



Milk Production

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May Milk Production up 2.1 Percent

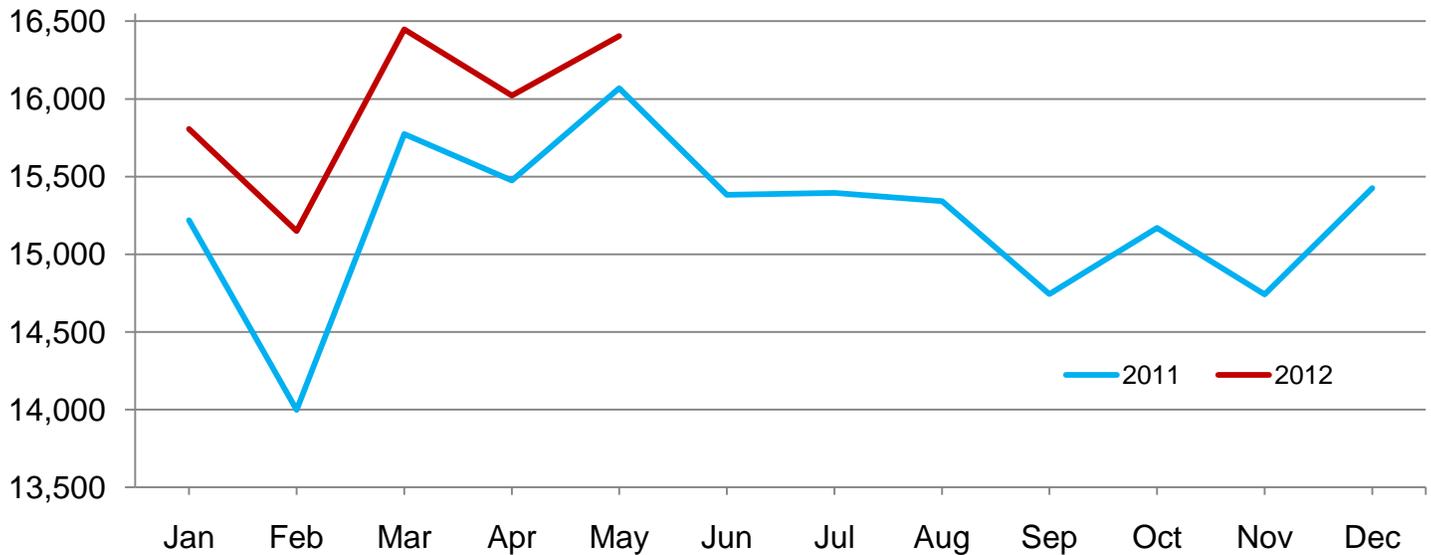
Milk production in the 23 major States during May totaled 16.4 billion pounds, up 2.1 percent from May 2011. April revised production at 16.0 billion pounds, was up 3.5 percent from April 2011. The April revision represented an increase of 38 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,924 pounds for May, 22 pounds above May 2011.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.52 million head, 77,000 head more than May 2011, but 3,000 head less than April 2012.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2011-2012

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,168	9,254	5,286	5,510	48,459	50,990	5.2
April-June	9,191		5,489		50,448		
July-September	9,200		5,292		48,684		
October-December	9,216		5,279		48,654		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 23 Selected States, 2011-2012

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,405	8,502	1,811	1,859	15,219	15,806	3.9
February	8,408	8,510	1,665	1,780	13,997	15,149	8.2
March	8,425	8,521	1,872	1,930	15,773	16,447	4.3
April	8,431	8,527	1,835	1,879	15,475	16,021	3.5
May	8,447	8,524	1,902	1,924	16,069	16,404	2.1
June	8,450		1,820		15,382		
July	8,459		1,820		15,395		
August	8,463		1,813		15,342		
September	8,466		1,742		14,744		
October	8,475		1,790		15,170		
November	8,475		1,739		14,742		
December	8,485		1,818		15,426		
Annual	8,449		21,627		182,734		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2011-2012

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,160	9,242	1,790	1,840	16,393	17,001	3.7
February	9,163	9,254	1,645	1,761	15,077	16,297	8.1
March	9,180	9,267	1,851	1,909	16,989	17,692	4.1
April	9,182	9,274	1,814	1,857	16,652	17,225	3.4
May	9,194	9,270	1,879	1,901	17,278	17,625	2.0
June	9,196		1,796		16,518		
July	9,198		1,792		16,479		
August	9,200		1,785		16,422		
September	9,201		1,715		15,783		
October	9,212		1,767		16,278		
November	9,213		1,717		15,820		
December	9,223		1,795		16,556		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: May 2011 and 2012

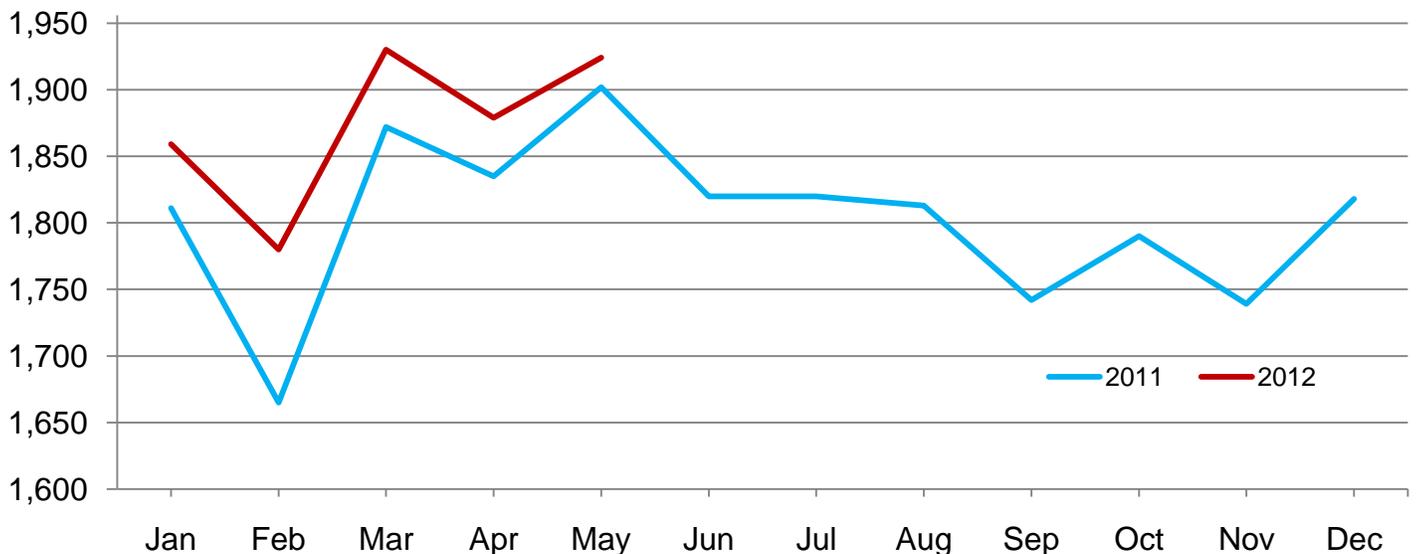
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	186	194	2,140	2,155	398	418	5.0
California	1,767	1,783	2,080	2,100	3,675	3,744	1.9
Colorado	126	132	2,040	2,105	257	278	8.2
Florida	119	123	1,725	1,785	205	220	7.3
Idaho	578	578	1,980	2,030	1,144	1,173	2.5
Illinois	98	100	1,700	1,720	167	172	3.0
Indiana	171	176	1,825	1,855	312	326	4.5
Iowa	208	206	1,860	1,855	387	382	-1.3
Kansas	122	124	1,855	1,895	226	235	4.0
Michigan	364	375	2,040	2,050	743	769	3.5
Minnesota	468	465	1,680	1,690	786	786	
Missouri	96	94	1,360	1,390	131	131	
New Mexico	327	337	2,180	2,145	713	723	1.4
New York	610	610	1,845	1,890	1,125	1,153	2.5
Ohio	268	271	1,680	1,735	450	470	4.4
Oregon	121	123	1,790	1,805	217	222	2.3
Pennsylvania	543	536	1,730	1,715	939	919	-2.1
Texas	430	440	1,955	1,925	841	847	0.7
Utah	87	91	1,810	1,865	157	170	8.3
Vermont	135	133	1,655	1,675	223	223	
Virginia	96	96	1,585	1,585	152	152	
Washington	261	266	2,055	2,075	536	552	3.0
Wisconsin	1,266	1,271	1,805	1,840	2,285	2,339	2.4
23-State Total	8,447	8,524	1,902	1,924	16,069	16,404	2.1

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: April 2011 and 2012

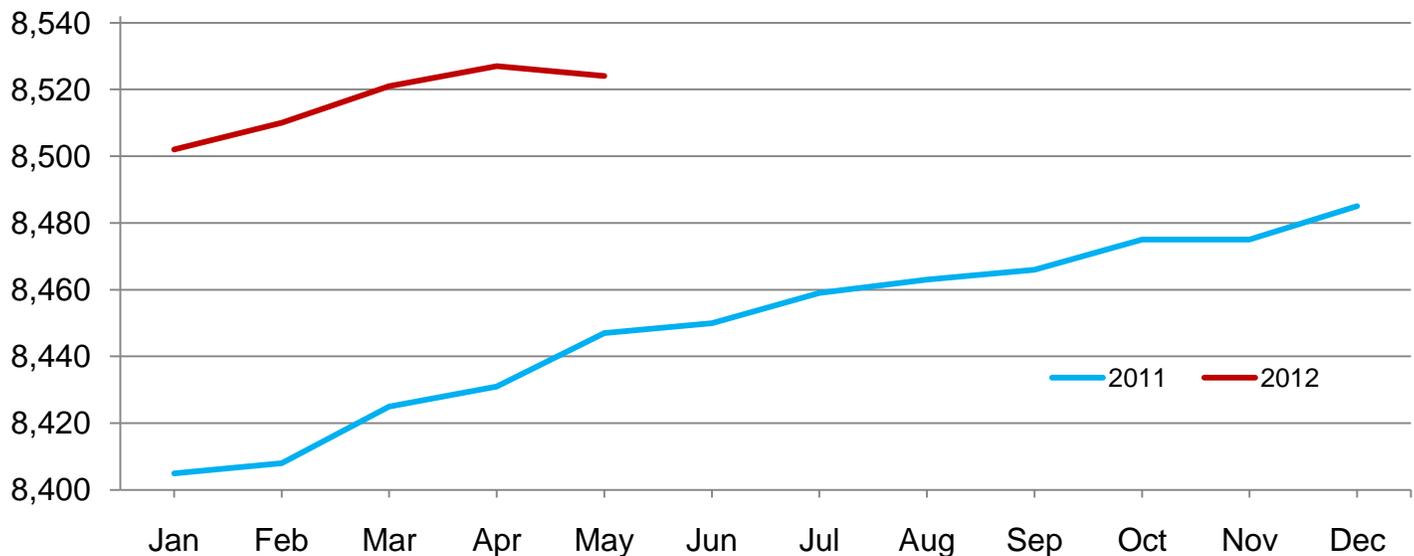
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	187	194	2,125	2,155	397	418	5.3
California	1,764	1,785	1,995	2,035	3,519	3,632	3.2
Colorado	126	132	1,985	2,030	250	268	7.2
Florida	119	123	1,740	1,800	207	221	6.8
Idaho	576	578	1,870	1,910	1,077	1,104	2.5
Illinois	98	100	1,680	1,730	165	173	4.8
Indiana	172	176	1,775	1,830	305	322	5.6
Iowa	209	207	1,780	1,855	372	384	3.2
Kansas	122	124	1,805	1,870	220	232	5.5
Michigan	362	376	1,955	2,000	708	752	6.2
Minnesota	469	465	1,620	1,655	760	770	1.3
Missouri	95	94	1,380	1,445	131	136	3.8
New Mexico	326	337	2,125	2,130	693	718	3.6
New York	610	610	1,770	1,835	1,080	1,119	3.6
Ohio	268	271	1,620	1,705	434	462	6.5
Oregon	119	123	1,730	1,725	206	212	2.9
Pennsylvania	543	538	1,690	1,690	918	909	-1.0
Texas	426	440	1,915	1,915	816	843	3.3
Utah	87	91	1,740	1,790	151	163	7.9
Vermont	135	133	1,595	1,625	215	216	0.5
Virginia	96	96	1,585	1,595	152	153	0.7
Washington	256	264	1,990	2,000	509	528	3.7
Wisconsin	1,266	1,270	1,730	1,800	2,190	2,286	4.4
23-State Total	8,431	8,527	1,835	1,879	15,475	16,021	3.5

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



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, rather than conduct a monthly survey, to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January and July Cattle Surveys.

Estimation Procedures: State 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, rate per cow, and number of cows are subject to revision the following month for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, Federal Market Order sales are the main basis for revisions. However, data for all orders are not available in time for this revision. 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 on the next page. 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 23 State milk cow inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 8.52 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 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	0.1	0.2	18	1	60	15	9
All milk cows	0.1	0.1	6	0	17	14	9

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@nass.usda.gov

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