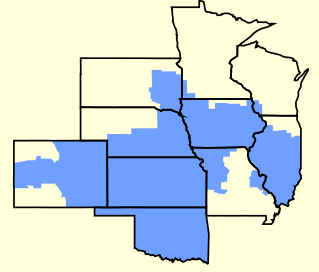


OCTOBER 2024

Marketing Service

# Bulletin

Facilitating the efficient marketing of milk and dairy products.



CENTRAL MARKETING AREA

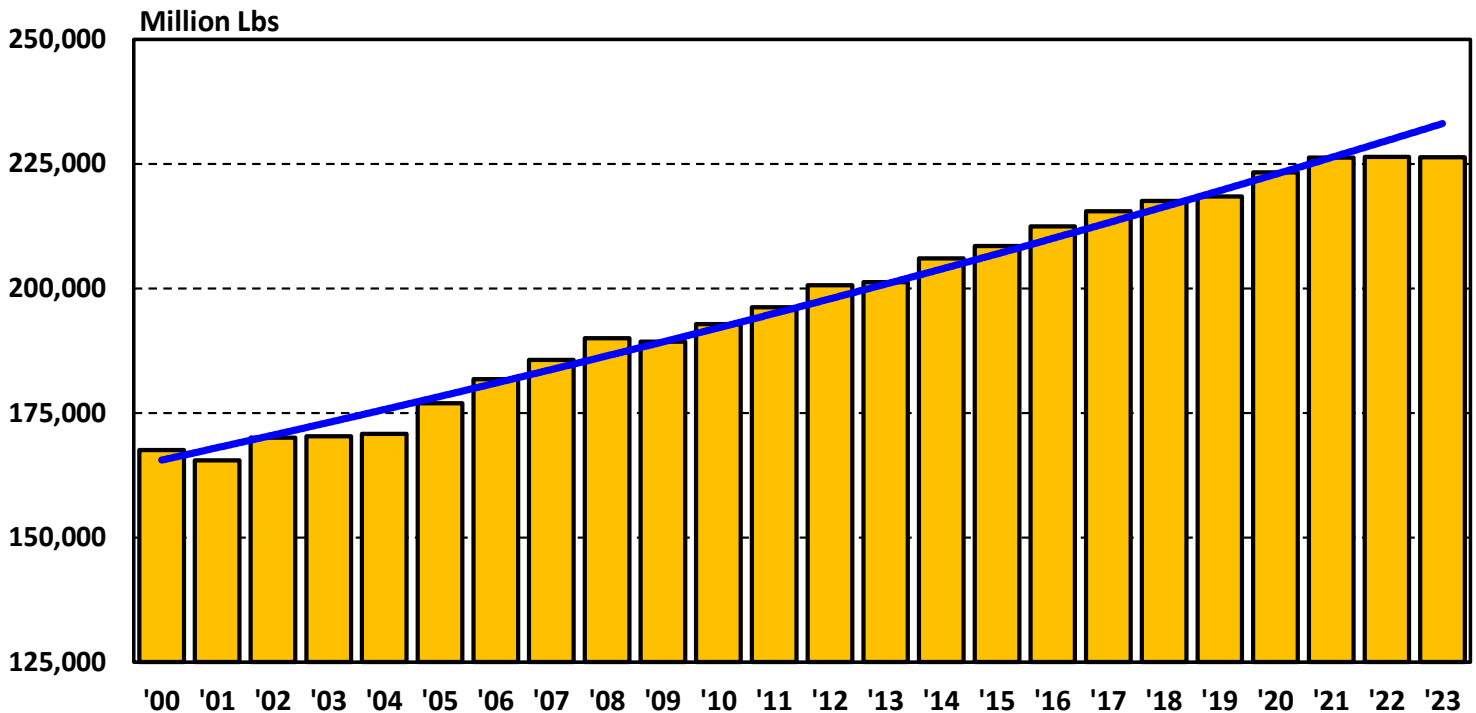


## Trends in U.S. Dairy Production

The U.S. dairy industry has undergone significant alterations since the turn of the century. These changes have impacted all elements of the industry, from the farm to the processor and the consumer. Growth and consolidation are two buzzwords that have been applicable to many segments of the industry since 2000. This bulletin will examine some of the changes in milk production trends from 2000 through 2023.

The first five graphs in this bulletin depict milk production, production per cow, the number of cows, the number of herds, and the average number of cows per herd for the U.S. dairy industry. These graphs contain yearly data from 2000 through 2023 along with the trend line for that time-period. The final five graphs in this bulletin depict this data for the eight states in the Central Order for select years from 2000 through 2023.

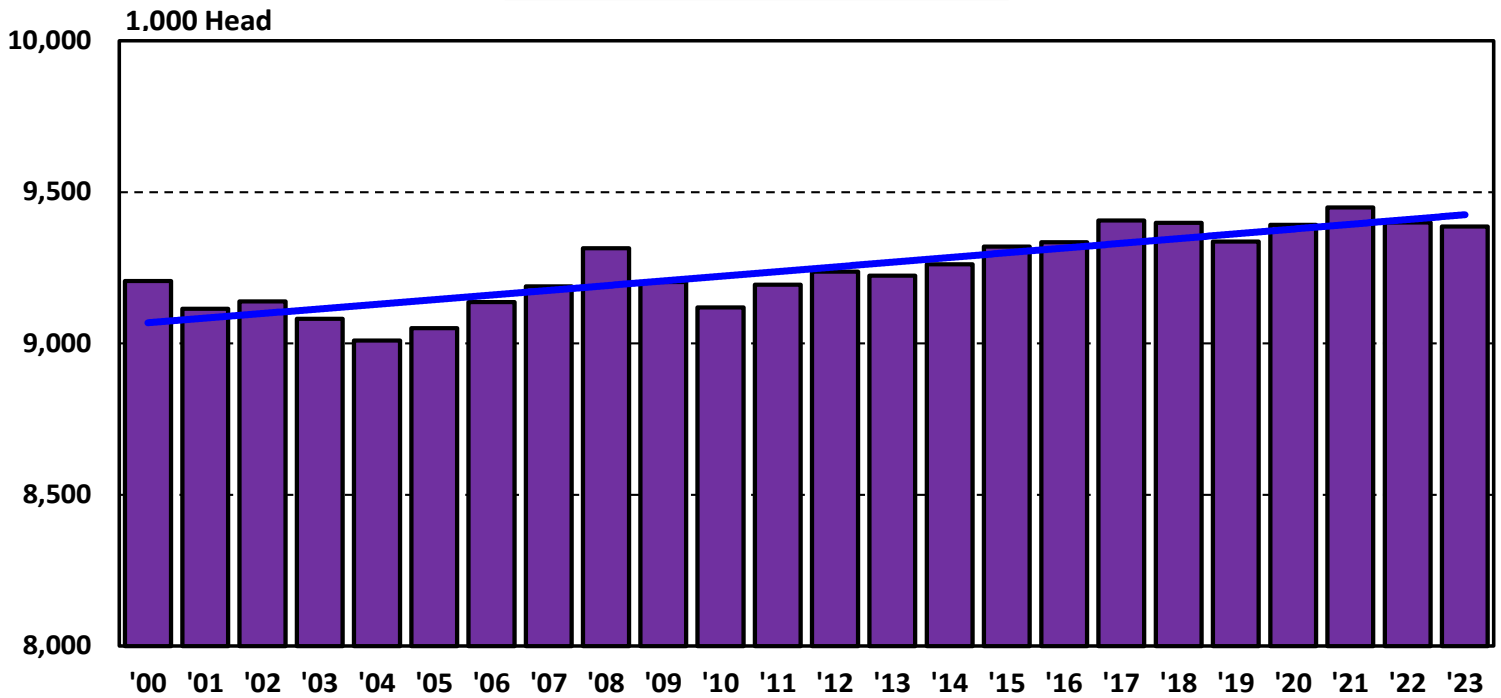
## U.S. Milk Production



Overall milk production has been trending up over the last 23 years peaking in 2022 at 226.46 billion pounds. On average, production has increased 1.27% each year and is up 35.10% from 2000. Milk production decreased by 0.02% from 2022 to 2023. The only other years to record decreases were 2001 (-1.23%) and 2009 (-0.34%). For the first 5 years depicted by this graph production stayed relatively consistent only increasing 0.40% on average per year; however, since that time it has been increasing at an average rate of 1.50% per year.

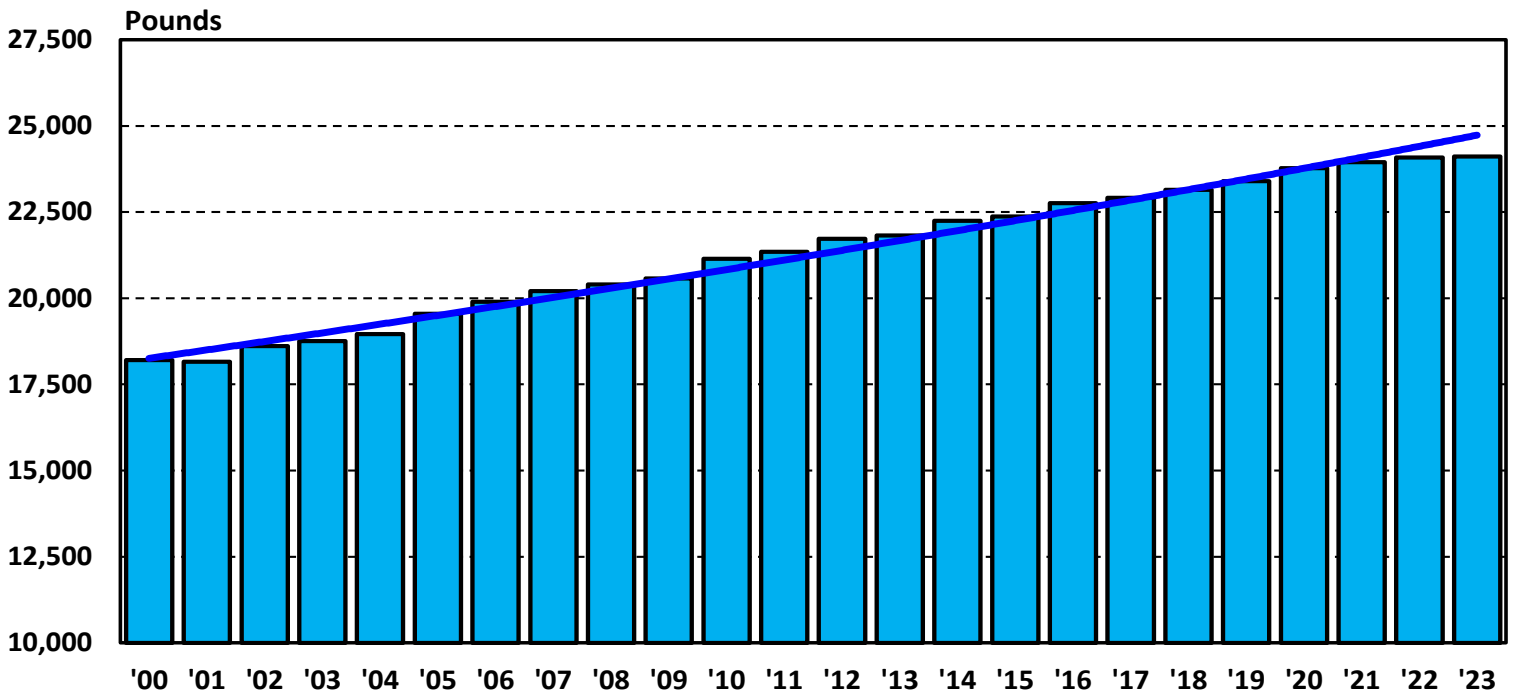
\* The source for data in this bulletin is: United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Milk Production <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/h989r321c>

## U.S. Number of Cows



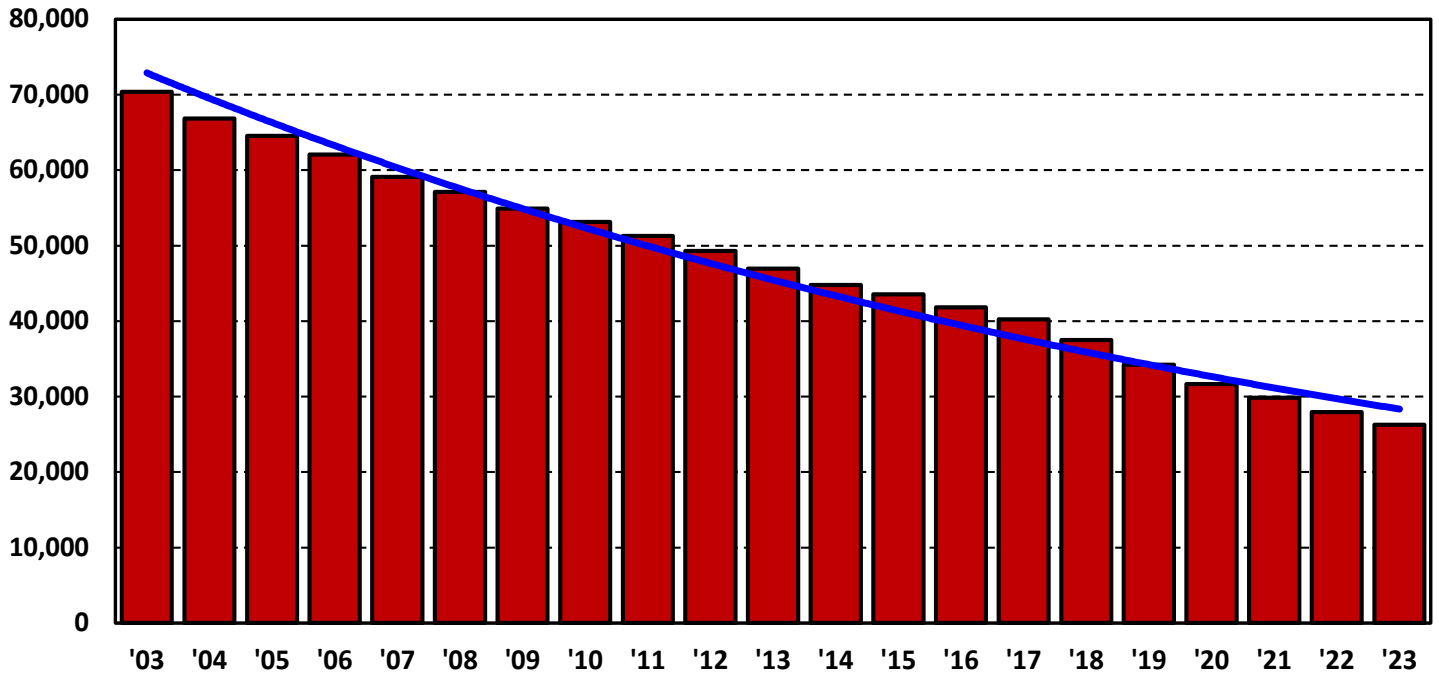
The number of cows hasn't changed drastically over the last 23 years hitting a high of 9.45 million in 2021 and a low of 9.01 million in 2004 with an average of 9.25 million. Compared to 2000 the number of cows in 2023 is only up by 1.96%, registering a slight increasing trend in recent years. The number of cows in 2023 went down by 0.15% compared to 2022 and down 0.13% compared to five years ago. The overall trend seems to be that the number of cows has an ebb and flow to its growth which can be seen in the above graph.

## U.S. Production per Cow



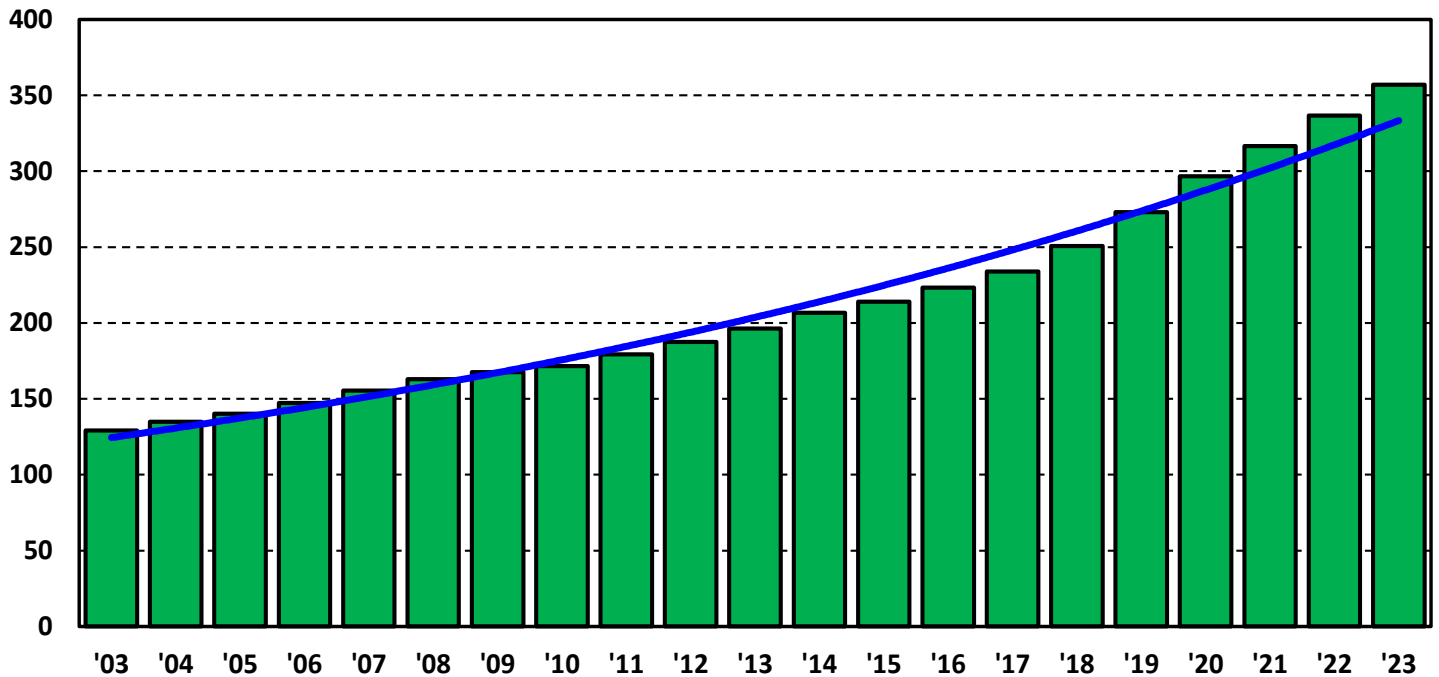
Production per cow has increased by 5,916 pounds since 2000 a 32.50% increase. On average milk per cow has gone up by 1.23% every year hitting a high of 24,117 pounds in 2023. Production was up 0.12% in 2023 over the previous year and has gone up by 4.18% compared with five years ago. Cows have been making more milk every year with 2001 being the only year that production decreased (0.23%). This increase in production along with the reduction in cows shows why the total production's growth was smaller than usual in recent years.

## U.S. Licensed Herds



Licensed herds have been declining steadily at an average of 4.79% every year. In 2003 there were 70,375 herds while in 2023 there were only 26,290 a reduction of 62.64%. From 2022 to 2023 herds declined by 5.88% and are down 29.87% over the last five years. 2019 also had the largest year over year decrease in herds declining by 3,279 an 8.75% reduction. From 2003 to 2017 the number of licensed herds had an average decrease of 3.92% per year then from 2018 to 2023 that decrease jumped to 6.83% .

## U.S. Avg Dairy Cows per Herd



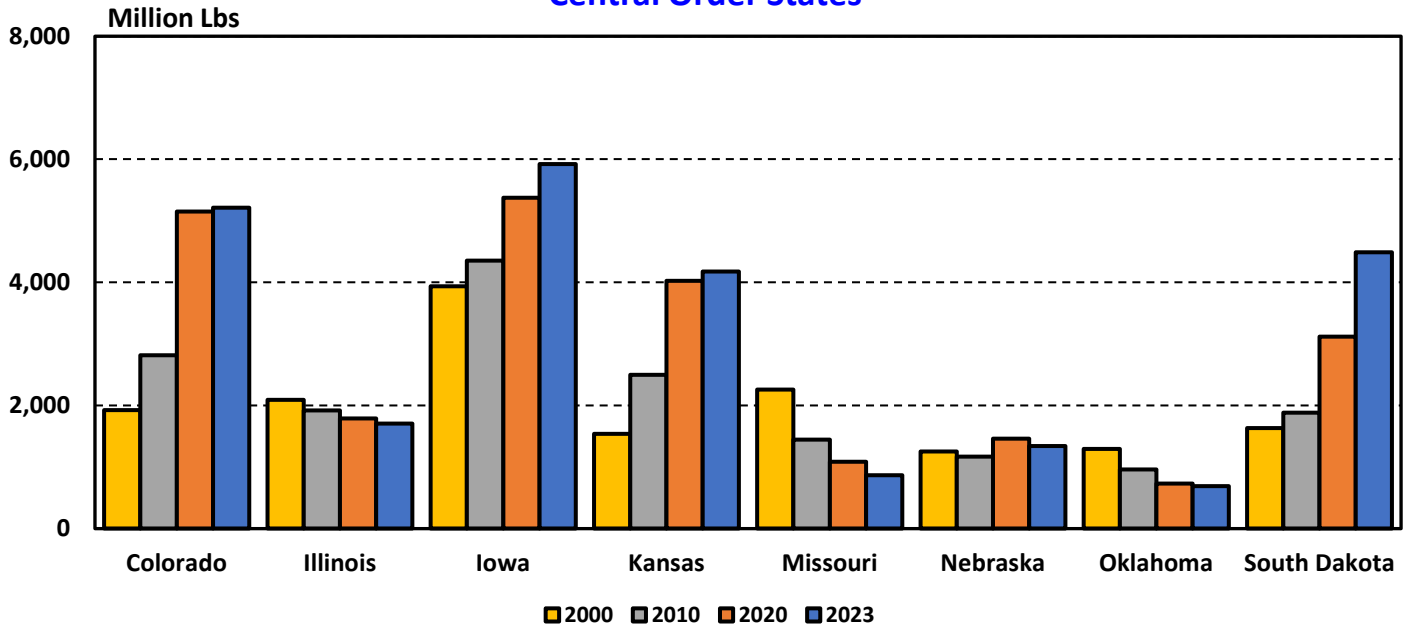
The average cows per herd in 2023 is up 176.66% from 2003 increasing at an average rate of 5.23% each year. From 2003 to 2017 the growth rate was averaging 4.34% but over the last 5 years it's averaged 7.31%. From 2018 to 2023 herd sizes have gone up by 106 cows an increase of 42.40%. 2019 had the largest year over year growth of 8.87% with herds increasing by 22 cows. This increased growth along with a massive reduction in herds, indicates substantial consolidation amongst farms in the dairy industry.

# Central Order States

The following graphs depict milk production, production per cow, number of cows, number of herds, and the average number of cows per herd for states in the Central Order. Data for each state is for the years 2000, 2010, 2020 and 2023. A cursory examination of these graphs reveals substantial differences among these states, both in absolute numbers and in overall trends during this period of time. However, the overall trend among most states is increasing production, production per cow, and average number of cows per herd. Conversely, the number of licensed herds has decreased across the board, while the trend in the number of cows varies substantially among these eight states.

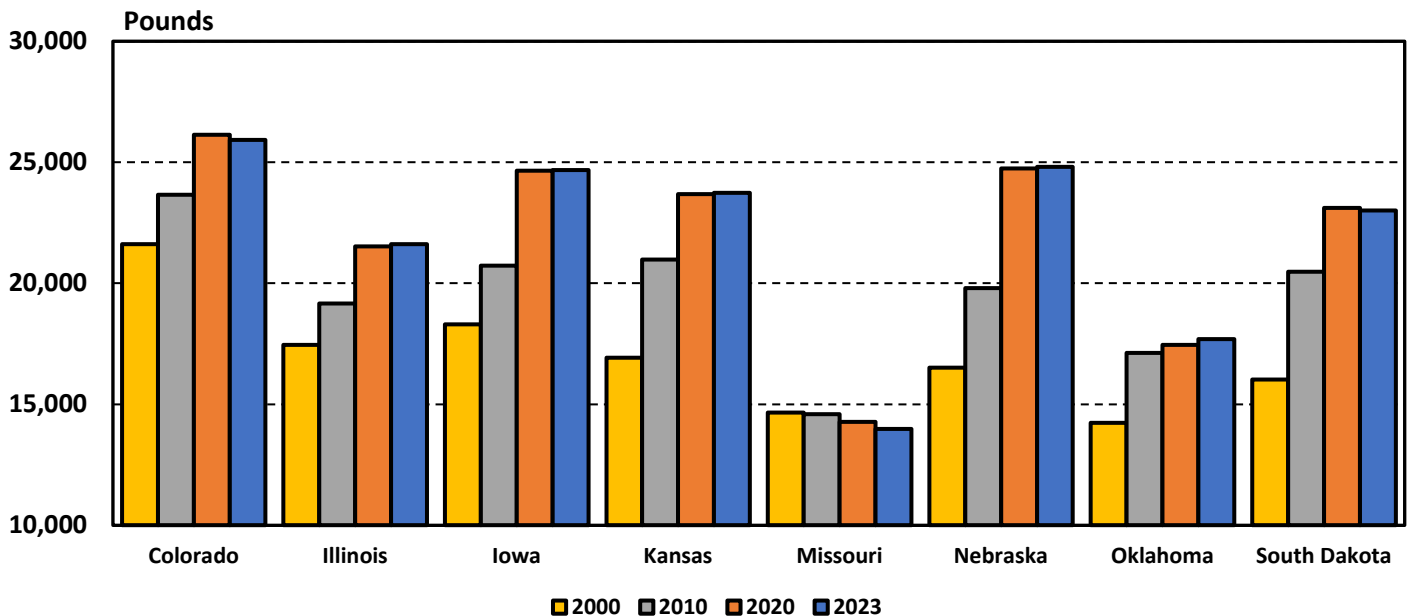
## Milk Production

### Central Order States



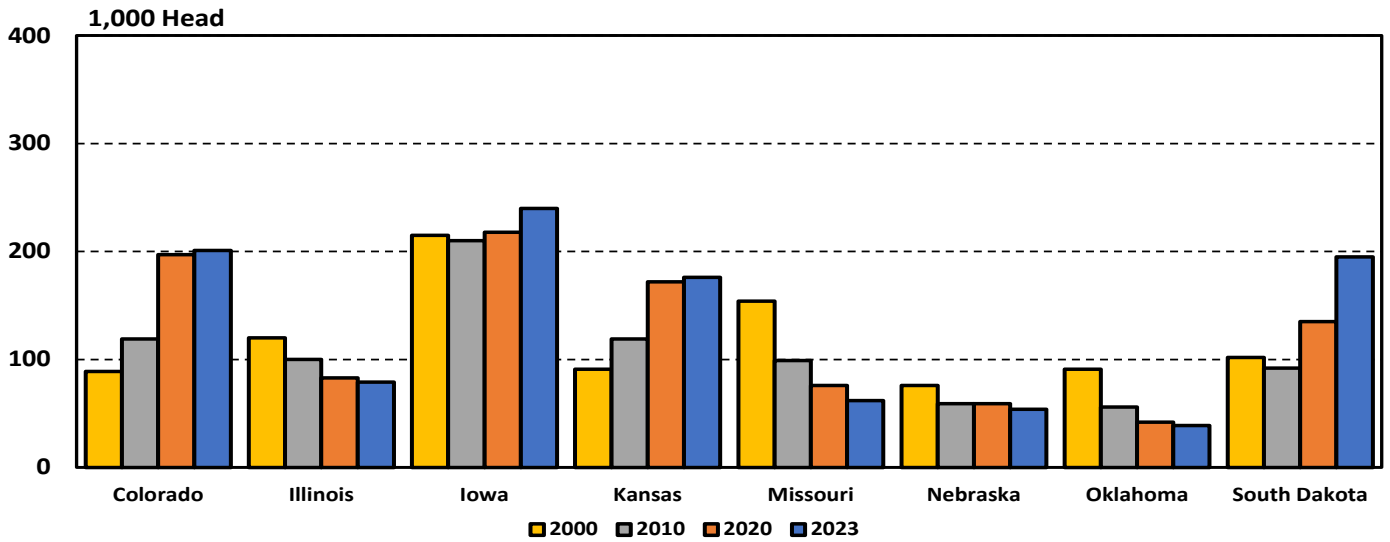
## Production per Cow

### Central Order States



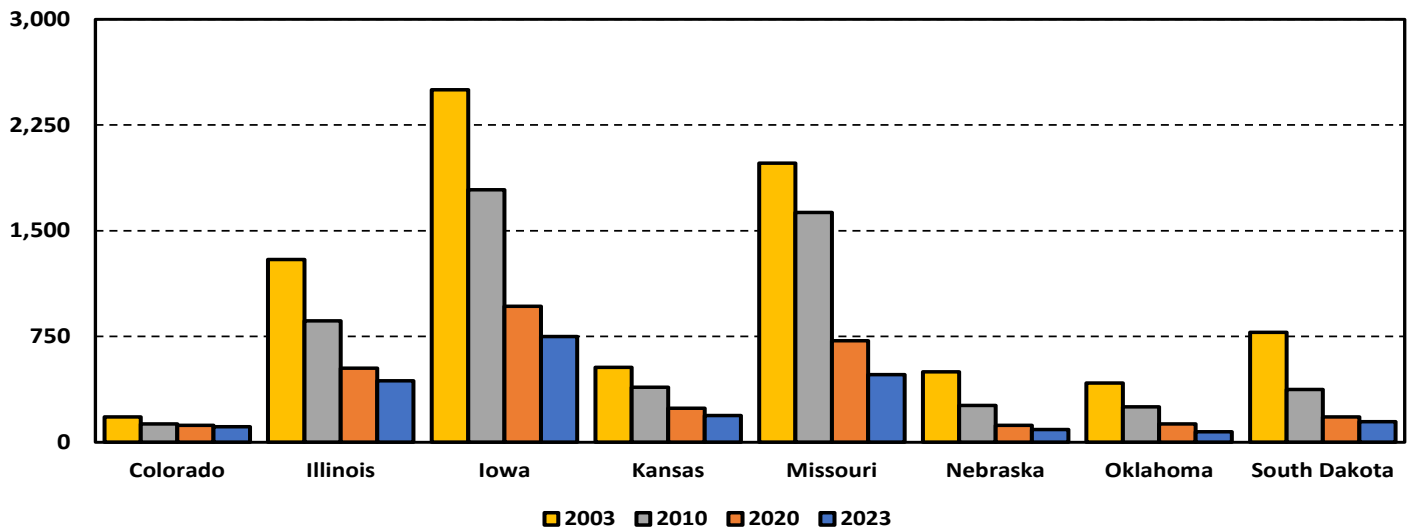
# Number of Dairy Cows

## Central Order States



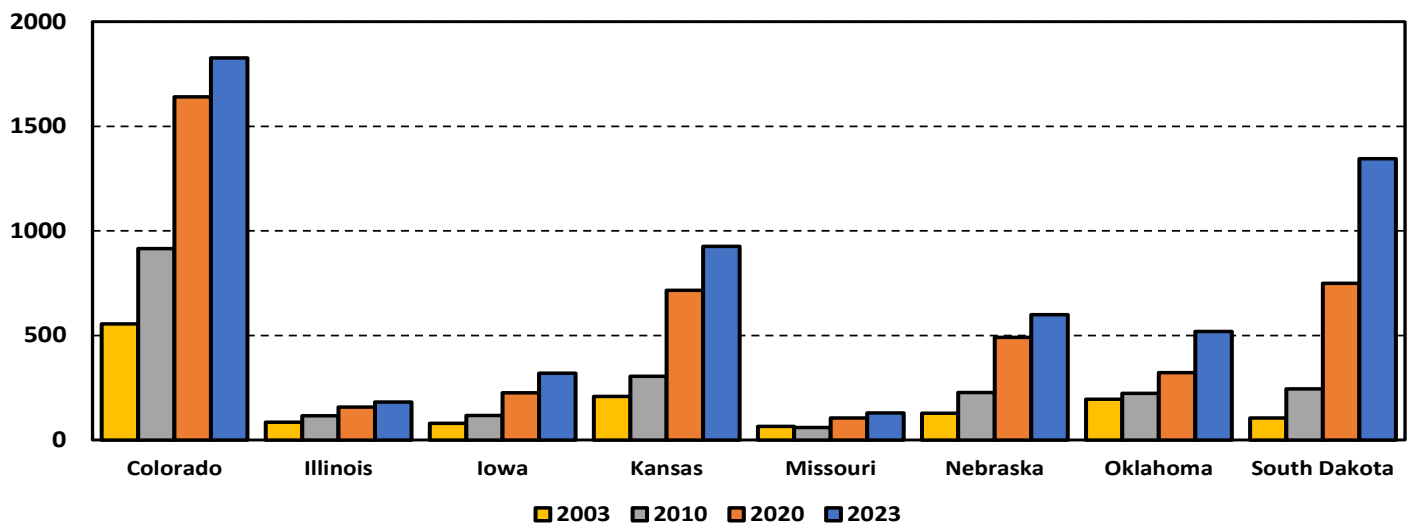
# Licensed Dairy Herds

## Central Order States



# Average Dairy Cows per Herd

## Central Order States



## USDA HPAI Information

Since the first detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in dairy cattle in March 2024, USDA has worked swiftly and diligently to assess the prevalence of the virus in the U.S. dairy herds and respond accordingly. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), working closely with state officials and other federal partners, is leading efforts to prevent further spread, establish herd monitoring, and help producers enhance on-farm biosecurity measures. USDA also provides financial support to off-set costs related to production losses and enhanced biosecurity.

On April 24, USDA issued an *H5N1 Federal Order* mandating testing prior to the interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle and requires reporting of positive test results in livestock. Testing and reporting are crucial for understanding the extent of the virus and reducing further spread.

Enhanced biosecurity procedures are critical in keeping disease off farms and preventing further spread on affected farms. USDA continues to encourage biosecurity measures such as limiting visitors, cleaning and disinfecting milking equipment, avoiding the mixing of species, and monitoring and caring for sick animals.

USDA's voluntary H5N1 Dairy Herd Status Pilot Program enables producers to monitor their herds for HPAI via a weekly bulk milk sample. Once testing demonstrates a herd is free of the virus for three consecutive weeks, the program allows shipment of cows without having to test each one, as required under the *H5N1 Federal Order*.

With recognition of the challenges HPAI H5N1 causes for producers, USDA offers financial support to help dairy producers enhance biosecurity and offset costs associated with Influenza A testing, veterinary expenses, personal protective equipment purchases, milk disposal, and milk losses. Producers can contact their [Area Veterinarian in Charge](#) or [State animal health official](#) to enroll.

More details on the *H5N1 Federal Order*, Biosecurity, and participation in the Dairy Herd Status Program and the USDA financial support programs are online at: [HPAI in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



# HPAI Confirmed Cases in Livestock Herds

as of October 31, 2024

Last reported confirmed detection Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Data updated weekdays by 12pm Eastern

## Situational Update

Confirmed Cases Last 30 Days

**160**

States Affected Last 30 Days

**2**

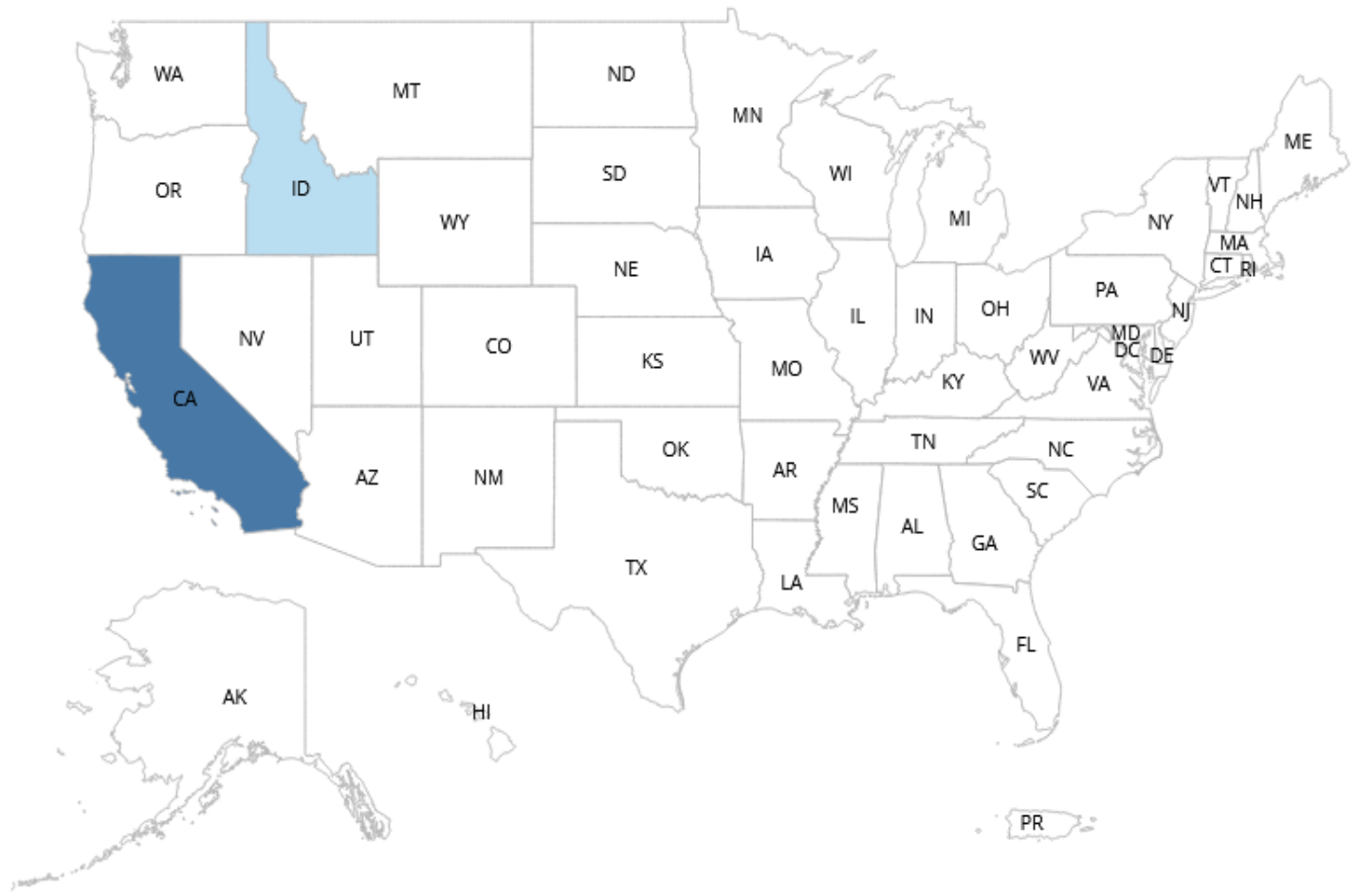
### Number of Confirmed Cases by State

Legend

0

16+

1 to 5





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Department of  
Agriculture**

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Phone: 913-495-9300

	Statistical Uniform Price		Producer Price Differential		Class I Utilization	
	Sep '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Aug '24
Northeast	23.57	22.64	0.23	1.98	29.36	28.16
Appalachian	24.48	23.98	-----	-----	71.39	72.99
Florida	26.19	25.81	-----	-----	81.01	82.09
Southeast	25.01	24.57	-----	-----	79.22	79.24
Upper Midwest	23.10	20.86	-0.24	0.20	9.65	6.16
<b>Central</b>	<b>22.41</b>	<b>21.34</b>	<b>-0.93</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>32.40</b>	<b>29.62</b>
Mideast	22.72	21.72	-0.62	1.06	35.28	37.18
California	22.45	21.50	-0.89	0.84	24.06	17.95
Pacific Northwest	22.59	21.37	-0.75	0.71	21.96	20.47
Southwest	22.89	22.07	-0.45	1.41	39.77	28.58
Arizona	22.94	22.14	-----	-----	32.75	35.04

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