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- Carrier for other ingredients
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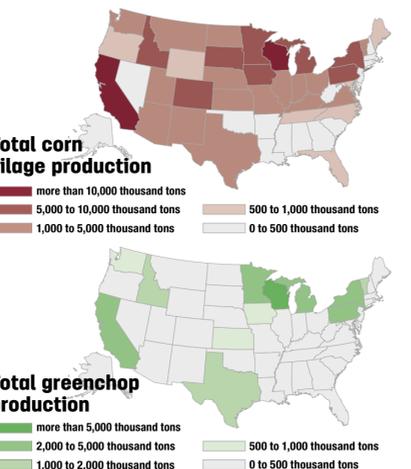
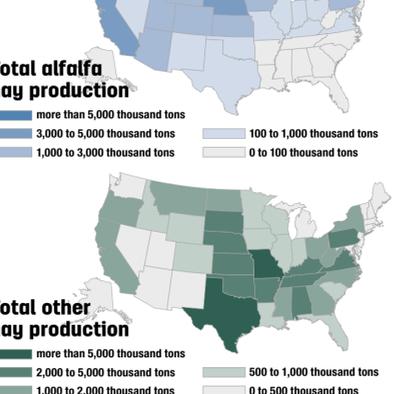
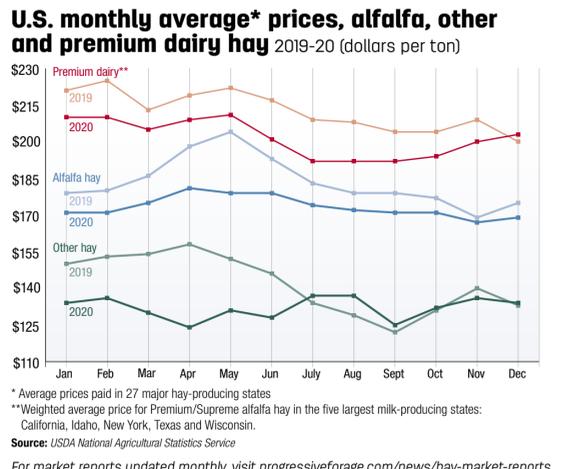
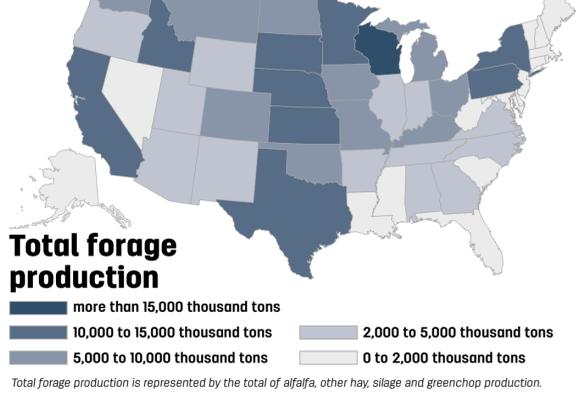
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How a pandemic influenced milk production

Progressive Dairy Editor Dave Natzke

In large part due to direct government financial assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic and indemnity payments for those enrolled in risk management programs, U.S. dairy herd attrition slowed in 2020 while cow numbers and herd size grew.

U.S. milk production rose to 223.2 billion pounds in 2020, up nearly 4.8 million pounds (2.2%) from 2019. It was the largest annual percentage and volume growth since 2013-14. Milk production has exceeded year-earlier totals in 22 of the last 25 years. (Only 2001 and 2009 were exceptions.)

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U.S. dairy industry 15-year overview

Year	Total milk production (in millions of lbs)	Number of cows (in thousands)	Milk per cow (lbs per year)	Licensed dairy herds	Average herd size
2006	181,782	9,137	19,895	62,070	147
2007	185,654	9,189	20,204	59,130	155
2008	189,982	9,315	20,395	57,127	163
2009	189,334	9,203	20,573	54,942	168
2010	192,848	9,119	21,148	53,132	172
2011	196,164	9,194	21,336	51,291	179
2012	200,537	9,233	21,720	49,281	187
2013	201,231	9,224	21,816	46,975	196
2014	206,054	9,257	22,259	44,809	207
2015	208,597	9,314	22,396	43,534	214
2016	212,405	9,325	22,778	41,819	223
2017	215,466	9,392	22,941	40,219	234
2018	217,568	9,398	23,150	37,468	251
2019	218,441	9,337	23,395	34,207	273
2020	223,220	9,388	23,777	31,657	297

Cow numbers

The U.S. cow herd averaged 9,388 million cows in 2020, up 51,000 head from 2019. That doesn't tell the whole story, however. U.S. cow numbers bottomed out in June 2020 before beginning a surge that lasted through the end of the year. By December 2020, U.S. cow numbers grew to 9.44 million head, the highest total since the second half of 1995.

Compared to a year earlier, the largest growth in cow numbers was in Texas (+30,000), Idaho (+20,000) and Colorado (+11,000). Thirteen states had more cows than the year before.

Wisconsin (-9,000), Pennsylvania (-8,000), Vermont and California (each -4,000 head) led the 22 states with declining cow numbers, with 13 other states unchanged. California remains the national leader in cow numbers, with 1.721 million head - followed by Wisconsin, with 1.259 million head.

Licensed herds

The annual average number of dairy farms commercially licensed to sell milk fell to 31,657 in 2020, a decline of 2,550 (about 7%) from 2019. Among leading states, the largest

Milk per cow

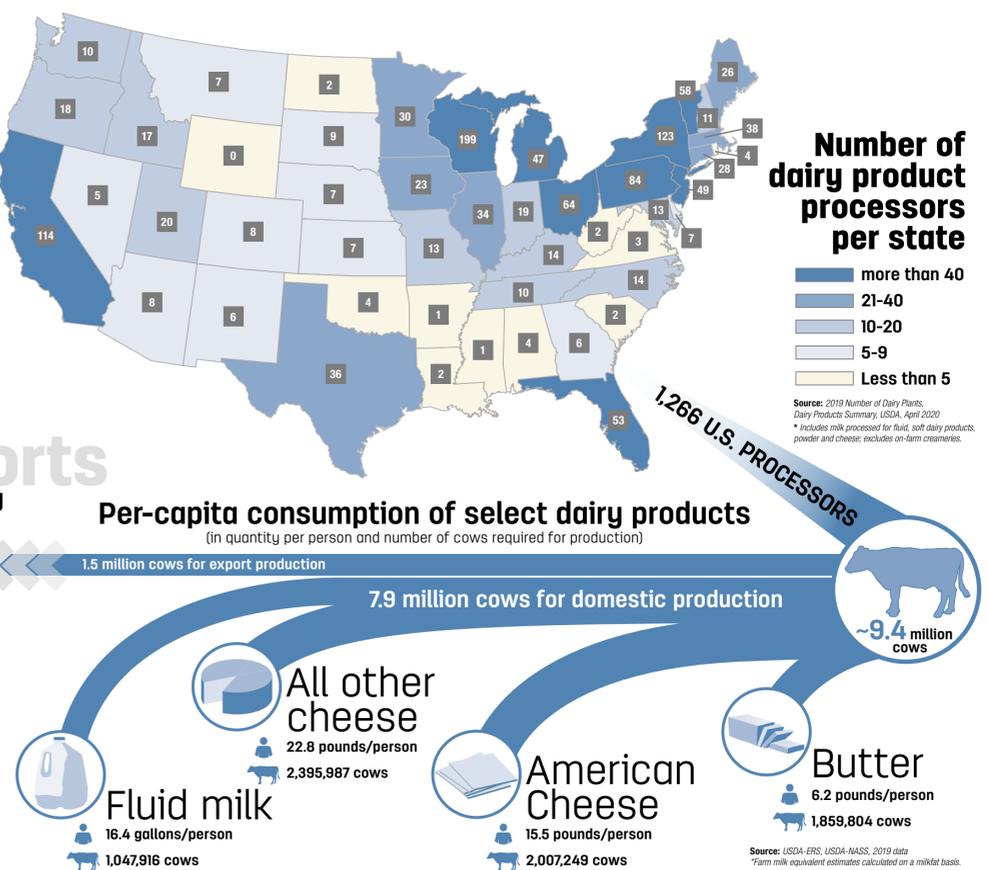
Nationally, annual milk production per cow increased about 1.6%, up 382 pounds in 2020. By state, top-producing cows were in Michigan, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming and Texas.

Dairy receipts as a % of state's total farm receipts

Michigan 27,170
 Colorado 26,142
 Idaho 25,180
 Wyoming 25,173
 Texas 24,926
 New Mexico 24,755
 Nebraska 24,746
 Nevada 24,677
 Iowa 24,651
 Arizona 24,568

Wisconsin 7,110
 Pennsylvania 5,430
 New York 3,650
 Minnesota 2,350
 Ohio 1,745
 California 1,215
 Michigan 1,200
 Iowa 965
 Indiana 805
 Missouri 720

Vermont 65%
 New York 54%
 Wisconsin 51%
 New Mexico 43%
 Idaho 35%
 Pennsylvania 29%
 Michigan 27%
 Utah 23%
 New Hampshire 23%
 Nevada 20%



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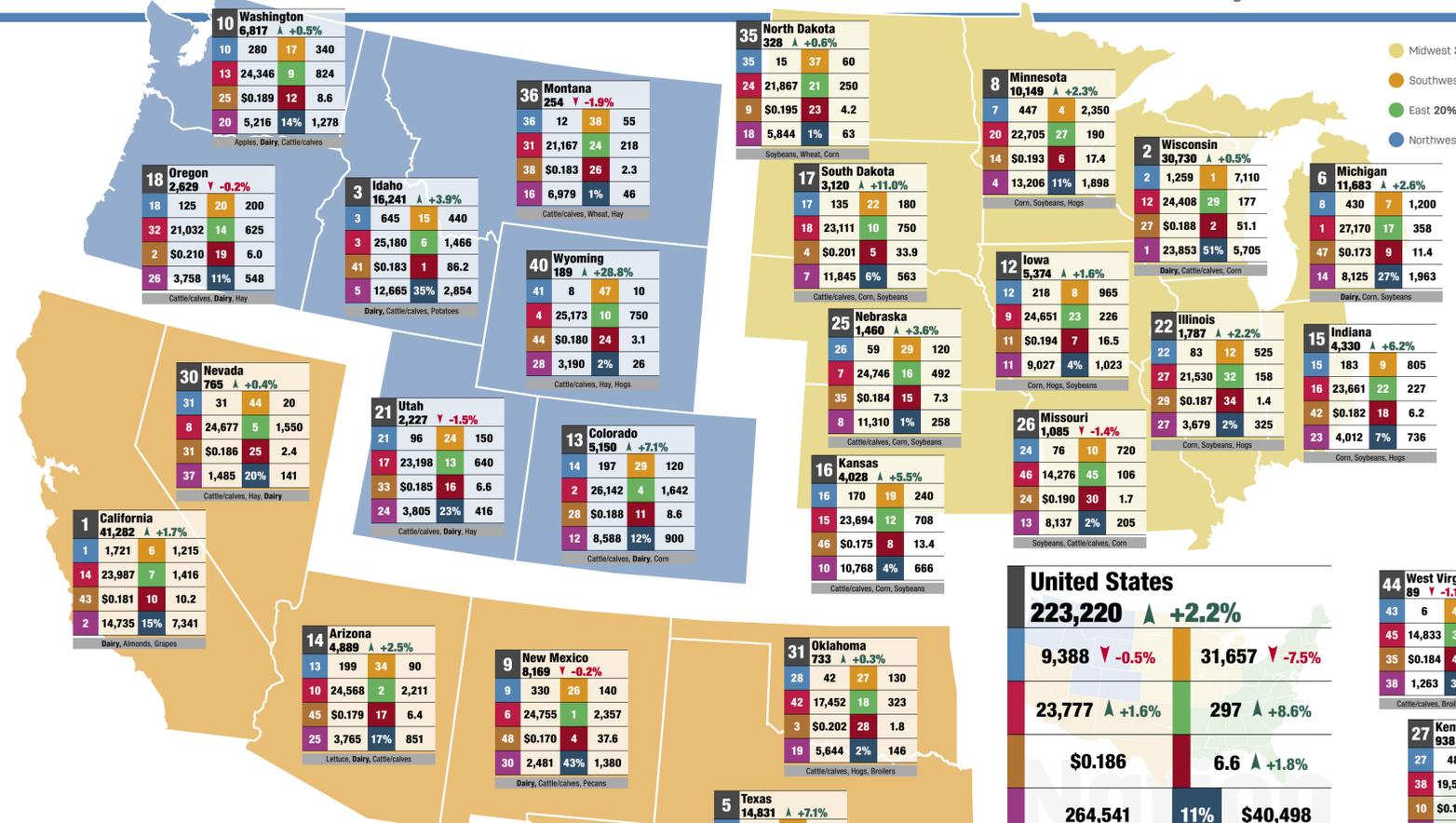
2020 U.S. dairy statistics



10-year changes by state

State rank-total milk production	State	Total milk production (in millions of lbs)	Total milk production (in millions of lbs)	Change in total milk from 2010-2020	Number of cows (1,000 head)	Number of cows (1,000 head)	Change in number of cows 2010-2020	Milk per cow (lbs. per year)	Milk per cow (lbs. per year)	Change in milk per cow 2010-2020	Number of licensed dairy herds	Number of licensed dairy herds	Change in licensed dairy herds from 2010-2020	Average herd size	Average herd size	Change in average herd size from 2010-2020
		2010	2020		2010	2020		2010	2020		2010	2020		2010	2020	
1	California	40,385	41,282	+897	1,754	1,721	-33	23,025	23,987	+962	1,715	1,215	-500	1,023	1,416	+394
2	Wisconsin	26,035	30,730	+4,695	1,262	1,259	-3	20,630	24,408	+3,778	12,710	7,110	-5,600	99	177	+78
3	Idaho	12,779	16,241	+3,462	564	645	+81	22,658	25,180	+2,522	585	440	-145	964	1,466	+502
4	New York	12,713	15,337	+2,624	611	626	+15	20,807	24,500	+3,693	5,380	3,650	-1,730	114	172	+58
5	Texas	8,828	14,831	+6,003	413	595	+182	21,375	24,926	+3,551	590	360	-230	700	1,653	+953
6	Michigan	8,333	11,683	+3,350	358	430	+72	23,277	27,170	+3,893	2,230	1,200	-1,030	161	358	+198
7	Pennsylvania	10,737	10,276	-461	541	482	-59	19,847	21,320	+1,473	7,340	5,430	-1,910	74	89	+15
8	Minnesota	9,102	10,149	+1,047	470	447	-23	19,366	22,705	+3,339	4,540	2,350	-2,190	104	190	+87
9	New Mexico	7,881	8,169	+288	321	330	+9	24,551	24,755	+204	140	140	0	2,293	2,357	+64
10	Washington	5,901	6,817	+916	251	280	+29	23,510	24,346	+836	460	340	-120	546	824	+278
11	Ohio	5,270	5,618	+348	271	254	-17	19,446	22,218	+2,772	3,250	1,745	-1,505	83	146	+62
12	Iowa	4,352	5,374	+1,022	210	218	+8	20,724	24,651	+3,927	1,790	965	-825	117	226	+109
13	Colorado	2,816	5,150	+2,334	119	197	+78	23,664	26,142	+2,478	130	120	-10	915	1,642	+726
14	Arizona	4,149	4,889	+740	177	199	+22	23,441	24,568	+1,127	110	90	-20	1,609	2,211	+602
15	Indiana	3,416	4,330	+914	170	183	+13	20,094	23,661	+3,567	1,660	805	-855	102	227	+125
16	Kansas	2,496	4,028	+1,532	119	170	+51	20,975	23,694	+2,719	390	240	-150	305	708	+403
17	South Dakota	1,884	3,120	+1,236	92	135	+43	20,478	23,111	+2,633	375	180	-195	245	750	+505
18	Oregon	2,399	2,629	+230	118	125	+7	20,331	21,032	+701	270	200	-70	437	625	+188
19	Vermont	2,521	2,602	+81	136	122	-14	18,337	21,328	+2,991	1,020	640	-380	133	191	+57
20	Florida	2,127	2,289	+162	114	113	-1	18,658	20,257	+1,599	140	85	-55	814	1,329	+515
21	Utah	1,819	2,227	+408	85	96	+11	21,400	23,198	+1,798	240	150	-90	354	640	+286
22	Illinois	1,917	1,787	-130	100	83	-17	19,170	21,530	+2,360	860	525	-335	116	158	+42
23	Georgia	1,396	1,772	+376	79	81	+2	17,671	21,877	+4,206	260	130	-130	304	623	+319
24	Virginia	1,719	1,522	-197	95	75	-20	18,095	20,293	+2,198	705	475	-230	135	158	+23
25	Nebraska	1,168	1,460	+292	59	59	0	19,797	24,746	+4,949	260	120	-140	227	492	+265
26	Missouri	1,445	1,085	-360	99	76	-23	14,596	14,276	-320	1,630	720	-910	61	106	+45
27	Kentucky	1,152	938	-214	78	48	-30	14,769	19,542	+4,773	940	450	-490	83	107	+24
28	North Carolina	864	895	+31	44	41	-3	19,636	21,829	+2,193	290	145	-145	152	283	+131
29	Maryland	1,001	878	-123	54	42	-12	18,537	20,905	+2,368	530	340	-190	102	124	+22
30	Nevada	658	765	+107	28	31	+3	23,500	24,677	+1,177	25	20	-5	1,120	1,550	+430
31	Oklahoma	959	733	-226	56	42	-14	17,125	17,452	+327	250	130	-120	224	323	+99
32	Maine	587	593	+6	32	27	-5	18,344	21,963	+3,619	310	200	-110	103	135	+32
33	Tennessee	850	542	-308	52	30	-22	16,346	18,067	+1,721	490	180	-310	106	167	+61
34	Connecticut	364	438	+74	19	19	0	19,158	23,053	+3,895	140	95	-45	136	200	+64
35	North Dakota	384	328	-56	21	15	-6	18,286	21,867	+3,581	170	60	-110	124	250	+126
36	Montana	289	254	-35	14	11	-2	20,643	21,167	+524	70	55	-15	200	218	+18
37	New Hampshire	294	234	-60	15	12	-2	19,600	21,273	+1,673	130	100	-30	115	110	-5
38	Massachusetts	242	199	-43	14	10	-4	17,286	19,900	+2,614	170	110	-60	82	91	+9
39	South Carolina	286	189	-97	16	10	-6	17,875	18,900	+1,025	85	35	-50	188	286	+97
40	Wyoming	120	189	+68	6	8	+2	20,067	25,173	+5,106	20	10	-10	300	750	+450
41	Louisiana	235	134	-101	20	10	-10	11,750	13,400	+1,650	150	75	-75	133	133	0
42	Mississippi	223	131	-92	17	8	-9	13,118	16,375	+3,257	130	55	-75	131	145	+15
43	New Jersey	140	99	-41	8	5	-3	17,500	19,800	+2,300	90	40	-50	89	125	+36
44	West Virginia	157	89	-68	10	6	-4	15,700	14,833	-867	100	45	-55	100	133	+33
45	Delaware	90	71	-19	5	4	-1	16,981	18,553	+1,572	50	20	-30	106	190	+84
46	Arkansas	153	64	-89	12	5	-7	12,750	12,800	+50	130	35	-95	92	143	+51
47	Alabama	159	45	-114	11	3	-8	14,455	15,000	+545	60	20	-40	183	150	-33
48	Rhode Island	20	11	-9	1	1	0	17,727	21,800	+4,073	15	10	-5	73	50	-23
U.S. total		192,848	223,220	+30,372	9,119	9,388	+269	21,148	23,777	+2,629	53,132	31,657	-21,475	172	297	+125

Source: February 2020 Milk Production Report, USDA. Statistical ties are represented by the same numerical ranking.



United States

223,220 ▲ +2.2%

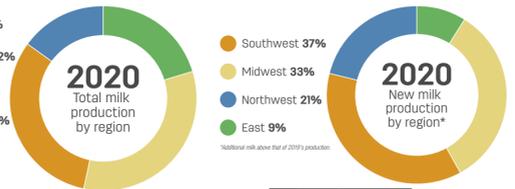
9,388 ▼ -0.5% 31,657 ▼ -7.5%

23,777 ▲ +1.6% 297 ▲ +8.6%

\$0.186 **6.6** ▲ +1.8%

264,541 **11%** **\$40,498**

Cattle/calves, Corn, Soybeans



2020 New milk production by region*

Southwest 37%
Midwest 33%
Northwest 21%
East 9%

Legend

State ranking-total milk production

Total milk production (in millions of lbs)

State ranking-number of cows

Number of cows (in thousands)

State ranking-milk lbs per cow

Milk per cow (lbs)

State ranking-2019 Value of milk per lb.

2019 Value of milk per lb.

State ranking-all forage production

All forage production (in thousands of tons)

State ranking-2019 dairy receipts as a percentage of state's total farm receipts

2019 dairy receipts annual total (in millions of dollars)

State ranking-number of licensed herds

Number of licensed dairy herds

State ranking-average herd size

Average herd size

State ranking-GMPM

Gallons of milk per person per month (GMPM)

2019 dairy receipts as a percentage of state's total farm receipts

2019 dairy receipts annual total (in millions of dollars)

State's 2019 top 3 farm commodities

13 Colorado

5,150 ▲ +7.1%

14 197 29 120

2 26,142 4 1,642

28 \$0.188 11 8.6

12 8,588 12% 900

Cattle/calves, Dairy, Corn

County

Top 100 dairy counties (based on May 2020's milk production)

Rank	State	County	Rank	State	County
1	CA	Tulare	51	PA	Franklin
2	CA	Merced	52	WA	Whatcom
3	CA	Kings	53	WI	Outagamie
4	CA	Kern	54	KS	Hamilton
5	CA	Stanislaus	55	NY	St. Lawrence
6	ID	Gooding	56	ID	Canyon
7	CO	Weld	57	WA	Grant
8	CA	Fresno	58	MI	Sanilac
9	ID	Cassia	59	WI	Calumet
10	WA	Yakima	60	NY	Genesee
11	AZ	Maricopa	61	IN	Jasper
12	TX	Hartley	62	NM	Lea
13	CA	San Joaquin	63	MI	Ottawa
14	PA	Lancaster	64	VT	Addison
15	CA	Madera	65	OH	Wayne
16	ID	Twin Falls	66	WA	Franklin
17	AZ	Pinal	67	KS	Gray
18	NM	Curry	68	SD	Grant
19	NM	Chaves	69	VT	Franklin
20	ID	Jerome	70	ID	Elmore
21	NM	Roosevelt	71	WI	Sheboygan
22	WI	Fond du Lac	72	NY	Jefferson
23	WI	Manitowoc	73	MI	Missaukee
24	WI	Clark	74	NY	Livingston
25	MI	Stearns	75	TX	Comanche
26	TX	Farmer	76	FL	Okeechobee
27	WI	Marathon	77	NY	Ontario
28	WI	Dane	78	TX	Dallam
29	WI	Keewaunee	79	IN	Newton
30	TX	Castro	80	NY	Onondaga
31	NY	Cayuga	81	OR	Tillamook
32	WI	Brown	82	IA	Dubuque
33	TX	Erath	83	SD	Brookings
34	MI	Gratiot	84	WI	Lafayette
35	TX	Deaf Smith	85	WI	Green
36	MI	Huron	86	TX	Bailey
37	NY	Wyoming	87	ID	Owyhee
38	IA	Sioux	88	WI	Oconto
39	WI	Shawano	89	MI	Winona
40	CO	Morgan	90	PA	Lebanon
41	WI	Grant	91	VA	Rockingham
42	MI	Clinton	92	NY	Lewis
43	MI	Stevens	93	TX	Hale
44	TX	Moore	94	WI	Waupaca
45	CA	Riverside	95	WI	Dunn
46	TX	Lamb	96	NM	Dona Ana
47	OR	Morrow	97	MI	Morrison
48	CA	San Bernardino	98	IN	Ekhart
49	WI	Dodge	99	ID	Ada
50	ID	Lincoln	100	WI	Chippewa

Source: May 2020 Federal Milk Marketing Data, USDA. Note: This data represents only one month of federally marketed milk production. It may not accurately reflect a county's annual milk production and does not account for milk deposited due to price. Estimated May 2020 milk production for Idaho counties.

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