



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review



Dated March 18, 2026

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Mar.)	\$ 16.17/cwt.	▼ 0.3 %	▲ 7.4 %	▼ 12.4 %
Class IV Milk Price (Mar.)	\$ 19.38/cwt.	▼ 0.6 %	▲ 24.8 %	▲ 4.7 %
Corn (May)	\$ 4.54/bushel	▲ 4.1 %	▲ 6.6 %	▼ 0.9 %
SBean Meal (Mar.)	\$ 311.7/ton	—	▲ 1.9 %	▲ 4.0 %
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:

- For 2025, cheese consumption reached a new, record high, based on recent USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) data. American-style cheese domestic consumption did not reach 2023's peak, but 2025 levels did slightly surpass 2024's numbers. Consumption of other cheeses reached a new record high for the fifth year in a row. However, the increase in U.S. cheese consumption only absorbed 12 percent of domestic cheese production. Domestic cheese consumption has not been keeping pace with cheese output. To keep cheese inventories from getting backed up, cheese exports will need to remain strong.
- U.S. butter consumption was down slightly from 2024's record to 2025 but still high when compared to years prior. For 2023 and 2024, American customers consumed more butter than what was being domestically produced. The U.S. market supplemented the deficit with butter imports, mostly from Ireland. For 2025, domestic butter output exceeded American consumption, and the U.S. exported significantly more butter than in previous years.
- In 2025, milk powder consumption was up 6.3 percent from 2024's levels, the second-lowest since 1993. Domestic whey powder fell to an 11-year low in 2025 as U.S. demand sifted to whey protein concentrate and isolates. Whey protein concentrate reached a new high for the decade for 2025.

Government/Industry:

- 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.