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DairyEXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review



Dated February 26, 2025

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Feb)	\$20.20/cwt.	▼ 0.6 %	▲ 0.6 %	▲ 25.4 %
Class IV Milk Price (Feb)	\$19.78/cwt.	▲ 0.2 %	▼ 5.2 %	▼ 0.6 %
Corn (Mar)	\$ 4.80/bushel	▼ 4.4 %	▼ 1.0 %	▲ 15.9 %
SBean Meal (Mar)	\$ 293.8/ton	—	▼ 2.6 %	▼ 11.3 %
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:

- Based on the most recent USDA Milk Production report, the U.S. milk supply dropped 0.2% from 2023's 226.3 to 225.9 billion pounds for 2024. Milk production peaked in March 2024 and totaled 19.7 billion pounds. Production reached its lowest for 2024 in November at 18.0 billion pounds.
- Pennsylvania's annual milk production dipped 0.7% from 2023's 9.859 billion pounds to 9.782 billion in 2024. California saw a 1.5% drop in milk production year over year. South Dakota significantly increased their production by 10.3% from 2023 to 2024. New Mexico's milk supply felt a sharp 12.3% decrease year over year.
- The U.S. annual average milk output per cow increased 61 pounds from 2023's 24,117 to 24,178. Pennsylvania's annual average milk production per cow was 21,037 pounds, up 150 pounds from 2023's average. U.S milk cow numbers averaged 9.34 million head for 2024, a 42,000 head decrease from 2023's 9.38 million. Pennsylvania's milk cow numbers held strong at 465,000 throughout all four quarters of 2024 but was down 1,000 head from 2023's 466,000.
- For 2024, the total number of licensed dairy herds in the U.S. totaled 24,811, down 1,434 herds from 26,245 herds in 2023. Wisconsin led the states with 5,520 herds but dropped 400 herds from 2023 to 2024. Pennsylvania follows closely behind with 4,850 herds with a 90-herd decrease year over year. New York experienced a 150-herd drop from 3,030 to 2,880 herds from 2023 to 2024.
- Shifting focus to January 2025, PA milk production totaled 842 million pounds, up 0.8% year over year. PA milk cow numbers are holding steady from January 2024 to 2025 at 465,000 head. Production per cow increased 15 pounds from 1,795 pounds in January 2024 and 1,810 pounds in January 2025. South Dakota and Texas experienced 6.5% growth in milk production year over year. Meanwhile, California felt a 5.7% drop in production from January 2024 to 2025.

Government/Industry:

- On Mar. 6 at 10am, Penn State Extension will host a free webinar titled, "On-Farm Biosecurity: Essential Strategies for Service Providers." The hour-long webinar will feature state agency panelists, who will cover proper sanitization practices, minimizing disease transmission, and compliance with state and industry biosecurity protocols. The information will help sales/service providers do their part to protect the farms they visit. To register or learn more, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/events.
- Penn State Extension will be hosting additional workshops throughout PA to help dairy producers create effective biosecurity plans in accordance with PDA guidelines. During these open house style workshops, dairy farmers can 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, Professional Dairy Managers of PA, Penn State Extension, and PA Beef Council are working together to host free Animal Care Workshops for dairy farmers and employees. 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. The Cumberland and Lancaster workshops will be held Mar. 4 and Mar. 11, respectively. Crawford, Mifflin, and Bradford County workshops will all happen in early to mid-April. To register for the workshops, scan the QR code.

