



United  
States  
Department  
Of  
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing  
Service  
Dairy Program

FEDERAL MILK ORDER No. 1  
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December 18, 2020

**TO:** Northeast Order Pool Handlers  
**FROM:** Shawn M. Boockoff, Market Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Request to Allow Temporary Dumping of Surplus Milk - **Approved**

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On December 14, 2020, pool handler Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) requested a temporary authorization allowing pool handlers to discard surplus milk at a farm, with any such dumped milk retaining the status of pool milk. The period requested for this temporary authorization is the Christmas-New Year's holiday period from **December 19, 2020 – January 9, 2021**.

Similar requests allowing for the on-farm disposal of surplus milk have been made by handlers and approved for this same time period in five of the six previous years, the exception being the most recent December-January, 2019-20, holiday period. In three of the past five months, the Northeast Order pooled a record volume, including the most recent two months. This holiday period, the Northeast Marketing Area may be additionally challenged to balance milk with processing capacity due to COVID-19-related impacts. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the level and source of dairy product demand are market wide and support being borne by all pool participants. DFA's comments explain that having to dump milk at the farm is a last resort given the economic costs incurred when milk has to be dumped at a farm.

In consideration of the comments provided by DFA and supporting handlers, continued pool volumes above long term averages, concerns about available plant processing capacity—a condition anticipated to be increasingly challenged during the upcoming holiday period combined with ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19 restrictions on food service demand outlets—the Market Administrator agrees to temporarily authorize the pooling of milk disposed or “dumped” at farm or other non-plant locations for the requested period of **December 19, 2020, through January 9, 2021**, provided the following conditions are met:

- Handlers and/or their producers that utilize this temporary policy must have been pooled on the Northeast Order during the months of July through October 2020.
- The milk must be picked up at the farm, measured and sampled for payment. The tanker test will be a weighted average of the producer tests.
- Notification should be given to the Market Administrator's office by the next business day, or as soon as practicable, when the milk is dumped. At pool time a separate list must be submitted of all producers whose milk was dumped along with the component tests of the applicable milk (if available), and the physical location and address of where the milk was dumped.

Any such requested dumps may be subject to audit verification by the Market Administrator, as a condition to be included as pooled producer milk, during the respective pool period.

December 14, 2020  
Shawn M. Boockoff, Market Administrator  
Federal Milk Marketing Order 1  
89 South Street  
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Mr. Boockoff:

Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA), a cooperative with members pooled on Federal Milk Marketing Order 1 (FMMO1), requests that the Market Administrator grant temporary procedures allowing surplus milk to be disposed of at the farm and retain pool eligibility for the period December 19, 2020, through January 9, 2021.

During the past six years, FMMO1 handlers have requested a similar temporary dumping allowance during each holiday period with the exception of Thanksgiving through New Year's during 2019 into 2020. The Market Administrator approved temporary authorizations for each of the requested periods as follows: December 15, 2015 through January 18, 2016; November 22, 2016, through January 9, 2017; November 15, 2017, through January 8, 2018; and December 22, 2018 through January 6, 2019. For each requested temporary dumping, the key factors cited were increasing milk supply and reduced available processing capacity. Milk balancing stress is expected to exceed processing capacity during the holiday period December 2020 through January 2021 identified above, resulting in disposed milk.

Milk production has increased in the primary states comprising FMMO1. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's October Milk Production report, (Exhibit 1) combined total milk production year-to-date through September 2020 for Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont has increased 0.5%<sup>1</sup> compared to the same period during 2019. The data does indicate a slowing in the rate of increase in the region's milk production, which increased 0.9% during the third quarter of 2020 compared to the same quarter last year.

Regional processing capacity has been severely impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on dairy product demand. In order to protect public health and safety, state and county governments across the FMMO1 marketing area have issued various orders that have reduced consumer access to traditional food service channels. These orders require restaurants to limit in-person seating, limit hours of operations, and in some cases to close completely for a period of time. According to a study published in 2018 from the Economic Research Service<sup>2</sup>, Americans purchased more than half of their meals from non-retail establishments during 2017. Since the government orders were put in place, consumers have shifted their meals purchases to retail channels. However, the increased retail demand does not offset the loss in food service demand.

Neither DFA nor any other milk marketer would prefer the return gained from dumping at the farm to a return from a commercial sale. As regional balancing capacity is exhausted, milk must be moved longer distances to where capacity is available. This causes transport equipment to be on the road longer and in effect reduces total supply of equipment and drivers. At some point, there is no available plant capacity, no available milk transport equipment and drivers, or the net marketing return approaches zero and it is simply more cost effective to dispose of the milk.

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<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for extra day in 2020

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/90228/eib-196.pdf?v=2145.4>



As mentioned above, your office granted temporary dumping allowances for multiple periods during 2015 to 2019. Our request is to again allow loads to be disposed at farm or other non-plant locations and retain pool status when accurate weights, component tests and location are reported to the Market Administrator. Doing so will prevent the uneconomic hauling of milk. The reasons for this impact the entire market and the resulting costs should be borne fairly by all market suppliers. Note again, that the return gained by this request represents a small fraction of the total value of the load of milk and would not incent uneconomic behavior simply to collect the payment.

I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely



Chris Allen  
Vice President Dairy Marketing & Economic Policy





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## September Milk Production up 2.4 Percent

**Milk production** in the 24 major States during September totaled 17.2 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from September 2019. August revised production, at 17.8 billion pounds, was up 1.9 percent from August 2019. The August revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 24 major States averaged 1,944 pounds for September, 36 pounds above September 2019.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 24 major States was 8.85 million head, 46,000 head more than September 2019, and 6,000 head more than August 2020.

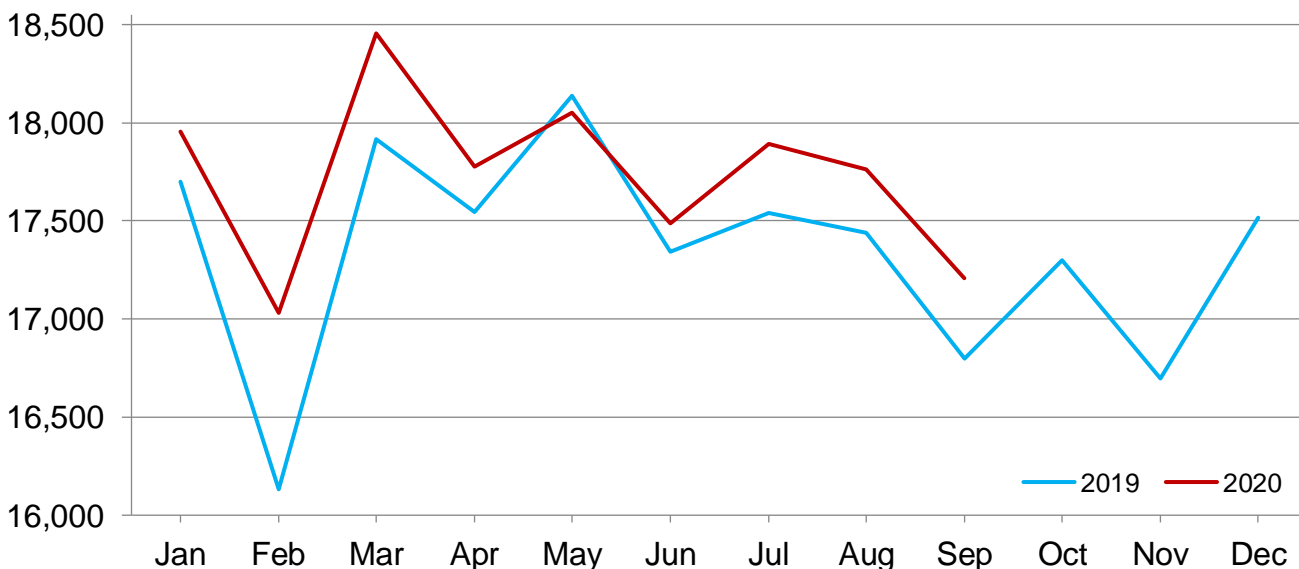
## July-September Milk Production up 2.0 Percent

**Milk production** in the United States during the July - September quarter totaled 55.3 billion pounds, up 2.0 percent from the July - September quarter last year.

**The average number of milk cows** in the United States during the quarter was 9.36 million head, 1,000 head less than the April - June quarter, but 39,000 head more than the same period last year.

## Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter - United States: 2019-2020

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

Quarter	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March .....	9,346	9,374	5,823	5,988	54,423	56,130	3.1
April-June .....	9,331	9,362	5,971	5,981	55,716	55,997	0.5
July-September .....	9,322	9,361	5,818	5,910	54,237	55,328	2.0
October-December .....	9,345		5,779		54,006		
Annual .....	9,336		23,391		218,382		

<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 – 24 Selected States: 2019-2020

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

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,805	8,834	2,010	2,033	17,699	17,956	1.5
February .....	8,803	8,848	1,833	1,925	16,132	17,031	5.6
March .....	8,789	8,857	2,038	2,084	17,916	18,455	3.0
April .....	8,788	8,852	1,996	2,008	17,544	17,778	1.3
May .....	8,790	8,836	2,063	2,043	18,137	18,049	-0.5
June .....	8,784	8,827	1,974	1,981	17,342	17,486	0.8
July .....	8,785	8,840	1,997	2,024	17,542	17,891	2.0
August .....	8,789	8,845	1,984	2,008	17,439	17,764	1.9
September .....	8,805	8,851	1,908	1,944	16,796	17,206	2.4
October .....	8,819		1,962		17,299		
November .....	8,817		1,894		16,699		
December .....	8,816		1,987		17,517		
Annual .....	8,799		23,646		208,062		

<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: 2019-2020

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

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,354	9,361	1,990	2,015	18,612	18,860	1.3
February .....	9,352	9,375	1,814	1,908	16,966	17,890	5.4
March .....	9,333	9,385	2,019	2,065	18,845	19,380	2.8
April .....	9,332	9,375	1,975	1,992	18,433	18,675	1.3
May .....	9,333	9,360	2,042	2,025	19,058	18,955	-0.5
June .....	9,327	9,350	1,954	1,964	18,225	18,367	0.8
July .....	9,315	9,357	1,973	2,001	18,375	18,725	1.9
August .....	9,318	9,361	1,960	1,986	18,267	18,595	1.8
September .....	9,333	9,366	1,885	1,923	17,595	18,008	2.3
October .....	9,347		1,940		18,135		
November .....	9,345		1,873		17,506		
December .....	9,343		1,966		18,365		
Annual .....	9,336		23,391		218,382		

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

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

## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: September 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

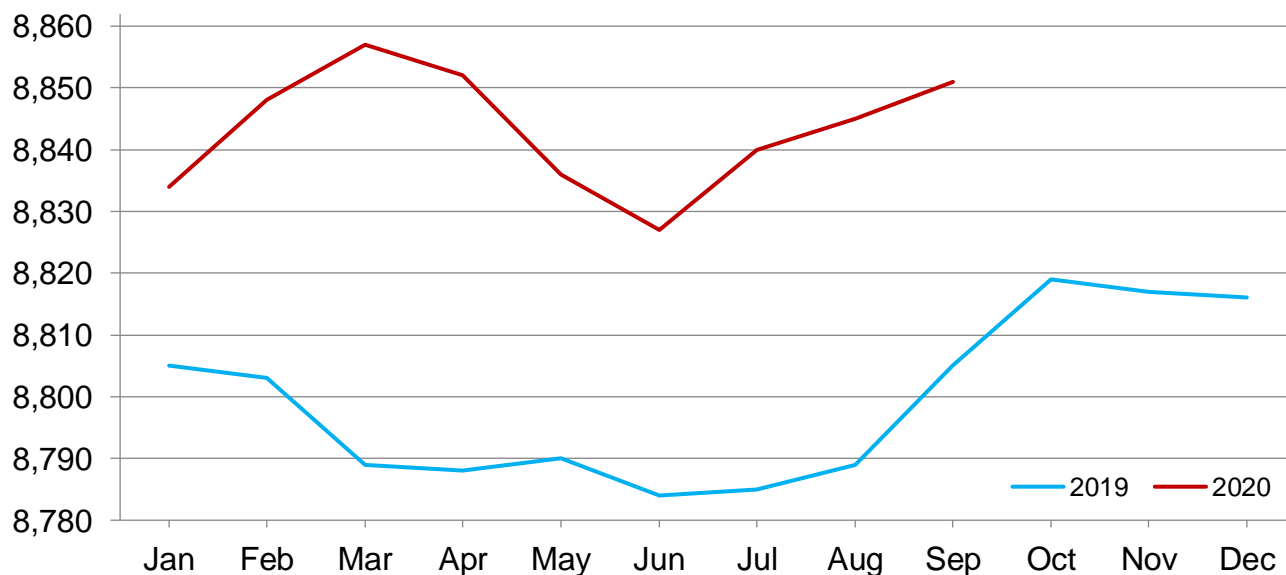
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	196	195	1,825	1,795	358	350	-2.2
California .....	1,725	1,721	1,860	1,925	3,209	3,313	3.2
Colorado .....	189	199	2,110	2,160	399	430	7.8
Florida .....	116	111	1,415	1,425	164	158	-3.7
Georgia .....	80	79	1,640	1,650	131	130	-0.8
Idaho .....	630	645	2,060	2,070	1,298	1,335	2.9
Illinois .....	83	83	1,600	1,650	133	137	3.0
Indiana .....	175	185	1,835	1,890	321	350	9.0
Iowa .....	217	219	1,970	2,005	427	439	2.8
Kansas .....	163	171	1,910	1,940	311	332	6.8
Michigan .....	428	428	2,170	2,220	929	950	2.3
Minnesota .....	447	442	1,810	1,880	809	831	2.7
New Mexico .....	329	327	2,030	2,025	668	662	-0.9
New York .....	627	626	1,970	2,000	1,235	1,252	1.4
Ohio .....	252	254	1,735	1,800	437	457	4.6
Oregon .....	124	123	1,700	1,690	211	208	-1.4
Pennsylvania .....	485	482	1,650	1,690	800	815	1.9
South Dakota .....	126	139	1,865	1,900	235	264	12.3
Texas .....	570	598	1,995	2,025	1,137	1,211	6.5
Utah .....	97	95	1,925	1,925	187	183	-2.1
Vermont .....	125	120	1,750	1,725	219	207	-5.5
Virginia .....	74	74	1,555	1,575	115	117	1.7
Washington .....	281	279	2,005	1,995	563	557	-1.1
Wisconsin .....	1,266	1,256	1,975	2,005	2,500	2,518	0.7
24-State Total .....	8,805	8,851	1,908	1,944	16,796	17,206	2.4

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

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

## Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: August 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

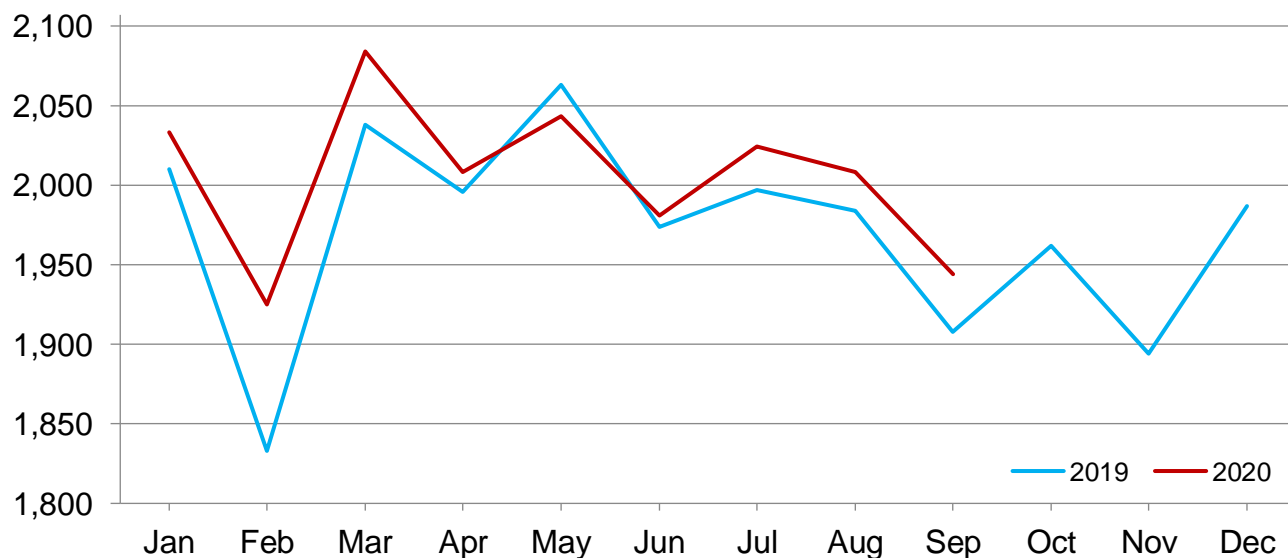
	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	195	196	1,860	1,830	363	359	-1.1
California .....	1,725	1,721	1,925	1,955	3,321	3,365	1.3
Colorado .....	187	198	2,200	2,225	411	441	7.3
Florida .....	116	111	1,560	1,570	181	174	-3.9
Georgia .....	80	80	1,690	1,700	135	136	0.7
Idaho .....	628	645	2,185	2,190	1,372	1,413	3.0
Illinois .....	83	83	1,670	1,705	139	142	2.2
Indiana .....	175	185	1,900	1,970	333	364	9.3
Iowa .....	217	218	2,030	2,070	441	451	2.3
Kansas .....	162	170	1,955	1,995	317	339	6.9
Michigan .....	427	428	2,265	2,310	967	989	2.3
Minnesota .....	447	442	1,895	1,965	847	869	2.6
New Mexico .....	326	326	2,085	2,055	680	670	-1.5
New York .....	627	626	2,050	2,070	1,285	1,296	0.9
Ohio .....	250	254	1,830	1,865	458	474	3.5
Oregon .....	124	123	1,780	1,775	221	218	-1.4
Pennsylvania .....	485	482	1,710	1,745	829	841	1.4
South Dakota .....	124	138	1,940	1,970	241	272	12.9
Texas .....	567	593	2,030	2,080	1,151	1,233	7.1
Utah .....	96	95	1,995	1,975	192	188	-2.1
Vermont .....	126	121	1,800	1,775	227	215	-5.3
Virginia .....	74	74	1,590	1,640	118	121	2.5
Washington .....	281	279	2,090	2,075	587	579	-1.4
Wisconsin .....	1,267	1,257	2,070	2,080	2,623	2,615	-0.3
24-State Total .....	8,789	8,845	1,984	2,008	17,439	17,764	1.9

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

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

## Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States

Pounds



## Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Revised April - June 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

State	April - June milk cows <sup>1</sup>		April - June milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	5.0	3.5	17.0	12.0	-29.4
Alaska .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Arizona .....	196.0	197.0	1,217.0	1,231.0	1.2
Arkansas .....	5.5	5.0	19.0	18.0	-5.3
California .....	1,726.0	1,722.0	10,330.0	10,416.0	0.8
Colorado .....	184.0	196.0	1,206.0	1,278.0	6.0
Connecticut .....	19.5	19.0	108.0	109.0	0.9
Delaware .....	4.2	3.8	19.2	18.7	-2.6
Florida .....	115.0	113.0	619.0	594.0	-4.0
Georgia .....	83.0	82.0	457.0	449.0	-1.8
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Idaho .....	620.0	644.0	3,937.0	4,096.0	4.0
Illinois .....	84.0	82.0	455.0	455.0	-
Indiana .....	179.0	177.0	1,061.0	1,060.0	-0.1
Iowa .....	219.0	218.0	1,344.0	1,343.0	-0.1
Kansas .....	162.0	168.0	961.0	986.0	2.6
Kentucky .....	51.0	48.0	252.0	252.0	-
Louisiana .....	10.5	10.0	37.0	37.0	-
Maine .....	30.0	27.0	162.0	152.0	-6.2
Maryland .....	43.0	42.0	217.0	223.0	2.8
Massachusetts .....	10.5	10.0	49.0	50.0	2.0
Michigan .....	425.0	428.0	2,920.0	2,919.0	-
Minnesota .....	448.0	443.0	2,527.0	2,524.0	-0.1
Mississippi .....	8.5	8.5	34.0	36.0	5.9
Missouri .....	79.0	76.0	303.0	301.0	-0.7
Montana .....	11.5	11.5	65.0	64.0	-1.5
Nebraska .....	58.0	59.0	354.0	364.0	2.8
Nevada .....	33.0	31.0	195.0	190.0	-2.6
New Hampshire .....	11.5	11.0	62.0	60.0	-3.2
New Jersey .....	4.8	4.7	26.0	25.0	-3.8
New Mexico .....	323.0	328.0	2,103.0	2,006.0	-4.6
New York .....	627.0	626.0	3,869.0	3,856.0	-0.3
North Carolina .....	43.0	41.0	236.0	229.0	-3.0
North Dakota .....	14.5	14.5	83.0	82.0	-1.2
Ohio .....	249.0	253.0	1,389.0	1,408.0	1.4
Oklahoma .....	42.0	42.0	192.0	194.0	1.0
Oregon .....	122.0	124.0	655.0	657.0	0.3
Pennsylvania .....	493.0	483.0	2,604.0	2,616.0	0.5
Rhode Island .....	0.7	0.5	2.7	2.6	-3.7
South Carolina .....	12.0	10.5	55.0	52.0	-5.5
South Dakota .....	123.0	134.0	694.0	765.0	10.2
Tennessee .....	32.0	30.0	145.0	142.0	-2.1
Texas .....	564.0	590.0	3,520.0	3,652.0	3.8
Utah .....	98.0	96.0	576.0	563.0	-2.3
Vermont .....	126.0	123.0	687.0	656.0	-4.5
Virginia .....	75.0	75.0	386.0	391.0	1.3
Washington .....	278.0	279.0	1,722.0	1,719.0	-0.2
West Virginia .....	6.0	6.0	23.0	23.0	-
Wisconsin .....	1,269.0	1,258.0	7,784.0	7,673.0	-1.4
Wyoming .....	6.0	7.5	36.5	46.5	27.4
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.3	44.4
United States .....	9,331.0	9,362.0	55,716.0	55,997.0	0.5

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Other States includes Alaska and Hawaii.



# Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary July - September 2019 and 2020

[May not add due to rounding]

State	July - September milk cows <sup>1</sup>		July - September milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change from 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	4.5	3.2	12.0	9.0	-25.0
Alaska .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Arizona .....	195.0	196.0	1,099.0	1,082.0	-1.5
Arkansas .....	5.0	5.0	15.0	14.0	-6.7
California .....	1,725.0	1,721.0	9,920.0	10,146.0	2.3
Colorado .....	188.0	198.0	1,222.0	1,314.0	7.5
Connecticut .....	19.0	19.0	104.0	105.0	1.0
Delaware .....	4.0	3.8	16.2	16.4	1.2
Florida .....	116.0	111.0	537.0	515.0	-4.1
Georgia .....	80.0	80.0	409.0	408.0	-0.2
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Idaho .....	628.0	645.0	4,041.0	4,173.0	3.3
Illinois .....	83.0	83.0	412.0	424.0	2.9
Indiana .....	175.0	184.0	985.0	1,069.0	8.5
Iowa .....	217.0	218.0	1,300.0	1,335.0	2.7
Kansas .....	162.0	170.0	947.0	1,006.0	6.2
Kentucky .....	49.0	47.0	213.0	216.0	1.4
Louisiana .....	10.0	9.5	27.0	27.0	-
Maine .....	29.0	27.0	157.0	147.0	-6.4
Maryland .....	42.0	41.0	197.0	206.0	4.6
Massachusetts .....	10.0	10.0	47.0	48.0	2.1
Michigan .....	427.0	428.0	2,854.0	2,928.0	2.6
Minnesota .....	447.0	442.0	2,503.0	2,564.0	2.4
Mississippi .....	8.0	8.5	27.0	28.0	3.7
Missouri .....	77.0	75.0	258.0	253.0	-1.9
Montana .....	11.5	11.5	66.0	64.0	-3.0
Nebraska .....	58.0	59.0	345.0	356.0	3.2
Nevada .....	33.0	31.0	193.0	190.0	-1.6
New Hampshire .....	11.0	11.0	59.0	57.0	-3.4
New Jersey .....	4.8	4.7	24.0	24.0	-
New Mexico .....	327.0	326.0	2,042.0	1,989.0	-2.6
New York .....	627.0	626.0	3,805.0	3,847.0	1.1
North Carolina .....	41.0	40.0	213.0	209.0	-1.9
North Dakota .....	15.0	14.5	83.0	83.0	-
Ohio .....	251.0	254.0	1,350.0	1,406.0	4.1
Oklahoma .....	41.0	41.0	170.0	170.0	-
Oregon .....	124.0	123.0	656.0	648.0	-1.2
Pennsylvania .....	485.0	482.0	2,461.0	2,521.0	2.4
Rhode Island .....	0.7	0.5	2.7	2.7	-
South Carolina .....	11.0	10.0	45.0	42.0	-6.7
South Dakota .....	124.0	138.0	711.0	800.0	12.5
Tennessee .....	31.0	29.0	126.0	126.0	-
Texas .....	567.0	594.0	3,455.0	3,662.0	6.0
Utah .....	97.0	95.0	574.0	560.0	-2.4
Vermont .....	126.0	121.0	674.0	638.0	-5.3
Virginia .....	74.0	74.0	352.0	361.0	2.6
Washington .....	281.0	279.0	1,746.0	1,730.0	-0.9
West Virginia .....	6.0	6.0	22.0	22.0	-
Wisconsin .....	1,267.0	1,257.0	7,722.0	7,735.0	0.2
Wyoming .....	6.0	8.0	37.0	50.5	36.5
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	11.1
United States .....	9,322.0	9,361.0	54,237.0	55,328.0	2.0

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Other States includes Alaska and Hawaii.

## 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:** Regional Field 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 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 55.3 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	48	3	184	12	8
All milk cows .....	0.1	0.2	8	0	26	14	4

## 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@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106

## 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: [www.nass.usda.gov](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 [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist [notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu](mailto:notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu) in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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## USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold a virtual meeting for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2020 Fall Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will answer questions and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/Meeting/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php)). Contact Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or [patricia.snipe@usda.gov](mailto:patricia.snipe@usda.gov) for information.

# LAND O' LAKES, INC.

4001 Lexington Avenue North  
Arden, Hills, MN 55126

Mailing: P.O. Box 64101  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0101

651.375.2222  
landolakesinc.com

December 15, 2020

John D. Marcucci, Market Administrator  
Federal Milk Marketing Order 1  
333 Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, VA 222314

Dear Mr. Marcucci

Land O'Lakes, Inc., a cooperative milk handler with members pooled on Federal Milk Marketing Order 1 (FMMO 1), supports the request from Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) to the Market Administrator to grant temporary procedures allowing surplus milk to be disposed of at the farm and retain pool eligibility for the defined period of December 19, 2020 to January 04, 2021.

We agree with the observations and conclusions outlined in the DFA request. Our supply chain and marketing teams have been working on securing balancing agreements for the defined time period for several months. Milk balancing during this time is compounded by the reduction in Class I needs due to school closings, a market already hindered by the effects of COVID-19, variations in operation schedules for retail milk outlets and extended closures of milk processing plants within the order. There is also the disruption of our own manufacturing schedule due to the current surge in positive COVID-19 cases which threaten our ability to fully staff our manufacturing facility.

Each of these reasons impact the entire market and the resulting costs should be borne fairly by all market suppliers. Granting this request will ensure the costs of market balancing during this time period will be shared equally among all producers thru the market wide pool.

Thank you for your consideration

*Brittini S. Treichler-Harris*

Brittini Treichler-Harris  
Eastern Region Milk Supply Manager

  
**UPSTATE NIAGARA  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
FARMER OWNED

*General Office:*  
25 Anderson Road  
Buffalo, NY 14225

*Membership Division:*  
700 Ellicott Street, Suite 2  
Batavia, NY 14020

*Information Technology:*  
90 Anderson Road  
Buffalo, NY 14225

*Buffalo Fluid Plant:*  
1730 Dale Road  
Buffalo, NY 14225

*Rochester Fluid Plant:*  
45 Fulton Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14608

*Upstate Farms Dairy, LLC:*  
240 Oneida Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202

*Valley Farms Dairy, LLC:*  
1860 East Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

*Cultured Products Plant:*  
3300 North America Drive  
West Seneca, NY 14224

*North Country Dairy, LLC:*  
22 County Route 52  
North Lawrence, NY 12967

*Upstate Farms  
Cultured Products, LLC:*  
5011 Ag Park Drive West  
Batavia, NY 14020

*Upstate Farms Cheese, LLC:*  
8600 Main Street  
Campbell, NY 14821

*O-AT-KA Milk Products  
Cooperative, Inc.:*  
700 Ellicott Street  
Batavia, NY 14020

December 17, 2020

Mr. Shawn M. Boockoff, Market Administrator  
P.O. Box 51478  
Boston, MA 02205-1478

Dear Mr. Boockoff,

At this time, Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc. does not oppose the request for temporary procedures allowing surplus milk to be disposed at the farm and retain pool eligibility.

While Upstate Niagara does not oppose the current request, we do not want this to become 'the normal course of business' for periods that require additional balancing.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this comment.

Sincerely,



Jodi Smith Krzysiak  
Economist and Policy Analyst  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.



Mr. Boockoff.

I'm writing today to inform you that Agri-Mark is in support of DFA's attached request to grant temporary procedures allowing surplus milk to be disposed of at the farm and retain pool eligibility for the period of December 19, 2020, through January 9, 2021 in the Northeast Federal Milk Marketing Order.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out to me at any time with any questions or concerns.

Hope you are well,  
Catherine

**Catherine de Ronde**

VP, Economics & Legislative Affairs  
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