



NASS Programs

Milk Production

About the Survey

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Milk Production Survey to collect information on total milk production, number of milk cows and milk production per cow. NASS publishes the results of the survey in the monthly *Milk Production* report.

The Milk Production Survey collects information on:

- Number of cows milked the first day of the month,
- Number of all milk cows in the herd the first day of the month,
- Total milk produced the first day of the month, and
- Milk cow replacement prices.

All previous milk production publications are available online at <http://bit.ly/MilkProduction>.

Response Confidentiality

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

How NASS Collects Data

In January, April, July and October, NASS collects milk production data in all 50 states. Generally, all large operations and a sample of small- and medium-sized operations receive the survey.

In April and October, the survey also asks producers to provide information on the amount of milk consumed on the farm for food or drink and the amount fed to calves.

Producers may respond in either of the following ways:

- **Online – Respond online at www.agcounts.usda.gov.** Online is the easiest, fastest and safest way to complete the survey and it saves taxpayer dollars too. To get started, use the identification number and easy to follow instructions on the survey form.
- **By mail or fax** – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

A NASS representative will contact producers who do not respond to arrange a telephone or personal interview.

Who Uses the Information?

All stakeholders in the U.S. dairy industry rely on accurate milk production data to make sound business decisions. For example:

- Dairy industry participants use the information extensively in planning, pricing and projecting supplies of milk and milk products.
- Dairy producers rely on the information to determine production and marketing strategies.
- Manufacturers of dairy products use these data to help determine the location of future dairy facilities, manufacturing plants and distribution centers.

