

dairy review

Maryland cash receipts from milk marketings for 2003 totaled \$162.5 million, down 5 percent from \$170.4 million for 2002. Milk producers received an average of \$13.30 per hundredweight for milk sold in 2003, up slightly from the \$13.20 received per hundredweight in 2002.

Milk production for 2003 totaled 1.23 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the 1.30 billion pounds in 2002. The annual average number of milk cows was 78,000, down 3,000 from a year earlier. Milk per cow averaged 15,795 pounds, 267 pounds per cow less than in 2002. Dairy herds in Frederick County, the top milk producing county, produced 369.0 million pounds of milk in 2003, down 29.0 million pounds from the previous year, and accounting for 30 percent of Maryland's total milk production.

Washington and Carroll counties produced 225.0 and 200.0 million pounds of milk, respectively. These top three counties produced 64 percent of Maryland's milk during 2003. Statewide, annual average milk fat was 3.75 percent, up slightly from 3.72 percent in 2002. Monthly fat tests in 2003 ranged from 3.58 percent in July and August to 3.89 percent in January and February.

Production of regular ice cream in 2003 totaled 17.5 million gallons, down 16 percent from the 20.8 million gallons produced in 2002.

Milk Production and Total Cows

