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MILK PRODUCTION

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Milk production in Minnesota during December 2015 totaled 807 million pounds, up 3 percent from the previous December. The average number of milk cows during December, at 460,000 head, was unchanged from both last month and last year. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,755 pounds, up 50 pounds from last December.

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 16.4 billion pounds, up 0.7 percent from December 2014. November revised production at 15.6 billion pounds, was up 0.7 percent from November 2014. The November revision represented an increase of 26 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,894 pounds for December, 6 pounds above December 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of December since the 23 State series began in 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.64 million head, 29,000 head more than December 2014, and 1,000 head more than November 2015.

Milk production in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 51.2 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.32 million head, 6,000 head more than the July - September quarter, and 33,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Production – Selected States: December 2014 and 2015

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	194	195	2,055	2,000	399	390	-2.3
California	1,780	1,776	1,950	1,895	3,471	3,366	-3.0
Colorado	145	148	2,115	2,130	307	315	2.6
Florida	124	125	1,675	1,690	208	211	1.4
Idaho	579	587	1,995	1,990	1,155	1,168	1.1
Illinois	94	94	1,680	1,720	158	162	2.5
Indiana	180	184	1,865	1,890	336	348	3.6
Iowa	209	210	1,930	1,955	403	411	2.0
Kansas	143	142	1,870	1,855	267	263	-1.5
Michigan	402	412	2,080	2,125	836	876	4.8
Minnesota.....	460	460	1,705	1,755	784	807	2.9
New Mexico	323	319	2,060	1,955	665	624	-6.2
New York	615	620	1,890	1,940	1,162	1,203	3.5
Ohio	268	266	1,710	1,720	458	458	-
Oregon	125	126	1,655	1,690	207	213	2.9
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,705	1,705	904	904	-
South Dakota.....	98	110	1,890	1,900	185	209	13.0
Texas	470	461	1,870	1,850	879	853	-3.0
Utah	96	96	1,940	1,910	186	183	-1.6
Vermont	132	131	1,705	1,725	225	226	0.4
Virginia	93	91	1,630	1,620	152	147	-3.3
Washington	277	277	1,970	1,980	546	548	0.4
Wisconsin	1,274	1,280	1,855	1,935	2,363	2,477	4.8
23-State Total.....	8,611	8,640	1,888	1,894	16,256	16,362	0.7

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

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Minnesota for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 155,000 on January 1, 2016. This is up 2 percent from last month and up 13 percent from last year. **Placements** during December totaled 16,000 head, up 23 percent from last month but down 1,000 head from last year. **Marketings** for December were 12,000 head, up 1,000 head from last month but down 1,000 head from last year. **Other disappearance** totaled 1,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on January 1, 2016. The inventory was slightly below January 1, 2015. The inventory included 7.16 million steers and steer calves, up 3 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 68 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.41 million head, down 7 percent from 2015. January 1, 2016 heifers and heifer calves inventory is the lowest percent of total January inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.53 million head, 1 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.45 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 375,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 355,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 355,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 440,000 head. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.67 million head, 1 percent above 2014. **Other disappearance** totaled 78,000 head during December, 8 percent above 2014.

Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance by Month, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – Selected States and United States: 2015-2016

State	Cattle on Feed ¹ January 1			Placements during December			Marketings during December			December Disappearance other than Slaughter ²		
	2015	2016	'16 as % of '15	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	249	253	102	26	31	119	26	21	81	3	5	167
California	425	450	106	51	49	96	54	49	91	7	5	71
Colorado	900	870	97	130	115	88	135	130	96	5	5	100
Idaho	230	240	104	45	43	96	34	37	109	1	1	100
Iowa	640	620	97	101	90	89	80	97	121	1	3	300
Kansas	2,050	2,090	102	330	335	102	370	370	100	10	15	150
Minnesota.....	137	155	113	17	16	94	13	12	92	1	1	100
Nebraska	2,460	2,420	98	385	390	101	440	440	100	15	20	133
Oklahoma	255	270	106	36	35	97	39	38	97	2	2	100
South Dakota ...	230	255	111	27	41	152	30	35	117	2	1	50
Texas	2,500	2,430	97	325	305	94	365	370	101	20	15	75
Washington	210	195	93	30	38	127	42	45	107	3	3	100
Other States	340	325	96	34	37	109	27	30	111	2	2	100
United States ...	10,626	10,573	100	1,537	1,525	99	1,655	1,674	101	72	78	108

¹ Cattle on feed are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Cattle on Feed, Number on Feed by Class, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – Selected States and United States: 2015-2016

State	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves		
	January 1, 2015	October 1, 2015	January 1, 2016	January 1, 2015	October 1, 2015	January 1, 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	246	236	247	3	4	6
California	395	430	420	30	30	30
Colorado	580	570	590	320	260	280
Idaho	140	145	165	90	75	75
Iowa	490	450	470	150	150	150
Kansas	1,100	1,100	1,160	950	920	930
Minnesota	109	118	127	28	20	28
Nebraska	1,620	1,520	1,560	840	750	860
Oklahoma	170	180	185	85	75	85
South Dakota ...	145	118	150	85	87	105
Texas	1,600	1,740	1,740	900	750	690
Washington	123	120	125	87	75	70
Other States	230	200	225	110	95	100
United States....	6,948	6,927	7,164	3,678	3,291	3,409

CHICKENS & EGGS

Minnesota Egg production during December 2015 was 228 million eggs, up 5 percent from last month, but down 19 percent from last year. The average number of **all layers on hand during December 2015** was 9.4 million, up 1 percent from last month, but down 19 percent from last year. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of December were 2,421, up 4 percent from last month, but down 1 percent from last year.

United States egg production totaled 8.05 billion during December 2015, down 8 percent from last year. Production included 6.91 billion table eggs, and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 91 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2015 averaged 345 million, down 6 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,333 eggs, down 2 percent from December 2014.

All layers in the United States on January 1, 2016 totaled 347 million, down 5 percent from last year. The 347 million layers consisted of 288 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2016, averaged 74.8 eggs per 100 layers, down 2 percent from January 1, 2015.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2015 totaled 47.3 million, up 10 percent from December 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 48.0 million on January 1, 2016, up 14 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 215 thousand during December 2015, down 13 percent from December 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2015 totaled 798 million, up slightly from December 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 645 million on January 1, 2016, up slightly from a year ago. Leading breeders placed 7.54 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2015, up 11 percent from December 2014.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During December 2014 and 2015

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals.]

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 & above		All layers on hand		Eggs per 100 layers		Total egg production		Table egg production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	1,588	1,561	9,274	9,608	1,984	1,978	184	190	41	41
Arkansas	3,786	3,960	12,620	13,727	2,108	2,062	266	283	97	100
California	13,581	11,821	14,080	12,292	2,379	2,351	335	289	(D)	(D)
Colorado	4,300	4,118	4,673	4,574	2,440	2,514	114	115	(D)	(D)
Connecticut ¹	2,326	(NA)	2,419	(NA)	2,315	(NA)	56	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Florida	8,731	8,784	9,112	9,175	2,447	2,376	223	218	218	214
Georgia	10,127	10,462	18,950	19,387	2,211	2,233	419	433	248	258
Illinois	4,509	4,560	4,979	5,018	2,350	2,511	117	126	112	122
Indiana	26,124	29,364	27,009	30,335	2,444	2,469	660	749	644	729
Iowa	58,738	36,733	59,930	37,938	2,423	2,140	1,452	812	1,436	794
Maine ¹	3,478	(NA)	3,533	(NA)	2,378	(NA)	84	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Maryland	2,661	2,638	2,827	2,809	2,441	2,492	69	70	68	69
Michigan	12,878	12,922	13,093	13,138	2,551	2,504	334	329	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	11,108	8,961	11,563	9,418	2,447	2,421	283	228	277	221
Mississippi	1,514	1,471	5,600	5,658	2,107	2,139	118	121	39	38
Missouri	6,837	7,619	9,063	9,789	2,438	2,472	221	242	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	9,464	7,431	9,572	7,539	2,549	2,175	244	164	244	164
New York	4,809	5,392	5,161	5,763	2,577	2,464	133	142	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	6,724	6,914	14,404	14,768	2,201	2,235	317	330	175	183
Ohio	30,203	30,786	31,062	31,643	2,450	2,437	761	771	(D)	(D)
Oregon	2,144	2,116	2,283	2,255	2,628	2,528	60	57	60	57
Pennsylvania	24,093	23,863	26,031	25,991	2,582	2,516	672	654	643	622
South Carolina	3,012	3,067	4,281	4,338	2,172	2,328	93	101	71	77
South Dakota	2,510	1,447	2,652	1,589	2,564	2,329	68	37	68	37
Texas	15,096	16,368	19,150	20,397	2,355	2,299	451	469	(D)	(D)
Utah	4,407	4,368	4,445	4,406	2,520	2,315	112	102	112	102
Virginia	1,260	1,198	2,948	2,928	2,239	2,322	66	68	35	36
Washington	7,113	6,999	7,278	7,164	2,446	2,443	178	175	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	4,831	4,453	5,609	5,231	2,460	2,409	138	126	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	13,084	19,215	22,090	28,216	2,277	2,307	503	651	367	516
United States	301,036	278,591	365,691	345,094	2,388	2,333	8,731	8,052	7,633	6,912

(NA) Not available. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ¹ Included in Other States in 2015. ² Includes data for states not published in this table.

MONTHLY PRICES

The December 2015 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Minnesota was \$3.44 per bushel. This was up \$0.01 from the November price, but \$0.29 lower than the December 2014 price.

The December 2015 average price received by farmers for **soybeans**, at \$8.55 per bushel, was up \$0.04 from the November price, but \$1.55 lower than the December 2014 price.

The December **oats** price was \$2.12 per bushel, down \$0.27 from November, and \$0.77 below December 2014.

All hay prices in Minnesota averaged \$93.00 per ton in December, unchanged from the November price, but \$47.00 per ton less than December 2014. **Alfalfa hay** prices fell \$53.00 per ton from one year ago, to \$105.00, while **other hay** prices were \$21.00 per ton lower than last year, at \$73.00.

The December average price was \$17.00 per cwt for **milk**, down \$0.70 from November, and \$3.50 per cwt below one year ago.

Livestock Prices Received by Farmers - United States

	December 2014	November 2015	December 2015
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Calves	303.00	217.00	193.00
Cattle, all beef	164.00	129.00	122.00
Cows ¹	115.00	82.00	74.80
Steers & Heifers	166.00	131.00	123.00
Hogs, all	64.30	45.90	42.80
Barrows & Gilts	64.20	45.80	43.30
Sows	65.80	48.50	28.40
Eggs (market).....	1.66	1.93	1.04

¹ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

Prices Received by Farmers - Minnesota and United States

	Minnesota			United States		
	December 2014	November 2015	December 2015	December 2014	November 2015	December 2015
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Barley, all	5.45	5.28	5.22	5.16	5.59	5.89
Beans, dry edible	(D)	32.50	29.40	34.10	27.10	23.70
Corn	3.73	3.43	3.44	3.79	3.60	3.65
Hay, all baled	140.00	93.00	93.00	156.00	142.00	142.00
Alfalfa	158.00	109.00	105.00	180.00	150.00	150.00
Other	94.00	76.00	73.00	122.00	127.00	129.00
Oats	2.89	2.39	2.12	3.21	2.10	2.11
Potatoes	9.20	9.60	10.20	8.63	8.20	8.54
Soybeans	10.10	8.51	8.55	10.30	8.68	8.76
Spring Wheat	5.64	5.00	4.72	5.80	4.91	4.77
Sunflowers, all	(D)	21.20	19.00	19.70	18.40	19.40
Milk, all	20.50	17.70	17.00	20.40	18.20	17.20
Milk cows ^{1,2}	1,870.00	1,820.00	1,730.00	1,990.00	1,980.00	1,830.00

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ¹ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for January, April, July, and October. ² Milk cow prices are for January 2015, October 2015, and January 2016.

