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**Dairy** EXCELLENCE  
**Dairy Week In Review**



Dated February 25, 2026

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Feb.)	\$ 15.01/cwt.	▼ 0.3 %	▲ 2.0 %	▼ 25.7 %
Class IV Milk Price (Feb.)	\$ 16.03/cwt.	▲ 3.2 %	▲ 18.3 %	▼ 19.0 %
Corn (Mar.)	\$ 4.28/bushel	▼ 0.7 %	▲ 0.5 %	▼ 10.8 %
SBean Meal (Mar.)	\$ 310.7/ton	▲ 1.6 %	▲ 5.7 %	▲ 5.8 %
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:**

- In the February USDA Milk Production Report, the year-end U.S. data was released. For last year, the U.S. milk production totaled 232 billion pounds, a 2.6 percent increase from 2024's total pounds. For 2025, the U.S. milk production total was revised upward 176 million pounds from January's initial estimate. Looking back over the past ten years, the nation's milk supply was up 9.0 percent from 2016 to 2025.
- For 2025, the U.S. production per cow averaged 24,390 pounds over the past year, up 218 pounds from 2024's average. For 2025, the nation's herd averaged 9.50 million head, a 153,000 head increase from 2024. Compared to 2016, the U.S. average numbers of milk cows is up 1.6 percent. The total number of licensed dairy herds in the U.S. fell 4.2 percent from 2024's 24,645 to 23,609 in 2025.
- For January 2026, U.S. milk output reached 19.8 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from the same month the prior year. January's monthly milk production per cow averaged 2,068 pounds, up 24 pounds from January 2025 and up 26 pounds from December. In January 2026, U.S. milk cow numbers reached 9.58 million head, a 189,000 head increase from January 2025.
- For 2025, Pennsylvania's milk production dropped by 0.5 percent from 2024 at 9.78 million pounds to 9.74 million in 2025. The Keystone State's annual production per cow averaged 21,121 pounds, up 84 pounds from 2024. Pennsylvania's milk cow numbers averaged 461,000 million head, down 4,000 head from the prior year. From 2024 to 2025, the number of licensed Pennsylvania dairy herds decreased from 4,680 to 4,360.
- Starting off 2026, Pennsylvania's milk production totaled 817 million pounds in January 2026, down 3.0 percent from January 2025. Milk cow numbers for the state fell 11,000 head year over year to 454,000 head in January 2026. Monthly production per cow decreased by 10 pounds from 1,810 pounds in January 2025 to 1,800 pounds in January 2026.

**Government/Industry:**

- With highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) detected on 18 poultry premises in Lancaster County and one in Dauphin County, 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.
- On March 24, Penn State Extension and the Center for Dairy Excellence are hosting a "Passing the Torch" Transition Planning Workshop in Lewisburg, Union County, PA. The day-long workshop will cover everything from communication and family dynamics to legal and accounting considerations. Lunch will be provided. Registration is \$25 total for the first two family members and \$5 for every additional family member. Call Emily Fread from Penn State Extension at 704-301-3441 or call Allen Hess from the Center at 717-788-0304 to register over the phone. Visit [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/passing-the-torch](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/passing-the-torch) to register online.