-0.5
Vermont .....	124	120	1,825	1,835	226	220	-2.7
Virginia .....	76	74	1,765	1,760	134	130	-3.0
Washington .....	282	278	2,045	2,035	577	566	-1.9
Wisconsin .....	1,260	1,262	2,045	2,115	2,577	2,669	3.6
24-State Total .....	8,837	8,934	2,034	2,065	17,974	18,446	2.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States

Pounds



## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. Individual States maintain a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. States use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. Generally, all large producers and a sample of small producers are included in the survey. Questionnaires are mailed to producers near the end of the month to obtain data for the first day of the month. Additional reports are obtained by telephone, as needed, to supplement the mail response. Where feasible, States utilize state and federal administrative data to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies such as Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Dairy Market News. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Survey.

**Estimation Procedures:** Regional Field Offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Milk production, milk per cow, and number of milk cows are subject to revision the following month after initial publication for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, administrative data from Federal Market Orders, State Departments of Agriculture, or other sources are the main basis for revisions. However, administrative data for all States may not be available in time for these revisions. Estimates are again subject to revisions in February each year based on additional administrative data. In the event that additional changes are necessary, a third revision is possible in February the following year. Estimates are again reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions are made after that date.

**Reliability:** Since all operations with dairy animals are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for the 24 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 16.8 billion pounds by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.7 percent.

### Reliability of Monthly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production .....	0.4	0.7	54	0	150	17	6
All Milk cows .....	0.1	0.2	10	0	26	19	4

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Logan Hartley – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106

## Access to NASS Reports

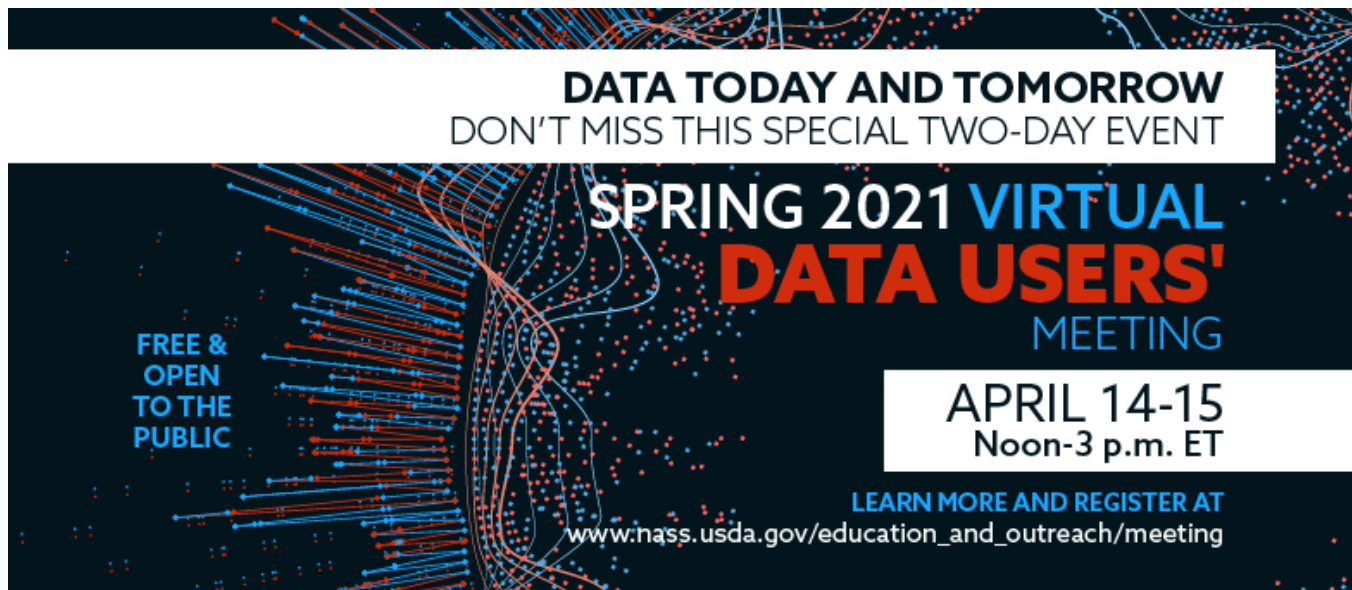
For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist [notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu](mailto:notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu) in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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## USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting

**Virtual Meeting**  
**April 14 and 15, 2021**  
**12:00 – 3:00 pm ET**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold a virtual meeting for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. Along with NASS, the 2021 Spring Data Users' Meeting will headline the Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Representatives will provide agency updates, answer questions, and listen to concerns from data users.

### Abbreviated Agenda

#### Day 1 – April 14

Agency Updates– *All agencies*

AMS Market News - *Agricultural Marketing Service*

World Board Meteorology - *World Agricultural Outlook Board*

NASS Grain Stocks Program - *National Agricultural Statistics Service*

Foreign Production, Trade, and Import/Export Data - *World Agricultural Outlook Board, Foreign Agricultural Service, and U.S. Census Bureau*

#### Day 2 – April 15

Open Forum – *All agencies*

NASS Modernization - *National Agricultural Statistics Service*

ERS Research - *Economic Research Service*

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/Meeting/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php)).