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## May Milk Production up 1.4 Percent

**Milk production** in the 23 major States during May totaled 17.2 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from May 2014. April revised production at 16.6 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from April 2014. The April revision represented an increase of 3.0 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,990 pounds for May, 11 pounds above May 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of May since the 23 State series began in 2003.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 72,000 head more than May 2014, and 4,000 head more than April 2015.

## May Milk Production in the United States up 1.4 Percent

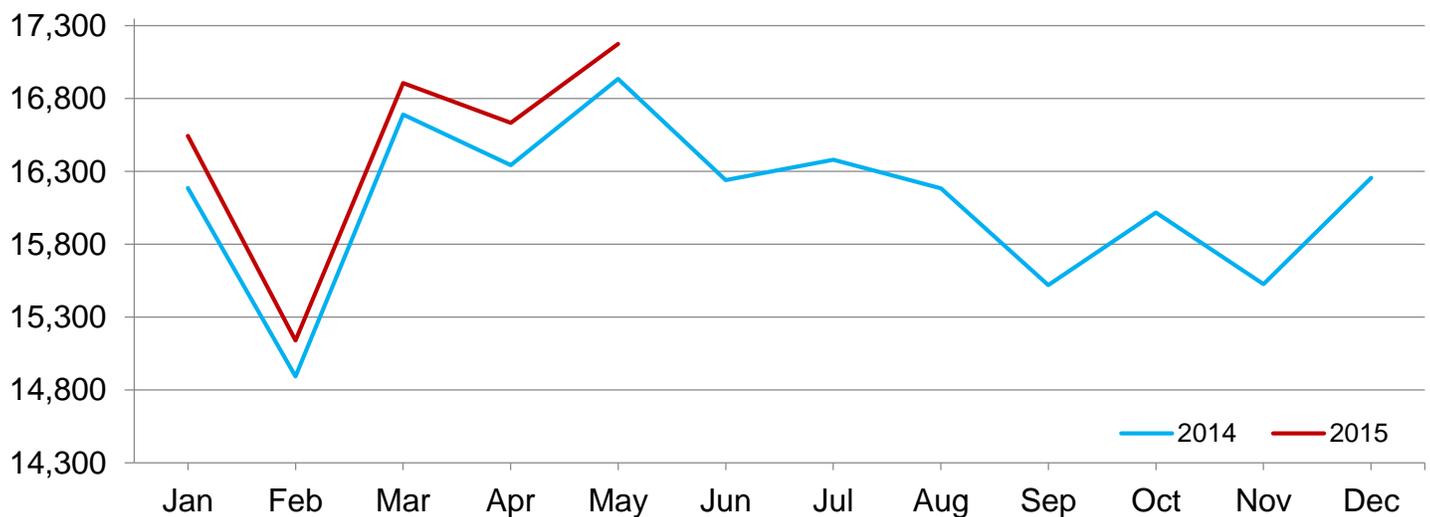
**Milk production** in the United States during May totaled 18.4 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from May 2014.

**Production per cow** in the United States averaged 1,971 pounds for May, 15 pounds above May 2014.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the United States was 9.31 million head, 58,000 head more than May 2014, and 3,000 head more than April 2015.

## Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2014-2015

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(Pounds)	(Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Million Pounds)	(Percent)
January-March .....	9,216	9,305	5,536	5,581	51,020	51,934	1.8
April-June .....	9,253		5,717		52,897		
July-September .....	9,270		5,520		51,173		
October-December .....	9,287		5,487		50,956		
Annual .....	9,257		22,258		206,046		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,516	8,620	1,901	1,919	16,186	16,544	2.2
February .....	8,516	8,620	1,749	1,756	14,892	15,139	1.7
March .....	8,530	8,622	1,957	1,961	16,690	16,907	1.3
April .....	8,547	8,626	1,912	1,928	16,344	16,633	1.8
May .....	8,558	8,630	1,979	1,990	16,934	17,175	1.4
June .....	8,572		1,895		16,241		
July .....	8,583		1,909		16,381		
August .....	8,585		1,885		16,184		
September .....	8,593		1,806		15,519		
October .....	8,594		1,864		16,017		
November .....	8,598		1,806		15,527		
December .....	8,611		1,888		16,256		
Annual .....	8,567		22,551		193,171		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2014-2015

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,212	9,306	1,876	1,899	17,284	17,670	2.2
February .....	9,212	9,306	1,727	1,739	15,907	16,184	1.7
March .....	9,223	9,304	1,933	1,943	17,829	18,080	1.4
April .....	9,240	9,307	1,892	1,911	17,480	17,788	1.8
May .....	9,252	9,310	1,956	1,971	18,094	18,350	1.4
June .....	9,267		1,869		17,323		
July .....	9,268		1,881		17,435		
August .....	9,268		1,858		17,224		
September .....	9,274		1,781		16,514		
October .....	9,277		1,840		17,071		
November .....	9,284		1,783		16,551		
December .....	9,299		1,864		17,334		
Annual .....	9,257		22,258		206,046		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: May 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

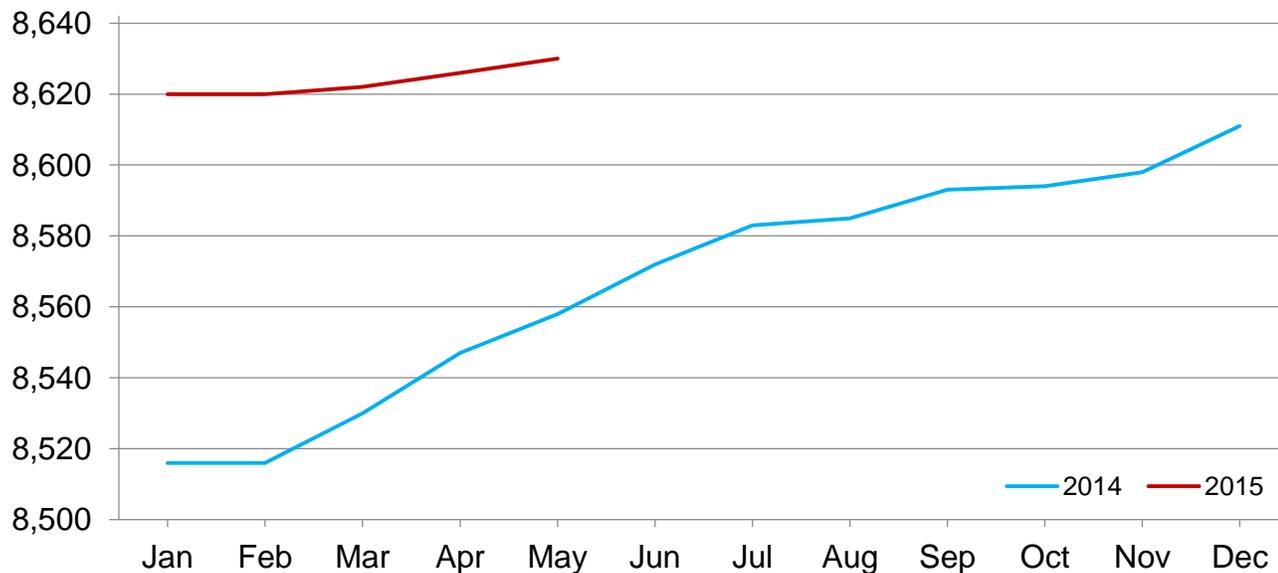
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	192	195	2,225	2,185	427	426	-0.2
California .....	1,779	1,779	2,110	2,050	3,754	3,647	-2.9
Colorado .....	144	145	2,165	2,200	312	319	2.2
Florida .....	123	125	1,885	1,905	232	238	2.6
Idaho .....	574	585	2,090	2,100	1,200	1,229	2.4
Illinois .....	94	95	1,765	1,830	166	174	4.8
Indiana .....	177	181	1,935	1,935	342	350	2.3
Iowa .....	207	212	1,965	2,005	407	425	4.4
Kansas .....	141	144	1,950	1,990	275	287	4.4
Michigan .....	384	406	2,145	2,185	824	887	7.6
Minnesota .....	460	460	1,715	1,780	789	819	3.8
New Mexico .....	323	323	2,240	2,190	724	707	-2.3
New York .....	615	618	1,935	1,975	1,190	1,221	2.6
Ohio .....	266	268	1,800	1,810	479	485	1.3
Oregon .....	125	124	1,825	1,800	228	223	-2.2
Pennsylvania .....	530	530	1,760	1,815	933	962	3.1
South Dakota .....	97	103	1,855	1,905	180	196	8.9
Texas .....	465	462	1,990	1,970	925	910	-1.6
Utah .....	95	96	1,990	2,040	189	196	3.7
Vermont .....	131	132	1,755	1,775	230	234	1.7
Virginia .....	93	92	1,700	1,735	158	160	1.3
Washington .....	274	277	2,110	2,100	578	582	0.7
Wisconsin .....	1,269	1,278	1,885	1,955	2,392	2,498	4.4
23-State Total .....	8,558	8,630	1,979	1,990	16,934	17,175	1.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: April 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	192	195	2,210	2,185	424	426	0.5
California .....	1,780	1,779	2,065	2,025	3,676	3,602	-2.0
Colorado .....	143	145	2,080	2,170	297	315	6.1
Florida .....	123	125	1,870	1,890	230	236	2.6
Idaho .....	572	585	1,995	2,005	1,141	1,173	2.8
Illinois .....	94	95	1,725	1,760	162	167	3.1
Indiana .....	176	181	1,845	1,855	325	336	3.4
Iowa .....	206	212	1,880	1,930	387	409	5.7
Kansas .....	140	144	1,885	1,945	264	280	6.1
Michigan .....	383	404	2,060	2,100	789	848	7.5
Minnesota .....	460	460	1,660	1,720	764	791	3.5
New Mexico .....	323	323	2,135	2,105	690	680	-1.4
New York .....	615	617	1,845	1,875	1,135	1,157	1.9
Ohio .....	267	268	1,720	1,730	459	464	1.1
Oregon .....	125	124	1,770	1,745	221	216	-2.3
Pennsylvania .....	531	530	1,705	1,745	905	925	2.2
South Dakota .....	97	103	1,785	1,840	173	190	9.8
Texas .....	460	462	1,930	1,940	888	896	0.9
Utah .....	95	96	1,895	1,970	180	189	5.0
Vermont .....	131	131	1,695	1,695	222	222	-
Virginia .....	93	92	1,660	1,680	154	155	0.6
Washington .....	272	277	2,040	2,020	555	560	0.9
Wisconsin .....	1,269	1,278	1,815	1,875	2,303	2,396	4.0
23-State Total .....	8,547	8,626	1,912	1,928	16,344	16,633	1.8

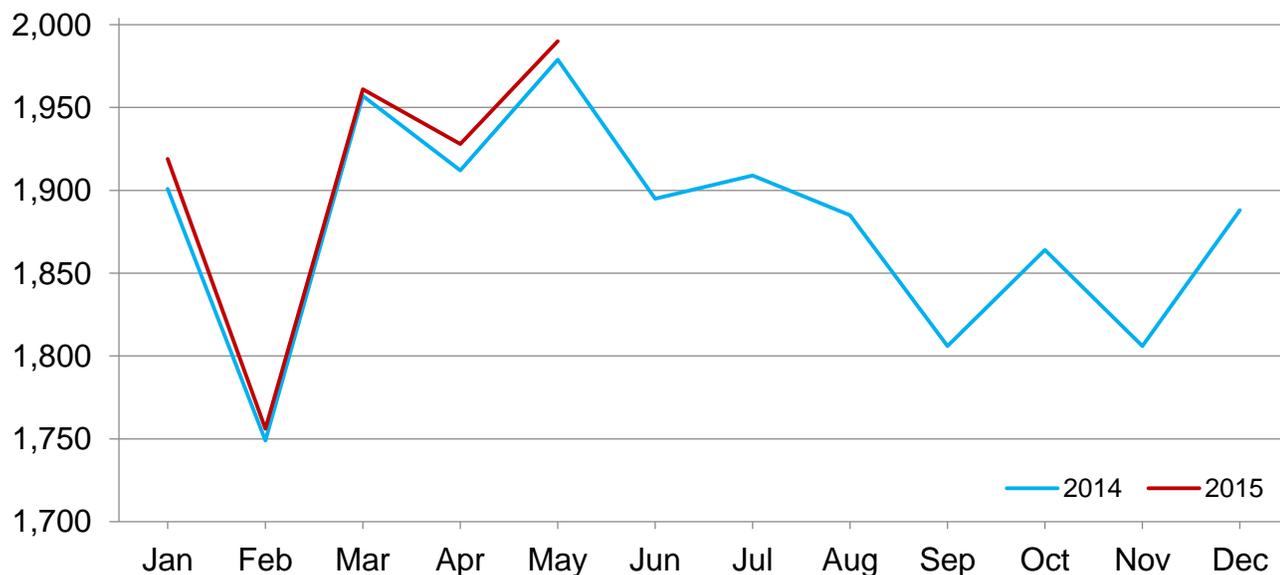
- Represents zero.

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. Individual States maintain a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. States use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. Generally, all large producers and a sample of small producers are included in the survey. Questionnaires are mailed to producers near the end of the month to obtain data for the first day of the month. Additional reports are obtained by telephone, as needed, to supplement the mail response. Where feasible, States utilize state and federal administrative data to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Surveys.

**Estimation Procedures:** State offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Milk production, milk per cow, and number of milk cows are subject to revision the following month after initial publication for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, administrative data from Federal Market Orders, State Departments of Agriculture, or other sources are the main basis for revisions. However, administrative data for all States may not be available in time for these revisions. Estimates are again subject to revisions in February each year based on additional administrative data. In the event that additional changes are necessary, a third revision is possible in February the following year. Estimates are again reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions are made after that date.

**Reliability:** Since all operations with dairy animals are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for the 23 State milk production estimates over the past 24 months is 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 17.2 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 percent.

### Reliability of Monthly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production .....	0.2	0.3	26	0	89	16	7
All Milk cows .....	0.1	0.1	5	0	16	14	7

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Vacant – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-3570

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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