

dairy review

Maryland cash receipts from milk marketings for 2005 totaled \$186.9 million, down 5 percent from \$196.03 million for 2004. Milk producers received an average of \$16.20 per hundredweight for milk sold in 2005, down from the \$17.00 received per hundredweight in 2004.

Milk production for 2005 totaled 1.16 billion pounds which is the same as 2004 totals. The annual average number of milk cows was 72,000, down 2,000 from a year earlier. Milk per cow averaged 16,125 pounds, 422 pounds per cow more than in 2004. Dairy herds in Frederick County, the top milk producing county, produced 337.0 million pounds of milk in 2005, down 10.0 million pounds from the previous year, and accounting for 29 percent of Maryland's total milk production.

Washington and Carroll counties produced 229.0 and 166.0 million pounds of milk, respectively. These top three counties produced 64 percent of Maryland's milk during 2005. Statewide, annual average milk fat was 3.59 percent, down slightly from 3.67 percent in 2004. Monthly fat tests in 2005 ranged from 3.40 percent in August to 3.81 percent in December.

Production of regular ice cream in 2005 totaled 19.0 million gallons which is equivalent to the ice cream production in 2004.

