



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE
 Dairy Week In Review



Dated March 11, 2026

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Mar.)	\$ 16.22/cwt.	▼ 1.7 %	▲ 6.9 %	▼ 19.8 %
Class IV Milk Price (Mar.)	\$ 19.50/cwt.	—	▲ 25.7 %	▼ 1.3 %
Corn (Mar.)	\$ 4.36/bushel	▲ 0.5 %	▲ 1.6 %	▼ 9.9 %
SBean Meal (Mar.)	\$ 311.8/ton	▲ 0.5 %	▲ 3.6 %	▲ 5.1 %
DMC Margin (Jan.)*	\$ 7.81/cwt.	—	▼ 17.1 %	▼ 43.6 %

*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:

- According to the USDA Dairy Products report, January 2026 butter output rose 6 percent year over year to 231.5 million pounds. In the Central region, butter production increased by 13.3 percent from the same month the prior year. Inventories remained low due to strong domestic demand and export sales. All of these factors contributed to butter prices picking up over the last few weeks.
- For January, cheese production also experienced noticeable gains and was up 4.7 percent from January 2025's levels. Italian-type cheese output increased by 6.5 percent year over year, while American-type cheese production saw 3.9 percent growth. Cheddar output climbed 7.4 percent from the same month the prior year. Although, cheese exports experienced record-high sales, but U.S. cheese consumption fell over the recent months.
- For January 2025 to 2026, whey protein isolate production experienced a 12.4 percent gain. Whey protein concentrate (WPC), 50-89.9 percent protein, output rose by 12.2 percent over the same timeframe. Dry whey production for human consumption was up by 11 percent. For January 2026, yogurt production was up by 5.9 percent year over year. Cottage cheese production increased significantly across all types.

Government/Industry:

- The Center will be hosting the next "Protecting Your Profits" webinar titled, "The Missing Metric: How to Calculate Your Dairy's Biological and Economic Health," on Friday, March 20 from 12 to 1 p.m. via Zoom. Dr. Joe Bender with UPenn will share how to balance both sides of the biological and economic equation at the cow and business levels. He'll also cover how to use ratios to evaluate the economic health of your farm, how to move items from the liability side of the equation to the asset side, and practical ways to balance economic vitality with strong milk production to develop a formula to balance a good product and taking good care of your cattle. To sign up for the webinar, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/pyp-webinar.
- On March 24, Penn State Extension and the Center for Dairy Excellence are hosting a "Passing the Torch" Transition Planning Workshop in Lewisburg, PA. The workshop will cover everything from communication and family dynamics to legal and accounting considerations. Registration is \$25 total for the first two family members and \$5 for every additional family member. To register over the phone or for more information, call Emily Fread from Penn State Extension at 704-301-3441 or call Allen Hess from the Center at 717-788-0304. To register online, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/passing-the-torch.
- Coming up, the Center for Dairy Excellence, Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, PA Beef Council, and Penn State Extension are collaborating to host five Animal Care Workshops in Lancaster, Berks, Centre, Franklin, and Somerset counties in late March and April. Each on-farm workshop will feature four sessions led by industry experts and educators covering animal handling and meat quality issues, calving issues/dystocia, down cows/transition cows, and farm safety. The workshops are free and count towards FARM program continuing education credits. There will also be Spanish translation services available. Lunch will be provided. To read more about the workshops or to register, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/events.