



Milk Production

ISSN: 1949-1557

Released August 19, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

July Milk Production up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during July totaled 16.6 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from July 2014. June revised production at 16.4 billion pounds, was up 0.9 percent from June 2014. The June revision represented an increase of 40.0 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,921 pounds for July, 12 pounds above July 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of July 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, 47,000 head more than July 2014, and 2,000 head more than June 2015.

July Milk Production in the United States up 1.2 Percent

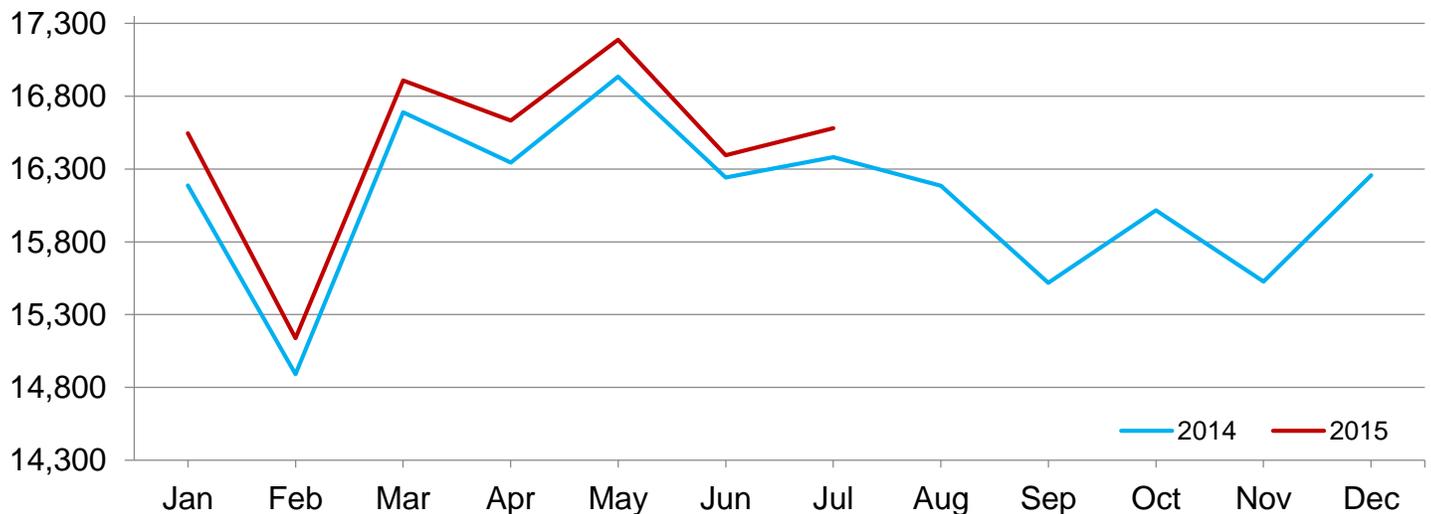
Milk production in the United States during July totaled 17.7 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from July 2014.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,893 pounds for July, 12 pounds above July 2014.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.32 million head, 54,000 head more than July 2014, and 1,000 head more than June 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 ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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	5,583	51,020	51,949	1.8
April-June	9,253	9,320	5,717	5,757	52,897	53,655	1.4
July-September	9,270		5,520		51,173		
October-December	9,287		5,487		50,956		
Annual	9,257		22,258		206,046		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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	1,992	16,934	17,187	1.5
June	8,572	8,628	1,895	1,900	16,241	16,394	0.9
July	8,583	8,630	1,909	1,921	16,381	16,581	1.2
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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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	9,304	1,876	1,900	17,284	17,680	2.3
February	9,212	9,304	1,727	1,740	15,907	16,189	1.8
March	9,223	9,306	1,933	1,943	17,829	18,080	1.4
April	9,240	9,315	1,892	1,911	17,480	17,800	1.8
May	9,252	9,324	1,956	1,970	18,094	18,370	1.5
June	9,267	9,321	1,869	1,876	17,323	17,485	0.9
July	9,268	9,322	1,881	1,893	17,435	17,650	1.2
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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: July 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

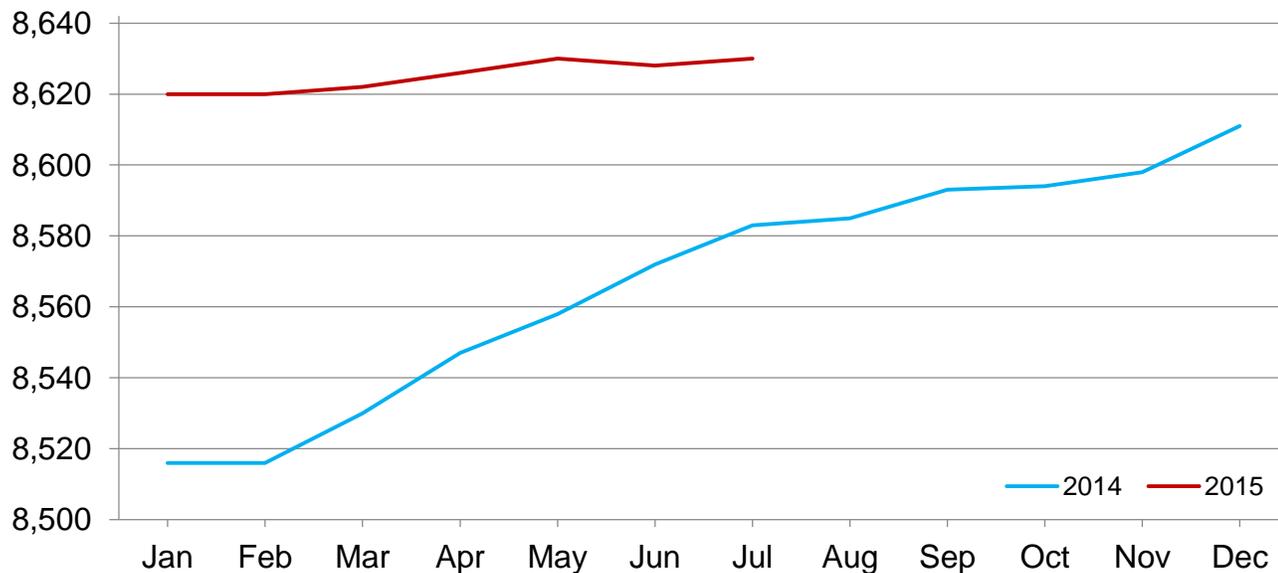
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	193	195	1,960	1,985	378	387	2.4
California	1,779	1,778	1,980	1,915	3,522	3,405	-3.3
Colorado	145	145	2,150	2,210	312	320	2.6
Florida	123	125	1,715	1,710	211	214	1.4
Idaho	579	586	2,115	2,105	1,225	1,234	0.7
Illinois	94	94	1,640	1,670	154	157	1.9
Indiana	179	181	1,830	1,855	328	336	2.4
Iowa	208	212	1,885	1,915	392	406	3.6
Kansas	142	143	1,845	1,860	262	266	1.5
Michigan	394	409	2,120	2,170	835	888	6.3
Minnesota	460	460	1,670	1,740	768	800	4.2
New Mexico	323	323	2,130	2,040	688	659	-4.2
New York	615	619	1,920	1,970	1,181	1,219	3.2
Ohio	266	266	1,745	1,760	464	468	0.9
Oregon	123	122	1,755	1,730	216	211	-2.3
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,690	1,730	896	917	2.3
South Dakota	97	106	1,845	1,900	179	201	12.3
Texas	470	462	1,840	1,850	865	855	-1.2
Utah	95	96	2,000	2,020	190	194	2.1
Vermont	132	132	1,730	1,740	228	230	0.9
Virginia	93	91	1,580	1,630	147	148	0.7
Washington	272	275	2,070	2,050	563	564	0.2
Wisconsin	1,271	1,280	1,870	1,955	2,377	2,502	5.3
23-State Total	8,583	8,630	1,909	1,921	16,381	16,581	1.2

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: June 2014 and 2015

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2014
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	193	195	2,065	2,045	399	399	-
California	1,779	1,778	1,995	1,910	3,549	3,396	-4.3
Colorado	145	145	2,105	2,140	305	310	1.6
Florida	123	125	1,770	1,760	218	220	0.9
Idaho	577	586	2,065	2,040	1,192	1,195	0.3
Illinois	94	94	1,640	1,690	154	159	3.2
Indiana	178	181	1,840	1,860	328	337	2.7
Iowa	207	212	1,860	1,910	385	405	5.2
Kansas	142	143	1,830	1,825	260	261	0.4
Michigan	387	408	2,085	2,135	807	871	7.9
Minnesota	460	460	1,645	1,730	757	796	5.2
New Mexico	323	323	2,130	2,035	688	657	-4.5
New York	615	618	1,885	1,940	1,159	1,199	3.5
Ohio	266	266	1,720	1,730	458	460	0.4
Oregon	125	122	1,735	1,700	217	207	-4.6
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,665	1,715	882	909	3.1
South Dakota	97	106	1,805	1,860	175	197	12.6
Texas	468	462	1,850	1,835	866	848	-2.1
Utah	95	96	1,945	1,990	185	191	3.2
Vermont	131	132	1,720	1,710	225	226	0.4
Virginia	93	91	1,570	1,620	146	147	0.7
Washington	274	275	2,050	2,010	562	553	-1.6
Wisconsin	1,270	1,280	1,830	1,915	2,324	2,451	5.5
23-State Total	8,572	8,628	1,895	1,900	16,241	16,394	0.9

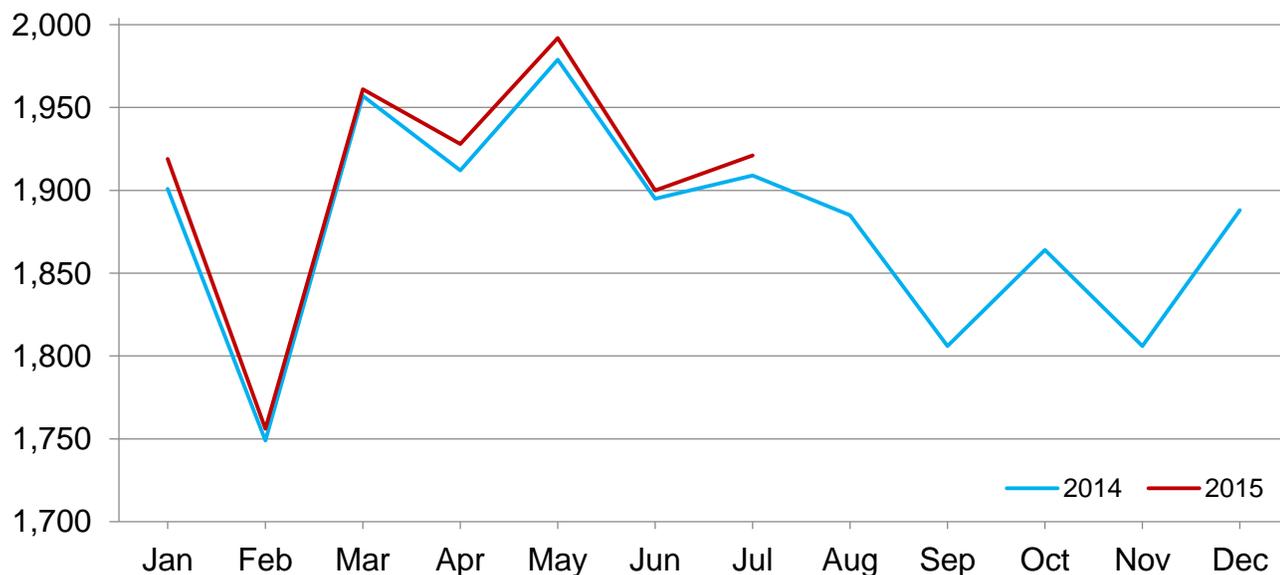
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² 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 16.6 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	24	0	64	16	7
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	5	0	16	14	6

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.

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

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.