



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review



Dated January 21, 2026

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Jan.)	\$ 14.75/cwt.	▼ 0.1 %	▼ 6.5 %	▼ 27.2 %
Class IV Milk Price (Jan.)	\$ 13.40/cwt.	—	▼ 1.1 %	▼ 35.8 %
Corn (Mar.)	\$ 4.24/bushel	▲ 1.0 %	▼ 5.1 %	▼ 13.5 %
SBean Meal (Mar.)	\$ 291.6/ton	▲ 1.8 %	▼ 2.3 %	▼ 6.2 %
DMC Margin (Nov.)*	\$ 10.04/cwt.	—	▼ 12.8 %	▼ 29.7 %

*Each issue of "Dairy Week in Review" will report on the most recent Milk Margin published through USDA's Dairy Margin Coverage Program. This margin is published each month after the USDA Ag Prices Report is released.

Markets:

- Based on the most recent USDA Dairy Products report, total cheese output for November 2025 reached 1.22 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent year over year and 3.4 percent month over month. Italian type cheese production totaled 526 million pounds, rising 6.8 percent from November 2024's levels and falling 2.7 percent from the prior month's total. Mozzarella totaled 416 million pounds, up 7.2 percent year over year.
- American type cheese output increased by 5.6 percent from November 2024 to 2025. However, month over month, American type cheese production fell 3.7 percent below October 2025's total. November's cheddar output totaled 322 million pounds, up 4.7 percent from the same month the previous year.
- Butter output rose from November 2024's levels to 180 million pounds in November 2025, up 2.2 percent. This follows the 10.4 percent year over year increase in production seen from October 2024 to 2025. Cumulatively, U.S. butter production totaled 2.16 billion pounds for the first eleven months of 2025, a 6.2 increase when compared to the first eleven months of 2024.
- Looking across the U.S., the Atlantic region's butter production fell 16.0 percent from November 2024 to 2025. In the Central and West regions, butter output was up by 2.9 and 4.5 percent year over year, respectively. For November 2025, California's butter production experienced a 9.5 increase from November 2024's total to 49.3 million pounds. Pennsylvania's butter output was 6.08 million pounds, falling 20.9 percent year over year and 11.2 percent month over month.

Government/Industry:

- 2026 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) enrollment is open through February 26. With the passage of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, there have been several changes to the DMC program. DMC's tier 1 coverage level increased from five to six million pounds. All dairy operations that elect to enroll in DMC for 2026 will establish a new production history based on the higher of milk marketings for 2021, 2022, or 2023. New dairy operations starting after January 1, 2023, will use their first year of monthly milk marketings, even for a partial year. Milk marketing statements or production evidence are required at time of enrollment. Dairy operations also have the option to lock in coverage levels for six years (2026-2031) with premium fees discounted by 25%. This coming year, dairy farms will need price risk protection more than ever, and DMC can help safeguard dairies' bottom lines. To learn more about the program or to sign up, visit or call your local USDA Farm Service Agency office.
- The Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) issued an advisory alerting the public about recent New World Screwworm (NWS) cases in eight animals in Tamaulipas, Mexico, that borders Texas. As of January 20, there have been no reported human or animal cases in the U.S. NWS flies lay their eggs in the open wounds or body cavities, then feed off of live animals and humans. Currently, there are 601 active cases in animals across Mexico and Central America, and since the beginning of this recent outbreak, NWS has affected 148,000 animals. While it mainly affects livestock, during this outbreak, there have been over 1,190 cases and seven deaths reported in humans across Central America. USDA's APHIS is continuing its efforts to eradicate the flies and keep NWS out of the U.S.
- On January 28 at 2:30 p.m., APHIS will be hosting a webinar covering how dairies can protect their cattle from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Their experts will cover the current status of HPAI in dairy cattle, how APHIS is monitoring the outbreak, available support programs, and everyday practices that can prevent the spread of bird flu. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-livestock to register.
- In case you missed it, on January 23 from 12 to 1 p.m., the Center hosted their bi-monthly "Protecting Your Profits" webinar titled "From Surviving to Thriving: Navigating Downturns and Knowing Your Numbers," with guest speaker Ava Hasbrook with Legacy Farmer. During the webinar, she covered how dairy farmers can evaluate and forecast their long term stability with their current funds, as well as the importance of planning for the future now versus later. She also provided insight into measuring long term strength, surviving economic downturns, and how investing today can dictate a farm's viability in the next 10 years. To watch the recording, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/pyp.