



CENTER FOR  
**Dairy** EXCELLENCE  
Dairy Week In Review

Dated March 25, 2020



## Markets:

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Milk Price (Mar) **	\$17.28/cwt.	▼ 0.3 %	▼ 4.1 %	▲ 7.4 %
Corn (May)	\$3.52/bushel	▲ 2.3 %	▼ 4.9 %	▼ 5.7 %
SBean Meal (May)	\$329.1/ton	▲ 8.2 %	▲ 13.1 %	▲ 8.2 %
Milk Margin (January)*	\$13.09/cwt.	—	▲ 5.1 %	▲ 21.9 %

\*Each issue of "Dairy Week in Review" will report on current "Milk Margin," or the dollars remaining per one hundred lbs. of milk after feed is paid for, based on data for a 65-pound herd in the latest "PA Dairy Industry Performance Scorecard." Milk margin is affected by both milk & feed prices. \*\* The milk price reported is the Class III futures price for the next month plus a basis of \$1.00, an estimate of what could be on your milk check next month.

- Total US milk production was up 1.7 percent year-over-year to 17.87 billion pounds in February, when adjusted for leap year, according to the USDA Milk Production Report. The nation's dairy herd totaled 9.37 million head at the end of February, up 9,000 head from January and 18,000 head higher than a year ago. Milk production per cow was also up 1.5 percent from a year ago, when adjusted for leap year.
- California's milk production was up 2.6 percent, while Idaho was up 5.5 percent and Michigan was up 1.1 percent. New York was up 1.9 percent, and Texas was up 6.7 percent. Wisconsin was down 0.9 percent in milk production, while Pennsylvania's milk production was up 0.2 percent.
- February marked the first time in more than 18 months that Pennsylvania posted a year-over-year increase in its total milk production. The increase was driven by a 3.8-percent increase in milk production per cow, with the state's dairy herd having more than 2 pounds per cow per day this month compared to a year ago.
- Butter stocks were up 24.2 percent from a year ago to 302.3 million pounds in cold storage as of the end of February, according to the USDA Cold Storage report, the largest amount for January since 1993. That is 55 million pounds more than in January 31, the highest Jan.-Feb. build-up since 1992. Cheese stocks were up less than 6 million pounds month-to-month to 1.36 billion pounds. Total cheese stocks declined 0.5 percent from a year ago. Next month's report may show a dramatically different picture, given the surging fluid milk demand brought on by COVID-19.

## Government and Industry:

- Congress is expected to pass quickly the Senate's coronavirus relief package, released on Thursday. The measure creates a \$9.5 billion coronavirus agricultural disaster fund that specifically includes livestock and dairy producers, as well as critical assistance to small businesses that are a key link in the entire dairy supply chain. The bill also provides \$14 billion in additional funding for the Commodity Credit Corporation that USDA can use to assist producers.
- The Center has assembled a library of resources to help farmers navigate through COVID-19. To access the library, visit [centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/](http://centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/).

## COVID-19 Guidelines:

- With the COVID-19 situation changing daily, government restrictions continue to evolve to stop its spread. All dairy farms are considered essential businesses. However, it should not be business as usual on any farm. The PA Department of Agriculture has issued guidelines on how to handle farm deliveries and other critical areas related to the farm. Copies of those guidelines are available at [agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/COVID-19.aspx](http://agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/COVID-19.aspx). If you would like a copy mailed to you, call 717-346-0849 and provide your mailing address so someone from the Center can send them to you.
- All dairy farms should also be putting in place measures to practice social distancing and protect both their employees and businesses from COVID-19. Employees should be instructed to stay home if they are sick, and a routine should be put in place to ensure commonly touched surfaces are disinfected. To learn more about recent changes in Pennsylvania labor laws regarding sick time, visit the Center's COVID-19 resource page at [centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/](http://centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/) or call the Center.
- The Center is working with industry professionals to offer assistance in helping farms develop a contingency plan to protect their employees and business against COVID-19. If you would like assistance in crafting your plan, contact Melissa Anderson at 717-636-0779 or [manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org).