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Dairy EXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review



Dated February 18, 2026

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Feb.)	\$ 15.06/cwt.	▼ 0.7 %	▲ 2.0 %	▼ 25.9 %
Class IV Milk Price (Feb.)	\$ 15.53/cwt.	▲ 1.3 %	▲ 15.9 %	▼ 21.3 %
Corn (Mar.)	\$ 4.26/bushel	▼ 0.7 %	▲ 1.4 %	▼ 15.1 %
SBean Meal (Mar.)	\$ 305.8/ton	▲ 1.7 %	▲ 6.8 %	▲ 4.3 %
DMC Margin (Dec.)*	\$ 9.42/cwt.	—	▼ 10.5 %	▼ 29.6 %

**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:

- On February 17, the Global Dairy Trade (GDT) index was up 3.6 percent from the last session to an average of \$4,028 per metric ton (MT). With the exception of cheddar, all products increased from the prior event. Butter closed on an average price of \$6,347 per MT, up 10.7 percent from last session and continuing its climb from December's \$5,012.
- Mozzarella increased 5.0 percent over the same period and averaged \$3.879 per MT. Whole and skim milk powders reported 2.5 and 3.0 percent bumps in their average winning prices, respectively. Cheddar settled at \$4.736 per MT, falling 1.0 percent from the prior trading event.

Government/Industry:

- Over the past few weeks, cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza on poultry operations have ramped up. Currently, there are 16 active control zones in Lancaster County, along with one confirmed case in Dauphin County. There has been no reported cases on Pennsylvania dairy farms. However, dairy farms that fall within the 3km (1.86 miles) Control Infected Zones around affected poultry premises are required to conduct one round of bulk milk testing. If your farm falls within the 3km Control Infected Zone surround the affected flocks, you should receive a call from the PA. Dept. of Agriculture. If your contact information with the PDA may be outdated, email RA-ahds@pa.gov.
- The PDA encourages dairy farms to continue to complete their biosecurity plans and submit them for approval. Also, each herd must have a USDA issued Federal premises identification number registered with the PDA. If you do not have one or want to verify your premises ID number, email RA-PREMISE-ID@pa.gov.
- 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.