# 1979 milk production highest in 14 years

LANCASTER — The U.S. dairy industry produced more milk last year than in any year since 1965. Milk production in 1979 totaled approximately 123.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent or 2.0 billion pounds from 1978.

This increase in production occurred despite declining numbers of milk cows. In a trend toward fewer, more efficient cows that has continued for several decades, the average number of milk cows in the U.S., at 10,767,000 in 1979, was down 0.7 percent from 1978.

Increased production per cow made up the slack. Production per cow was up two percent or about 234 pounds in 1979. Each cow in the U.S. produced an average of 11,474 pounds of milk. That's 1334 gallons, or a year's supply of fluid milk and cream for 40 Americans - from just one cow.

States with the largest milk production last year were: Wisconsin, 21.95 billion pounds; California, 12.55 billion pounds; New York, 10.68 billion pounds; Minnesota, 9.15 billion pounds, and Pennsylvania, 8.06 billion pounds.

Production of many manufactured dairy products also increased last year. There were 2.19 billion pounds of American type

cheese produced in the U.S. in 1979, 5.5 percent more than in the previous year and a record high for the second straight year.

Production of all types of cheese, except cottage cheese, totaled 3.71 billion pounds, also up 5.5 percent. Americans consumed approximately 17.9 pounds of cheese each in 1979, 3.4 percent more than the year

Butter production dropped only slightly; it was down 0.9 percent to 985 million pounds. Per capita consumption of butter remained about the same as in 1978. There were 30 million fewer pounds of creamed cottage cheese produced last year, for a 2.8 percent drop to 847 million pounds. However. production of lowfat cottage cheese was up 2.6 percent over 1978, totaling 155 million pounds.

Less nonfat dry milk for human food also was produced. The year's 907 million pounds was down 1.4 percent from 1978. Manufacture of frozen products also declined overall last year.

While ice cream production was up slightly, totaling 818 million gallons. production of ice milk, at 294 million gallons, was down 4.6 percent. Sherbet production

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dropped 8 percent to 45.8 billion pounds in 1975 before million gallons

Trends for the decade point to fewer cows, more mılk and ch<del>ee</del>se.

During the 1970's, total yearly milk production fluctuated from year to year, reaching a high of 120.0 billion pounds in 1972 and dropping to a low of 115.3

beginning a steady increase to 1979's figure of 123.6 billion pounds. 1979's production was 6.4 percent, or 7.5 billion pounds, greater than 1969's total of 116.1 billion pounds.

The number of milk cows in the U.S. dropped every year during the past decade,

and in 1979 was down 12.5 percent or 1.5 million from the 12.3 million cows in 1969.

Milk production per cow increased dramatically over the past ten years, up a whopping 21.6 percent or an average of 2,040 pounds for each cow in the nation.

There also was considerable change in the production of many manufactured dairy foods

during the '70s. Most striking is the 86.5 percent increase in total cheese output from 1.99 billion pounds in 1969 to 3.71 billion pounds in 1979. Butter production was down 11.9 percent during the decade, and there was a 37.5 percent drop in the production of nonfat dry milk for human food. Ice cream production was up 6.8 percent.





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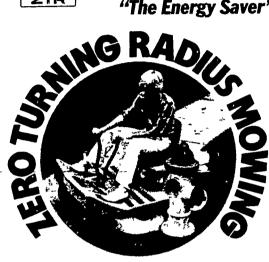
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