



CENTER FOR
DairyEXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review



Dated February 19, 2025

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Feb)	\$20.33/cwt.	▲ 0.5 %	▲ 0.3 %	▲ 25.6 %
Class IV Milk Price (Feb)	\$19.74/cwt.	—	▼ 5.4 %	▼ 0.9 %
Corn (Mar)	\$ 5.02/bushel	▲ 3.7 %	▲ 2.4 %	▲ 22.1 %
SBean Meal (Mar)	\$ 293.8/ton	▼ 0.9 %	▼ 5.5 %	▼ 14.4 %
DMC Margin (Dec)*	\$ 13.38/cwt.	—	▼ 6.4 %	▲ 39.7%

**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:

- Mexico and Canada reached an agreement with the U.S. for a 30-day reprieve from the current administration's tariffs. While Mexico did not list nonfat dry milk (NFDM) as a potential target for retaliatory tariffs, trade-related tensions have slowed commerce across the border. Domestic buyers are wary of purchasing milk powder with the looming threat tariffs if the trade disputes reignite. NFDM futures fell to their lowest values since last summer. While proposed tariffs have not been put in place yet, the looming threat has already negatively impacted the U.S. dairy industry.
- Based on a recent Cornell and Numerator study, people on GLP-1 drugs for weight management reported decreased spending on dairy products over a six month period. The GLP-1 users represented in the study reported spending 7.2% less on cheese, 4.7% less on milk and cream, 5.8% less on butter, and 5.5% less on ice cream. However, their high protein whey spending is up as they prioritize protein in their daily intake. The demand decreases in other dairy products overshadows the increase in whey protein demand.

Government/Industry:

- Since Feb. 13, thousands of USDA employees from across multiple agencies were fired due to the current administration's efforts to reduce the federal workforce. Most of the affected employees were still in their probationary periods. The USDA agencies impacted includes the Forest Service, NRCS, NIFA, ERS, ARS, APHIS, and several others. Various other federal agency employees received similar termination emails, such as NPS, NIH, IRS, and more.
- Over the past few weeks, the PA Dept. of Ag. announced preliminary findings of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strain found in wild birds in several commercial poultry flocks across several PA counties. The PDA's quarantine order requires dairy farms inside the 3 km infected zone to submit weekly bulk tank or in-line samples for testing until the control area is closed. While this strain is not the same one found in dairy cattle, these precautions were implemented to protect PA's dairies and poultry flocks. For more information on surveillance efforts, contact the PDA at RA-ahds@pa.gov.
- Penn State Extension will be hosting additional workshops to help dairy producers create effective biosecurity plans in accordance with PDA guidelines. During these open house style workshops, dairy farmers can show up between 9am and 3pm to receive one-on-one help to work through the biosecurity plan components and state requirements. Registration is not required but is appreciated. Contact your local extension office to learn more.
- The Center offers biosecurity kits and "No Trespassing" signs at no cost to Pennsylvania dairy farmers. The biosecurity kits contain resources, tools, and signage to help dairies improve biosecurity on their operations. The "No Trespassing" signs encourage visitors to stop and call before entering the farm. Visit the Center's website to learn more.
- The 2025 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) enrollment period will run from Jan. 29 to Mar. 31, 2025. Utilizing DMC can help farmers protect themselves from milk market and feed cost volatility and can be an important tool in their risk management strategy. While current forecasts indicate the coming program year will not see indemnities, enrolling in DMC is a great way to protect your dairy against an ever-shifting market. To sign up or learn more about DMC, contact your local FSA Office.
- The Center, Professional Dairy Managers of PA, Penn State Extension, and PA Beef Council are working together to host a series of free Animal Care Workshops for dairy farmers and employees throughout March and April. Each workshop will run from 9am to 3pm and will offer antibiotic stewardship and pain management, calf care and nutrition, fitness to transport, and biosecurity sessions with an optional farm tour afterwards. Every participant will receive a certificate to show commitment to animal care and the National FARM program. To register for one of the five locations in Cumberland, Lancaster, Crawford, Mifflin, and Bradford counties, scan the QR code.

