

CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE
 Dairy Week In Review

Dated February 22, 2023



Markets:

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Feb)	\$17.81/cwt.	▼ 0.7 %	▼ 8.4 %	▼ 14.9 %
Class IV Milk Price (Feb)	\$18.90/cwt.	▼ 0.4 %	▼ 4.8 %	▼ 21.0 %
Corn (March)	\$ 6.74/bushel	—	—	▼ 1.4 %
SBean Meal (March)	\$492.6/ton	▲ 0.3 %	▲ 5.8 %	▲ 4.5 %
DMC Margin (December)*	\$ 9.76/cwt.	—	▼ 10.4 %	▲ 2.4 %

*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.

- US total milk production was up 1.3 percent year-over-year to 19.3 billion pounds in January, with 18 pounds more milk per cow and 37,000 more cows in the nation's dairy herd, according to the latest USDA Milk Production Report. Cow numbers increased 11,000 head from December to January after falling for the past two months. California's milk production was flat year over year, while Wisconsin, Idaho, New York and Texas all posted gains, up 1.6, 2.6, 3.5, and 5.2 percent, respectively. Michigan's milk production was up 2.1 percent, while Minnesota was up 1.1 percent. Pennsylvania's milk production was basically flat, at 0.1-percent growth with 848 million pounds. The Commonwealth reported 2,000 fewer cows than a year ago but 1,000 more cows than in December, with 10 pounds more milk per cow than a year ago.
- The nation's milk production was up less than 0.1 percent to a total of 226.462 billion pounds in 2022, with milk production per cow up 138 pounds, or 0.5 percent, to 24,087 pounds for the year. Cow numbers were down 47,000 head on an annual basis. The top ten milk producing states for the year, in order, were California (-0.2%), Wisconsin(+0.5%), Idaho (+1.3%), New York (+0.8%), Texas (+5.9), Michigan (-1.8%), Minnesota (-0.6%), Pennsylvania (-1.6%), Washington (-4.1%), and Iowa (+4.2%). Pennsylvania lost 6,000 head and dropped 79 pounds per cow in 2022.
- The February issue of the Milk Production Report is also when they release the number of licensed dairy herds. Nationwide, 1,910 dairy operations exited the business, with 27,932 licensed dairy farms reported at the end of 2022. That is down 6.5 percent from a year ago. In Pennsylvania, licensed dairy farms fell to 5,200 farms, down 200 or 3.9 percent from last year. Pennsylvania remains second in terms of total dairy farms in the state, just below Wisconsin, which has 6,350 dairy farms.
- Dairy cow slaughter rates are increasing, with the number of head sent to slaughter during the week ending January 28th exceeding 68,000 head, above average for this time of year. For the first four weeks of 2023, nearly 273,000 dairy cows have been slaughtered, the most in 35 years for this time period.

Government and Industry:

- The Center will join the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Beef Council to host a series of five animal care workshops across the state in March and April. These workshops will focus on hands-on skill-building to help farmers and their employees meet National FARM compliance. Stations will include calf care, dry cow management, biosecurity, and animal handling. A certificate of completion will be provided at the end of each workshop. The first one will be on Tuesday, March 14, at Scattered Acres Farms in Reinholds, Lancaster County. For more information or to register, visit centerfordairyexcellence.org/animal-care or call 717-346-0849.