2002 DAIRY HIGHLIGHTS

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION

The average number of milk cows on Kentucky farms continued to decline during 2002 and totaled 122,000 head, down 6,000 head from the 2001 average. This continues the steady decline in milk cow numbers that began in 1986.

Total milk production in Kentucky was 1.61 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2001. Average production per cow, at 13,230 pounds, was up from the 2001 average of 12,969. The number of farms with milk cows totaled 2,500, down from 2,900 in 2001.
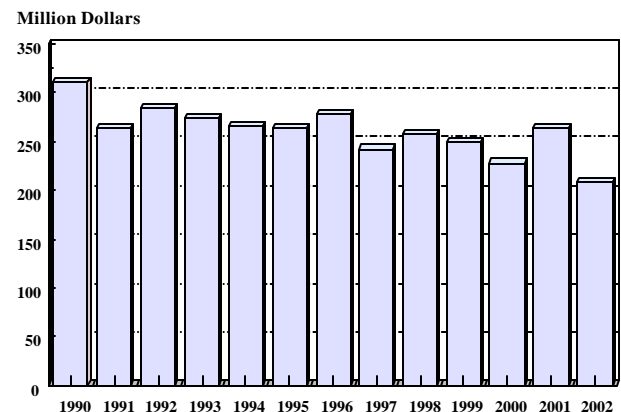
MILK DISPOSITION AND INCOME

Kentucky dairy producers sold 1.58 billion pounds of milk to plants and dealers during 2002 and used 34 million pounds on the farm. Farm use includes milk fed to calves and other livestock, and used for milk, cream and butter. Farm use of milk during 2002 was up 6 percent from 2001, and milk sold to plants and dealers decreased 3 percent from 2001.

Fluid grade milk sold to plants and dealers totaled 1.56 billion pounds, 99 percent of the total milk sold. Manufacturing grade milk sold to plants and dealers totaled 16 million pounds.

The value of milk produced during 2002 came to $213 million, down 21 percent from 2001. This includes the value of milk used on farms. The average price of all grades sold was $13.20 per hundredweight, down from $16.20 per hundredweight during 2001. Cash receipts from marketings totaled $209 million, down 21 percent from the $264 million reported in 2001.

KENTUCKY CASH RECEIPTS FROM MILK MARKETED

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Kentucky plants produced 12.7 million pounds of cottage cheese curd in 2002, down 14 percent from 2001. Creamed cottage cheese production totaled 15.4 million pounds, down 11 percent from the previous year. Lowfat cottage

cheese production was 7.6 million pounds during 2002, down 20 percent from 2001. During 2002, 17 Kentucky plants produced one or more dairy products. Totals for most dairy products produced in Kentucky are not published to avoid disclosing individual plant production.