



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

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Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Charleston, West Virginia – Milk production totaled 127 million pounds during 2017, down 7 million pounds from the 2016 production of 134 million pounds. The average number of milk cows during the year was 8,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2016. Average milk production per cow was 15,875 pounds or around 1,846 gallons, up 986 pounds from the 2016 number of 14,889 pounds.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2017 totaled \$22.3 million, up 6 percent from the 2016 cash receipts number of \$21.1 million. Producer returns averaged \$18.00 per hundredweight, up \$1.90 from 2016. Milk marketed by producers totaled 124 million pounds or 14.4 million gallons in 2017, down 7 million pounds from the 2016 number of 131 million pounds. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

United States – Milk production increased 1.4 percent in 2017 to 215 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 22,941 pounds, was 163 pounds above 2016. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.39 million head, up 67,000 head from 2016.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2017 totaled \$37.9 billion, 9.8 percent higher than 2016. Producer returns averaged \$17.69 per hundredweight, 8.3 percent above 2016. Marketings totaled 214.5 billion pounds, 1.5 percent above 2016. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 979 million pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1.4 percent less than 2016. Calves were fed 91 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

Note: A conversion of 8.6 pounds per gallon was used.