



Released October 22, 2026, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

September Milk Production up 2.7 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during September totaled 18.7 billion pounds, up 2.7 percent from September 2025. August revised production, at 19.3 billion pounds, was up 2.5 percent from August 2025. The August revision represented an increase of 132 million pounds or 0.7 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,012 pounds for September, 18 pounds above September 2025.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 9.30 million head, 162,000 head more than September 2025, and 24,000 head more than August 2026.

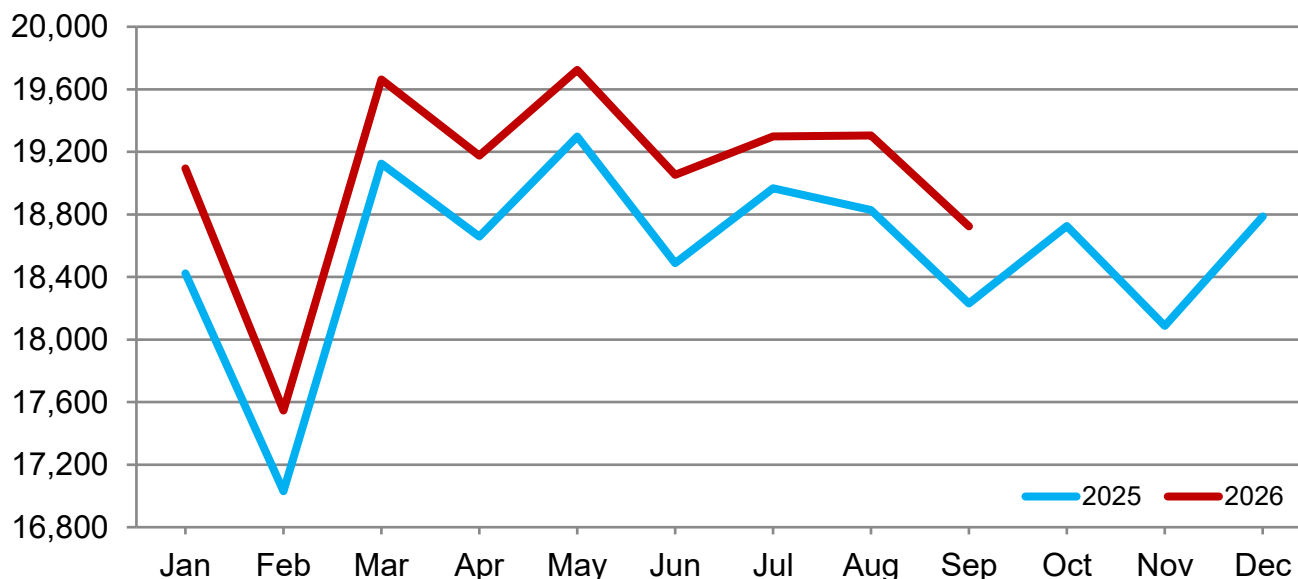
July-September Milk Production up 2.3 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the July - September quarter totaled 59.5 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from the July - September quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.72 million head, 39,000 head more than the April - June quarter, and 172,000 head more than the same period last year.

Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2025-2026

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,410	9,622	6,043	6,091	56,865	58,603	3.1
April-June	9,474	9,676	6,205	6,234	58,783	60,317	2.6
July-September	9,543	9,715	6,100	6,128	58,208	59,529	2.3
October-December	9,564		6,044		57,802		
Annual	9,498		24,390		231,658		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2025-2026

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,954	9,170	2,058	2,082	18,423	19,095	3.6
February	8,966	9,175	1,899	1,912	17,030	17,546	3.0
March	8,995	9,198	2,126	2,138	19,124	19,662	2.8
April	9,017	9,218	2,069	2,080	18,659	19,175	2.8
May	9,043	9,213	2,134	2,141	19,298	19,724	2.2
June	9,046	9,265	2,044	2,057	18,489	19,054	3.1
July	9,082	9,249	2,088	2,087	18,967	19,299	1.8
August	9,113	9,280	2,066	2,080	18,827	19,304	2.5
September	9,142	9,304	1,994	2,012	18,230	18,724	2.7
October	9,137		2,049		18,726		
November	9,130		1,981		18,088		
December	9,139		2,056		18,787		
Annual	9,064		24,564		222,648		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2025-2026

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,391	9,610	2,044	2,068	19,194	19,875	3.5
February	9,404	9,614	1,887	1,900	17,746	18,263	2.9
March	9,434	9,641	2,112	2,123	19,925	20,465	2.7
April	9,455	9,662	2,055	2,066	19,432	19,959	2.7
May	9,481	9,657	2,120	2,126	20,097	20,529	2.1
June	9,485	9,710	2,030	2,042	19,254	19,829	3.0
July	9,511	9,685	2,072	2,070	19,706	20,047	1.7
August	9,543	9,717	2,050	2,062	19,560	20,039	2.4
September	9,574	9,743	1,978	1,996	18,942	19,443	2.6
October	9,566		2,035		19,469		
November	9,559		1,967		18,804		
December	9,566		2,042		19,529		
Annual	9,498		24,390		231,658		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: September 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	200	190	1,840	1,840	368	350	-4.9
California	1,713	1,718	1,920	1,915	3,289	3,290	(Z)
Colorado	211	218	2,135	2,145	450	468	4.0
Florida	99	100	1,615	1,630	160	163	1.9
Georgia	89	92	1,885	1,955	168	180	7.1
Idaho	725	742	2,125	2,150	1,541	1,595	3.5
Illinois	79	76	1,725	1,750	136	133	-2.2
Indiana	193	204	1,950	1,980	376	404	7.4
Iowa	246	247	2,015	2,030	496	501	1.0
Kansas	219	248	1,960	1,985	429	492	14.7
Michigan	460	472	2,265	2,290	1,042	1,081	3.7
Minnesota	452	458	1,935	1,955	875	895	2.3
New Mexico	236	235	1,980	1,985	467	466	-0.2
New York	649	662	2,095	2,140	1,360	1,417	4.2
Ohio	252	255	1,820	1,840	459	469	2.2
Oregon	123	130	1,725	1,740	212	226	6.6
Pennsylvania	460	457	1,700	1,720	782	786	0.5
South Dakota	235	252	1,950	1,960	458	494	7.9
Texas	706	730	2,125	2,140	1,500	1,562	4.1
Utah	98	95	1,920	1,920	188	182	-3.2
Vermont	116	115	1,785	1,800	207	207	-
Virginia	67	67	1,665	1,670	112	112	-
Washington	234	235	1,970	1,995	461	469	1.7
Wisconsin	1,280	1,306	2,105	2,130	2,694	2,782	3.3
24-State Total	9,142	9,304	1,994	2,012	18,230	18,724	2.7

- Represents zero.

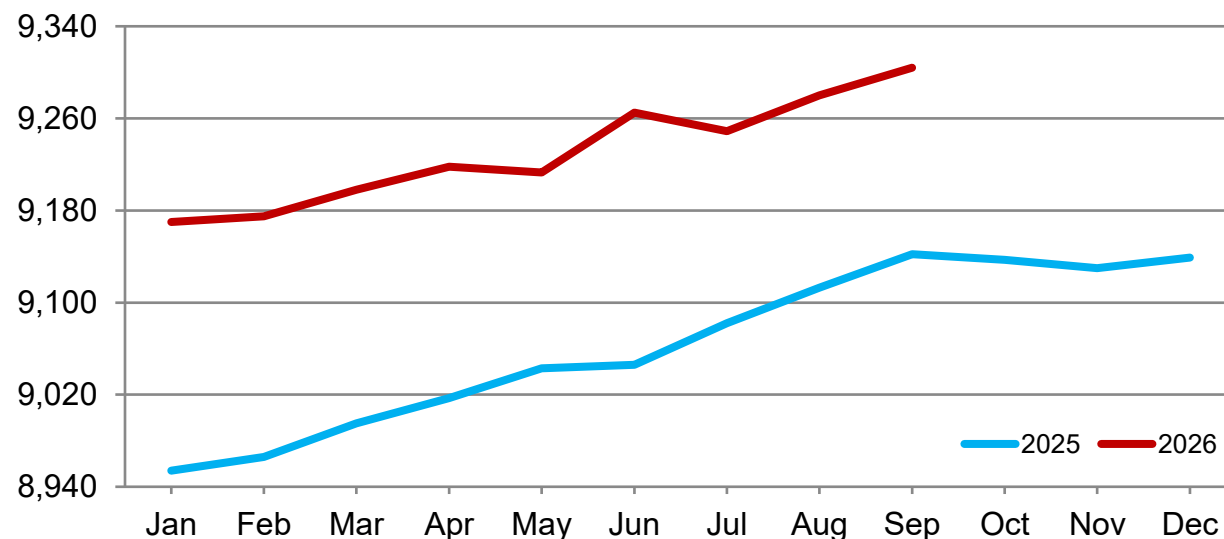
(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: August 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

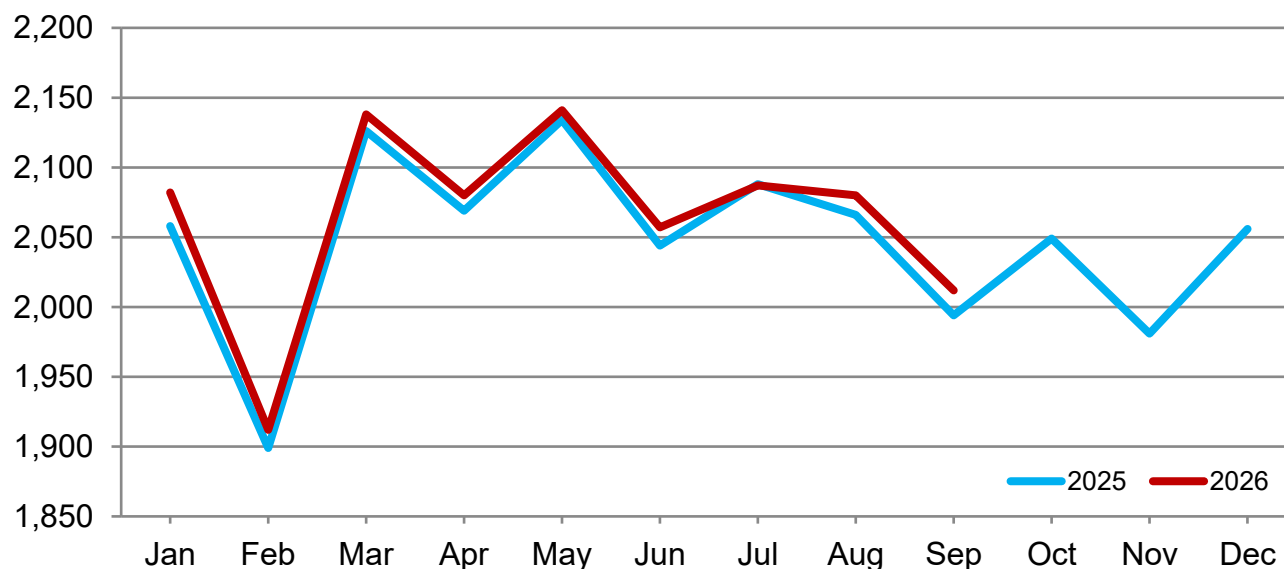
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2025
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	202	193	1,890	1,865	382	360	-5.8
California	1,715	1,718	1,990	1,985	3,413	3,410	-0.1
Colorado	211	218	2,210	2,215	466	483	3.6
Florida	97	101	1,675	1,710	162	173	6.8
Georgia	89	92	1,930	1,995	172	184	7.0
Idaho	722	737	2,220	2,230	1,603	1,644	2.6
Illinois	75	76	1,750	1,780	131	135	3.1
Indiana	190	199	1,990	2,005	378	399	5.6
Iowa	244	247	2,065	2,095	504	517	2.6
Kansas	218	246	2,010	2,030	438	499	13.9
Michigan	455	469	2,340	2,370	1,065	1,112	4.4
Minnesota	450	456	2,005	2,020	902	921	2.1
New Mexico	236	235	2,035	2,035	480	478	-0.4
New York	649	657	2,205	2,230	1,431	1,465	2.4
Ohio	251	254	1,905	1,935	478	491	2.7
Oregon	123	129	1,800	1,800	221	232	5.0
Pennsylvania	460	457	1,755	1,775	807	811	0.5
South Dakota	234	252	1,995	2,010	467	507	8.6
Texas	700	730	2,190	2,205	1,533	1,610	5.0
Utah	98	95	1,995	1,990	196	189	-3.6
Vermont	115	114	1,870	1,870	215	213	-0.9
Virginia	66	67	1,735	1,740	115	117	1.7
Washington	237	235	2,050	2,045	486	481	-1.0
Wisconsin	1,276	1,303	2,180	2,205	2,782	2,873	3.3
24-State Total	9,113	9,280	2,066	2,080	18,827	19,304	2.5

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States

Pounds



Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Revised April - June 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

State	April - June milk cows ¹		April - June milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	191.0	198.0	1,224.0	1,275.0	4.2
California	1,710.0	1,714.0	10,465.0	10,573.0	1.0
Colorado	210.0	220.0	1,378.0	1,446.0	4.9
Florida	96.0	101.0	541.0	569.0	5.2
Georgia	87.0	88.0	528.0	555.0	5.1
Idaho	710.0	729.0	4,606.0	4,749.0	3.1
Illinois	76.0	76.0	428.0	433.0	1.2
Indiana	191.0	198.0	1,161.0	1,202.0	3.5
Iowa	243.0	245.0	1,535.0	1,552.0	1.1
Kansas	201.0	241.0	1,223.0	1,473.0	20.4
Kentucky	40.0	37.0	215.0	199.0	-7.4
Maine	24.0	24.0	140.0	137.0	-2.1
Maryland	39.0	41.0	210.0	220.0	4.8
Michigan	451.0	466.0	3,159.0	3,264.0	3.3
Minnesota	443.0	453.0	2,678.0	2,752.0	2.8
Missouri	54.0	55.0	204.0	210.0	2.9
Nebraska	50.0	50.0	314.0	317.0	1.0
Nevada	34.0	36.0	215.0	228.0	6.0
New Mexico	239.0	238.0	1,510.0	1,508.0	-0.1
New York	639.0	652.0	4,173.0	4,272.0	2.4
North Carolina	35.0	36.0	210.0	215.0	2.4
Ohio	255.0	254.0	1,466.0	1,465.0	-0.1
Oklahoma	43.0	46.0	206.0	218.0	5.8
Oregon	117.0	126.0	625.0	680.0	8.8
Pennsylvania	462.0	453.0	2,488.0	2,451.0	-1.5
South Dakota	232.0	245.0	1,357.0	1,435.0	5.7
Tennessee	22.0	22.0	105.0	106.0	1.0
Texas	693.0	723.0	4,586.0	4,800.0	4.7
Utah	97.0	100.0	577.0	600.0	4.0
Vermont	113.0	112.0	632.0	630.0	-0.3
Virginia	67.0	67.0	361.0	363.0	0.6
Washington	243.0	236.0	1,494.0	1,450.0	-2.9
Wisconsin	1,268.0	1,296.0	8,251.0	8,456.0	2.5
Other States ³	98.6	98.1	518.1	514.1	-0.8
United States	9,474.0	9,676.0	58,783.0	60,317.0	2.6

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Other States includes states not published.

Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary July - September 2025 and 2026

[May not add due to rounding]

State	July - September milk cows ¹		July - September milk production ²		
	2025	2026	2025	2026	Change from 2025
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	199.0	194.0	1,132.0	1,098.0	-3.0
California	1,714.0	1,717.0	10,209.0	10,175.0	-0.3
Colorado	211.0	218.0	1,384.0	1,437.0	3.8
Florida	98.0	101.0	493.0	517.0	4.9
Georgia	89.0	92.0	514.0	551.0	7.2
Idaho	723.0	738.0	4,756.0	4,872.0	2.4
Illinois	76.0	75.0	401.0	402.0	0.2
Indiana	191.0	200.0	1,134.0	1,197.0	5.6
Iowa	244.0	246.0	1,508.0	1,527.0	1.3
Kansas	217.0	246.0	1,295.0	1,486.0	14.7
Kentucky	38.0	36.0	184.0	172.0	-6.5
Maine	23.0	23.0	138.0	132.0	-4.3
Maryland	37.0	39.0	193.0	202.0	4.7
Michigan	456.0	468.0	3,174.0	3,283.0	3.4
Minnesota	449.0	457.0	2,680.0	2,744.0	2.4
Missouri	53.0	53.0	177.0	176.0	-0.6
Nebraska	50.0	50.0	305.0	307.0	0.7
Nevada	34.0	35.0	217.0	222.0	2.3
New Mexico	236.0	236.0	1,434.0	1,437.0	0.2
New York	647.0	656.0	4,214.0	4,315.0	2.4
North Carolina	35.0	36.0	197.0	204.0	3.6
Ohio	252.0	253.0	1,422.0	1,438.0	1.1
Oklahoma	43.0	46.0	190.0	202.0	6.3
Oregon	122.0	130.0	651.0	693.0	6.5
Pennsylvania	460.0	457.0	2,399.0	2,409.0	0.4
South Dakota	234.0	252.0	1,394.0	1,504.0	7.9
Tennessee	22.0	22.0	97.0	99.0	2.1
Texas	702.0	730.0	4,577.0	4,794.0	4.7
Utah	98.0	95.0	582.0	563.0	-3.3
Vermont	115.0	114.0	636.0	634.0	-0.3
Virginia	66.0	67.0	342.0	346.0	1.2
Washington	237.0	235.0	1,438.0	1,429.0	-0.6
Wisconsin	1,276.0	1,302.0	8,255.0	8,476.0	2.7
Other States ³	96.2	95.5	486.1	486.2	(Z)
United States	9,543.0	9,715.0	58,208.0	59,529.0	2.3

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Other States includes states not published.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. NASS maintains a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. All known sources of producers are used to ensure that 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: The Agricultural Statistics Board prepares these estimates by using a combination of survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. All data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with historical estimates.

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 on the next page. 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 milk production estimates over the past 20 quarters is 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 59.5 billion pounds by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 percent.

Reliability of Quarterly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 20 quarters]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Quarters	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.1	0.2	67	4	175	8	12
All milk cows	0.1	0.2	8	1	17	9	11

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - Estimation Branch Contacts

For more information about specific data items, please contact the Estimation Branch staff members below. You can also email inquiries to nass@usda.gov.

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Cost of Pollination, Egg Products, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Milk Production

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