



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Charleston, West Virginia – Milk production totaled 66 million pounds during 2023, down 9 million pounds from the 2022 production of 75 million pounds. The average number of milk cows during the year was 5,000 head, unchanged from 2022. Average milk production per cow was 13,200 pounds or around 1,535 gallons, down 1,800 pounds from the 2022 number of 15,000 pounds.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2023 totaled \$12.9 million, down 29 percent from the 2022 cash receipts number of \$18.3 million. Producer returns averaged \$20.20 per hundredweight, down \$4.90 per hundredweight from 2022. Milk marketed by producers totaled 64 million pounds or 7.4 million gallons in 2023, down 9 million pounds from the 2022 number of 73 million pounds. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

United States – Milk production decreased slightly in 2023 to 226 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 24,117 pounds, was 30 pounds above 2022. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.39 million head, down 14,000 head from 2022.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2023 totaled \$45.9 billion, down 19.8 percent from 2022. Producer returns averaged \$20.38 per hundredweight, 19.7 percent below 2022. Marketings totaled 225.4 billion pounds, down slightly from 2022. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 989 million pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 0.5 percent less than 2022. Calves were fed 92 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

Note: A conversion of 8.6 pounds per gallon was used.