

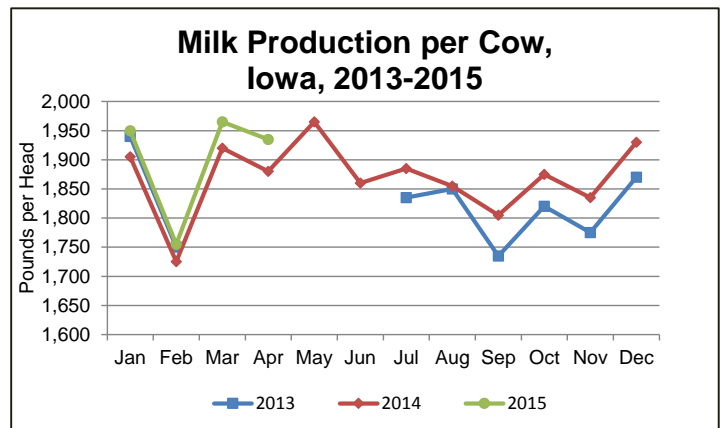
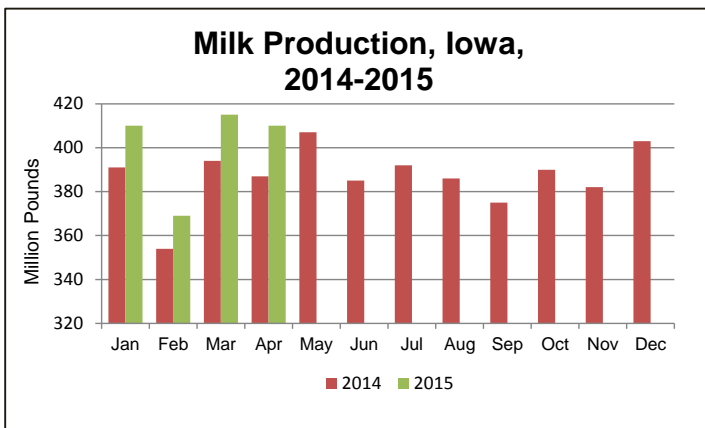


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## MILK PRODUCTION

**Milk production** in Iowa during April 2015 totaled 410 million pounds, up 6 percent from April 2014 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Milk Production* report. The average number of milk cows during April, at 212,000 head, was up 1,000 from last month and 6,000 more than a year ago. This is the highest number of milk cows since June 2010. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,935 pounds, up 55 pounds from last April.



### Milk Cows and Production: Selected States, March 2014 and 2015

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk Per Cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	192	195	2,210	2,225	424	434	2.4
California .....	1,780	1,778	2,065	2,025	3,676	3,600	-2.1
Colorado .....	143	145	2,080	2,170	297	315	6.1
Florida .....	123	125	1,870	1,895	230	237	3.0
Idaho .....	572	584	1,995	2,000	1,141	1,168	2.4
Illinois .....	94	95	1,725	1,760	162	167	3.1
Indiana .....	176	181	1,845	1,855	325	336	3.4
<b>Iowa .....</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>1,935</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Kansas .....	140	145	1,885	1,945	264	282	6.8
Michigan .....	383	403	2,060	2,085	789	840	6.5
Minnesota .....	460	459	1,660	1,710	764	785	2.7
New Mexico .....	323	323	2,135	2,105	690	680	-1.4
New York .....	615	617	1,845	1,875	1,135	1,157	1.9
Ohio .....	267	268	1,720	1,730	459	464	1.1
Oregon .....	125	125	1,770	1,750	221	219	-0.9
Pennsylvania .....	531	530	1,705	1,755	905	930	2.8
South Dakota .....	97	103	1,785	1,840	173	190	9.8
Texas .....	460	462	1,930	1,940	888	896	0.9
Utah .....	95	96	1,895	1,975	180	190	5.6
Vermont .....	131	131	1,695	1,695	222	222	0.0
Virginia .....	93	92	1,660	1,670	154	154	0.0
Washington .....	272	277	2,040	2,015	555	558	0.5
Wisconsin .....	1,269	1,278	1,815	1,875	2,303	2,396	4.0
<b>23-State Total .....</b>	<b>8,547</b>	<b>8,624</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>1,928</b>	<b>16,344</b>	<b>16,630</b>	<b>1.7</b>

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

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

## **HAY STOCKS**

**Dry hay** stored on Iowa farms as of May 1, 2015, is estimated at 700 thousand tons, an increase of 71 percent from May 2014, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Crop Production* report. Disappearance from December 1, 2014 – May 1, 2015, totaled 2.25 million tons, down 4 percent from the 2.34 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

### **Hay Stocks on Farms – Iowa and United States: December 1 and May 1, 2013-2015**

	December 1		May 1	
	2013	2014	2014	2015
	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Iowa.....	2,750	2,950	410	700
United States.....	89,304	92,052	19,176	24,517

## **LABOR**

There were 25,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Corn Belt 2 Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of April 12-18, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Farm Labor Report. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.08 per hour, down \$2.17 from April 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 36.5 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 31.8 hours in April 2014.

During the reference week of January 11-17, 2015, there were 21,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Corn Belt 2 Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.68 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, the third highest January rate since estimates began in 1989, trailing only 2014 and 2013. The number of hours worked averaged 36.6 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 34.8 hours in January 2014.

### **Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Corn Belt 2 Region and United States: 2014-2015**

[Corn Belt 2 Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Corn Belt 2 Region			United States		
	April 2014	January 2015	April 2015	April 2014	January 2015	April 2015
Hired Workers on Farms ..... 1,000 workers	21	21	25	690	549	687
Hours worked by Hired Workers..... hrs/wk	31.8	36.6	37.0	40.1	39.2	39.9
Wage Rate by Work Type <sup>1</sup>						
Field.....\$/hr	13.22	11.47	10.92	11.02	11.40	11.34
Livestock.....\$/hr	13.41	12.04	11.79	11.35	11.69	11.58
Field & Livestock.....\$/hr	13.30	11.80	11.30	11.12	11.52	11.42
All Hired Workers.....\$/hr	14.25	12.68	12.08	12.01	12.53	12.27

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

## **JUNE SURVEYS**

### **USDA-NASS Seeks Input from Farmers about 2015 Crops, Stocks, and Livestock Numbers**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Iowa Field Office will be contacting a sample of producers between May 29 and June 15. NASS representatives will visit selected areas of land in Iowa and conduct personal interviews with the operators of land within those areas, while other producers will also be contacted by mail or telephone to report on crop acreage, grain stocks and livestock inventories. If you are contacted by NASS, we encourage your participation and cooperation.

Your participation will not only help NASS provide data that levels the playing field for farmers, giving them access to the same information as grain buyers, packers, and input suppliers, but also help provide the information used by many USDA programs. The information is also used extensively by state, local, and national leaders to address agricultural related issues that impact producers. As you can see, taking a few minutes to respond to a NASS survey helps ensure the accuracy and quality of this data that is used by so many in the agricultural industry.

Any information you provide is kept confidential and protected by federal law. NASS publishes only aggregate-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. Upcoming NASS reports, based on data from these surveys, and their release dates are: *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* on June 26<sup>th</sup> as well as *Acreage* and *Grain Stocks* on June 30<sup>th</sup>. All reports will be available on the internet at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). If you have any questions about how to complete a survey from the NASS Iowa Field Office, please call 1-800-772-0825.