



WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER

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Inside This Issue:

- Milk Production
- Honey
- Chickens & Eggs
- Price Changes After USDA Reports

The Wisconsin Farm Reporter is compiled from data and reports released by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

All NASS data and reports are available free at www.nass.usda.gov

Milk Production

Milk production in Wisconsin during February 2020 totaled 2.43 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous February. However, adjusting production for the extra day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be down 1 percent on a per day basis. The average number of milk cows during February, at 1.26 million head, was the same as last month but down 10,000 from last year. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,925 pounds, up 65 pounds from last February.

Milk production in the 24 major States during February totaled 17.0 billion pounds, up 5.6 percent from February 2019. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to leap year causes February milk production to be up 2.0 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 18.0 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from January 2019. The January revision represented an increase of 38 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 1,927 pounds for February, 94 pounds above February 2019. When production is adjusted for the additional day due to leap year, February production per cow is 27 pounds above February 2019 on a per day basis.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.84 million head, 39,000 head more than February 2019, and 8,000 head more than January 2020.

Milk production in the United States during February totaled 17.9 billion pounds, up 5.3 percent from February 2019.

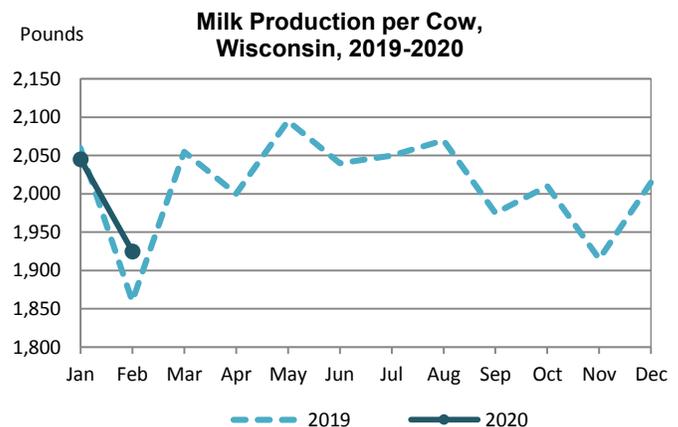
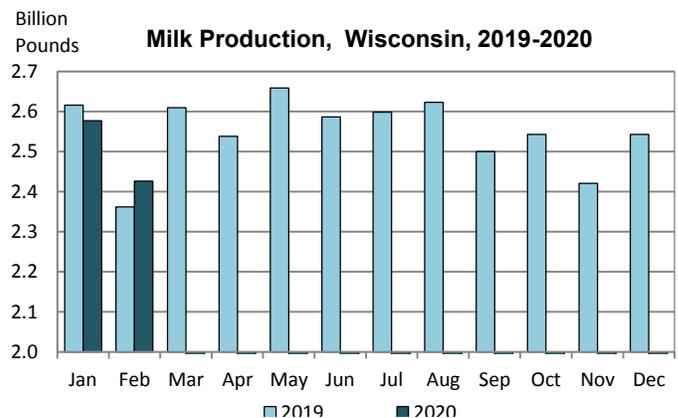
Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,907 pounds for February, 93 pounds above February 2019.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.37 million head, 18,000 head more than February 2019, and 9,000 head more than January 2020.

Milk Cows and Production, Selected States, February 2019 and 2020

| State | Milk cows ¹ | | Milk per cow ² | | Production ² | | |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | Change from 2019 |
| | <i>(thousand head)</i> | | <i>(pounds)</i> | | <i>(million pounds)</i> | | <i>(percent)</i> |
| Arizona | 202 | 196 | 1,960 | 2,075 | 396 | 407 | 2.8 |
| California | 1,726 | 1,723 | 1,860 | 1,980 | 3,210 | 3,412 | 6.3 |
| Colorado | 182 | 193 | 1,990 | 2,090 | 362 | 403 | 11.3 |
| Florida | 116 | 116 | 1,700 | 1,785 | 197 | 207 | 5.1 |
| Georgia | 82 | 82 | 1,800 | 1,880 | 148 | 154 | 4.1 |
| Idaho | 618 | 645 | 1,875 | 1,965 | 1,159 | 1,267 | 9.3 |
| Illinois | 85 | 82 | 1,690 | 1,770 | 144 | 145 | 0.7 |
| Indiana | 181 | 176 | 1,770 | 1,870 | 320 | 329 | 2.8 |
| Iowa | 220 | 215 | 1,890 | 1,965 | 416 | 422 | 1.4 |
| Kansas | 163 | 169 | 1,795 | 1,895 | 293 | 320 | 9.2 |
| Michigan | 424 | 427 | 2,055 | 2,135 | 871 | 912 | 4.7 |
| Minnesota | 450 | 445 | 1,700 | 1,785 | 765 | 794 | 3.8 |
| New Mexico | 322 | 333 | 1,970 | 2,025 | 634 | 674 | 6.3 |
| New York | 627 | 626 | 1,840 | 1,945 | 1,154 | 1,218 | 5.5 |
| Ohio | 253 | 253 | 1,660 | 1,760 | 420 | 445 | 6.0 |
| Oregon | 124 | 127 | 1,595 | 1,645 | 198 | 209 | 5.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 500 | 483 | 1,605 | 1,725 | 803 | 833 | 3.7 |
| South Dakota | 124 | 128 | 1,725 | 1,815 | 214 | 232 | 8.4 |
| Texas | 553 | 585 | 1,910 | 2,000 | 1,056 | 1,170 | 10.8 |
| Utah | 99 | 96 | 1,755 | 1,810 | 174 | 174 | 0.0 |
| Vermont | 126 | 124 | 1,665 | 1,725 | 210 | 214 | 1.9 |
| Virginia | 78 | 76 | 1,545 | 1,670 | 121 | 127 | 5.0 |
| Washington | 278 | 282 | 1,815 | 1,930 | 505 | 544 | 7.7 |
| Wisconsin | 1,270 | 1,260 | 1,860 | 1,925 | 2,362 | 2,426 | 2.7 |
| 24-State Total | 8,803 | 8,842 | 1,833 | 1,927 | 16,132 | 17,038 | 5.6 |

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



Honey

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Wisconsin totaled 2.16 million pounds in 2019 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Honey Report*. This was a 6 percent decrease from the 2.30 million pounds produced in 2018. The number of honey producing colonies in the state decreased from 51,000 colonies in 2018 to 46,000 colonies in 2019. This number does not include producers with fewer than five colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Yield per colony in Wisconsin averaged 47 pounds, up from 45 pounds per colony in 2018. Wisconsin ranked sixteenth nationally in honey production, unchanged from last year. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in state where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted.

On December 15, 2019, producer honey stocks in Wisconsin, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 692 thousand pounds, a 3 percent decrease from 2018. The state's 2019 honey crop was valued at \$6.46 million, down 5 percent from the previous year's \$6.77 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Wisconsin was \$2.99, up 4 cents from 2018.

Honey price per pound data have been updated to dollars per pound from cents per pound. Before deciding to update this data, NASS reviewed our estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria requirements to maintain the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture. Information about all NASS surveys and reports is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

United States honey production in 2019 totaled 157 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2018. There were 2.81 million colonies producing honey in 2019, down 1 percent from 2018. Yield per colony averaged 55.8 pounds, up 2 percent from the 54.5 pounds in 2018. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 41.0 million pounds on December 15, 2019, up 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

United States honey prices decreased 11 percent during 2019 to 1.97 cents per pound, compared to 2.21 cents per pound in 2018. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2018 crop reflect honey sold in 2018 and 2019. Some 2018 crop honey was sold in 2019, which caused some revisions to the 2018 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2019 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$85, and \$100 respectively. Pollination income for 2019 was \$310 million, up 3 percent from 2018. Other income from honey bees in 2019 was \$77.7 million, down 18 percent from 2018.

Honey Producing Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – Selected States and United States: 2018 and 2019¹

| State | Producing Colonies ² | | Yield | | Production | | Honey Stocks Dec 15 ³ | | Average Price per Pound ⁴ | | Value of Production ⁵ | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 |
| | <i>(1,000)</i> | | <i>(pounds)</i> | | <i>(1,000 pounds)</i> | | | | <i>(cents)</i> | | <i>(1,000 dollars)</i> | |
| California | 335 | 335 | 41 | 48 | 13,735 | 16,080 | 3,022 | 3,216 | 2.11 | 1.56 | 28,981 | 25,085 |
| Florida | 215 | 205 | 49 | 45 | 10,535 | 9,225 | 737 | 830 | 2.40 | 2.48 | 25,284 | 22,878 |
| Georgia | 98 | 102 | 34 | 33 | 3,332 | 3,366 | 200 | 370 | 2.76 | 2.61 | 9,196 | 8,785 |
| Idaho | 96 | 92 | 31 | 32 | 2,976 | 2,944 | 655 | 677 | 1.96 | 1.67 | 5,833 | 4,916 |
| Iowa | 38 | 38 | 49 | 55 | 1,862 | 2,090 | 1,005 | 1,170 | 2.40 | 2.24 | 4,469 | 4,682 |
| Louisiana | 45 | 54 | 83 | 72 | 3,735 | 3,888 | 261 | 428 | 1.91 | 2.04 | 7,134 | 7,932 |
| Michigan | 97 | 94 | 44 | 50 | 4,268 | 4,700 | 768 | 1,363 | 2.49 | 2.36 | 10,627 | 11,092 |
| Minnesota | 119 | 118 | 61 | 59 | 7,259 | 6,962 | 1,161 | 3,063 | 1.94 | 1.63 | 14,082 | 11,348 |
| Montana | 160 | 173 | 92 | 86 | 14,720 | 14,878 | 3,680 | 5,802 | 1.90 | 1.48 | 27,968 | 22,019 |
| New York | 56 | 59 | 48 | 58 | 2,688 | 3,422 | 833 | 1,027 | 3.24 | 4.49 | 8,709 | 15,365 |
| North Dakota | 550 | 520 | 72 | 65 | 39,600 | 33,800 | 4,752 | 6,422 | 1.87 | 1.40 | 74,052 | 47,320 |
| South Dakota | 255 | 270 | 47 | 72 | 11,985 | 19,440 | 5,154 | 7,582 | 1.91 | 1.53 | 22,891 | 29,743 |
| Texas | 132 | 126 | 56 | 60 | 7,392 | 7,560 | 1,035 | 1,814 | 2.12 | 2.30 | 15,671 | 17,388 |
| Wisconsin | 51 | 46 | 45 | 47 | 2,295 | 2,162 | 711 | 692 | 2.95 | 2.99 | 6,770 | 6,464 |
| United States ^{6,7} | 2,828 | 2,812 | 55 | 56 | 154,008 | 156,922 | 29,303 | 41,022 | 2.21 | 1.97 | 340,358 | 309,136 |

¹ Operations with five or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state. ² Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested during the year. It is possible to harvest honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year. ³ Stocks held by producers. ⁴ Average price per pound based on expanded sales. ⁵ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound. ⁶ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. ⁷ United States value of production will not equal summation of states.

Chickens and Eggs

Wisconsin **egg production** during February 2020 was 170 million eggs, down 13 percent from last month but up 10 percent from last year.

The average number of **all layers on hand** during February 2020 was 7.11 million, down 5 percent from last month and down 3 percent from last year. **Eggs per 100 layers** for February were 2,384, down 8 percent from last month but up 13 percent from last year.

United States egg production totaled 8.94 billion during February 2020, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 7.79 billion table eggs, and 1.15 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 81.3 million were egg-type. The average number of layers during February 2020 totaled 397 million, down 2 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,254 eggs, up 5 percent from February 2019.

Total layers in the United States on March 1, 2020 totaled 394 million, down 3 percent from last year. The 394 million layers consisted of 330 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 60.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.41 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2020, averaged 77.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2019.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2020 totaled 48.2 million, down 8 percent from February 2019. Eggs in incubators totaled 49.1 million on March 1, 2020, down 8 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 482 thousand during February 2020, up 140 percent from February 2019. Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2020 totaled 807 million, up 8 percent from February 2019. Eggs in incubators totaled 718 million on March 1, 2020, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2019 and 2020

| State | Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 & above | | All layers on hand | | Eggs per 100 layers | | Total egg production | | Table egg production | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 |
| | <i>(1,000 layers)</i> | | | | <i>(eggs)</i> | | <i>(million eggs)</i> | | | |
| Alabama | 1,405 | 1,432 | 10,135 | 10,635 | 1,713 | 1,802 | 173.6 | 191.6 | 31.8 | 33.7 |
| Arkansas | (D) | (D) | 14,920 | 15,316 | 1,810 | 1,925 | 270.1 | 294.9 | (D) | (D) |
| California | 13,053 | 13,301 | 13,783 | 13,947 | 2,203 | 2,315 | 303.6 | 322.9 | (D) | (D) |
| Colorado | 4,322 | 4,534 | 4,835 | 5,042 | 2,345 | 2,513 | 113.4 | 126.7 | (D) | (D) |
| Georgia | 9,797 | 9,327 | 20,157 | 19,796 | 1,919 | 1,995 | 386.9 | 395.0 | 211.8 | 211.4 |
| Illinois | 5,900 | 5,619 | 6,474 | 6,181 | 2,217 | 2,262 | 143.5 | 139.8 | 140.9 | 136.3 |
| Indiana | 34,190 | 33,670 | 35,492 | 34,925 | 2,247 | 2,382 | 797.6 | 831.9 | 781.9 | 816.8 |
| Iowa | 56,881 | 55,044 | 58,614 | 56,932 | 2,228 | 2,348 | 1,306.1 | 1,336.9 | 1,285.9 | 1,315.4 |
| Kentucky | (D) | (D) | 5,800 | 5,775 | 1,947 | 2,076 | 112.9 | 119.9 | (D) | (D) |
| Maryland | 2,602 | 2,483 | 2,794 | 2,677 | 2,273 | 2,383 | 63.5 | 63.8 | 62.4 | 62.5 |
| Michigan | 15,843 | 14,085 | 16,157 | 14,380 | 2,211 | 2,323 | 357.3 | 334.0 | (D) | (D) |
| Minnesota | 10,494 | 7,951 | 11,070 | 8,478 | 2,243 | 2,389 | 248.3 | 202.5 | 240.6 | 195.6 |
| Mississippi | (D) | (D) | 5,699 | 5,676 | 1,872 | 1,943 | 106.7 | 110.3 | (D) | (D) |
| Missouri | 7,750 | 7,620 | 12,716 | 12,777 | 2,270 | 2,364 | 288.7 | 302.1 | 258.4 | 267.7 |
| Nebraska | 8,201 | 8,230 | 8,477 | 8,842 | 2,373 | 2,305 | 201.2 | 203.8 | 196.6 | 191.6 |
| New York | 5,120 | 5,151 | 5,664 | 5,702 | 2,327 | 2,413 | 131.8 | 137.6 | (D) | (D) |
| North Carolina | 6,081 | 7,017 | 14,685 | 15,716 | 1,933 | 2,046 | 283.9 | 321.6 | 141.4 | 170.8 |
| Ohio | 35,410 | 34,624 | 36,617 | 35,836 | 2,258 | 2,308 | 826.9 | 827.1 | (D) | (D) |
| Oklahoma | (D) | (D) | 3,089 | 2,872 | 1,751 | 1,898 | 54.1 | 54.5 | (D) | (D) |
| Oregon | 2,192 | 2,134 | 2,385 | 2,305 | 2,344 | 2,460 | 55.9 | 56.7 | 55.9 | 56.7 |
| Pennsylvania | 27,273 | 28,451 | 29,857 | 30,978 | 2,214 | 2,386 | 660.9 | 739.1 | 633.2 | 710.5 |
| South Carolina | 3,082 | 2,667 | 4,354 | 3,990 | 2,067 | 2,108 | 90.0 | 84.1 | 69.5 | 62.1 |
| South Dakota | 2,737 | 2,523 | 2,792 | 2,578 | 2,224 | 2,514 | 62.1 | 64.8 | 62.1 | 64.8 |
| Texas | (D) | (D) | 22,302 | 22,526 | 2,055 | 2,096 | 458.4 | 472.1 | (D) | (D) |
| Utah | 4,730 | 4,358 | 4,782 | 4,410 | 2,359 | 2,431 | 112.8 | 107.2 | 112.8 | 107.2 |
| Virginia | 904 | 784 | 2,747 | 2,585 | 1,922 | 2,213 | 52.8 | 57.2 | 25.0 | 28.2 |
| Washington | 6,838 | 6,507 | 7,003 | 6,671 | 2,402 | 2,395 | 168.2 | 159.8 | (D) | (D) |
| Wisconsin | 6,193 | 5,992 | 7,319 | 7,113 | 2,107 | 2,384 | 154.2 | 169.6 | 148.4 | 163.6 |
| Other States ¹ | 26,730 | 25,990 | 32,833 | 32,028 | 2,142 | 2,225 | 703.3 | 712.5 | 634.1 | 643.0 |
| United States ² | 325,217 | 316,612 | 403,552 | 396,689 | 2,153 | 2,254 | 8,688.7 | 8,940.0 | 7,603.8 | 7,785.8 |

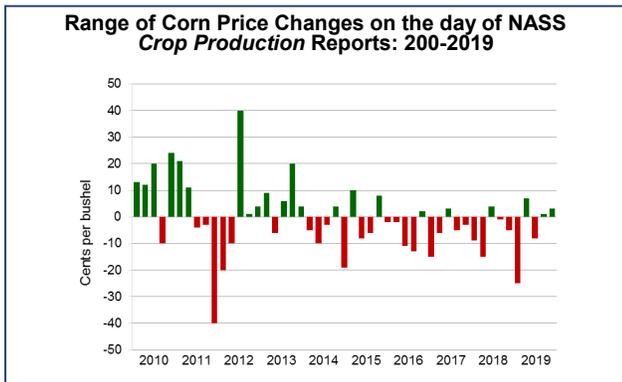
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ¹ Includes data for States not published in this table. ² Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals.

Corn Price
 (Closing cash price for Southern Iowa #2 yellow corn.)
 2010-2019 – 49 Total Reports

Corn production forecasts are published in the monthly *Crop Production* report in August, September, October, and November with final estimates published in the January *Crop Production Annual Summary*. The charts below summarize how corn prices changed on the day of or the week after these reports were released over the past 10 years.

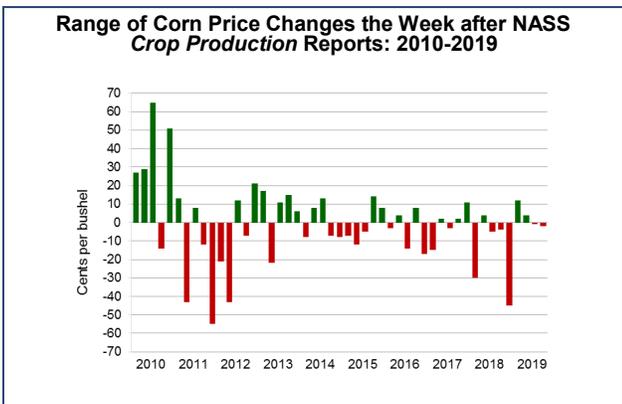
Number of changes and average change on the **day of** the report release

Price Increases: 22 Average Change: +10.3¢/bu
 Price Decreases: 27 Average Change: -9.8¢/bu



Number of changes and average change the **week after** the report release

Price Increases: 24 Average Change: +15.2¢/bu
 Price Decreases: 25 Average Change: -16.1¢/bu



The Facts About Commodity Price Changes Following USDA Reports

The common opinion among many in agriculture is that prices always go down following the release of USDA crop and live-stock reports. However, **the facts show that prices go up as often as they go down.** Most people tend to remember when prices decline following a report due to the media attention it gets but the facts show that prices increase just as often or more often.

USDA reports in and of themselves do not determine the price. The actual supply that enters the marketplace, along with domestic and export demand, determine the price farmers receive for their products. It is true that the futures market, and then in turn the cash market, may go up or down following USDA reports. However, these fluctuations are often due to the market correcting itself from speculative trading leading up to the USDA report based on information from private forecasters. Following a particular USDA report, prices will adjust to the information provided and may go up or down that day, but the tables in this pamphlet show that **over longer periods of time prices go up about half the time and go down about half the time following the release of USDA reports.**



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