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**Dairy** EXCELLENCE  
 Dairy Week In Review



Dated April 2, 2024

## Markets:

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (March)	\$16.33/cwt.	▼ 0.5 %	▼ 1.3 %	▼ 10.8 %
Class IV Milk Price (March)	\$20.09/cwt.	—	▲ 0.5 %	▲ 9.3 %
Corn (May)	\$ 4.26/bushel	—	▲ 1.9 %	▼ 34.7 %
SBean Meal (May)	\$ 328.0/ton	▼ 3.3 %	▼ 1.8 %	▼ 28.0 %
<b>DMC Margin (February)*</b>	<b>\$ 9.44/cwt.</b>	—	<b>▲ 11.3 %</b>	<b>▲ 52.5 %</b>

*\*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.*

- USDA announced the February margin under the Dairy Margin Coverage Program this week at \$9.44 per hundredweight, just six cents below the \$9.50 threshold. The margin will result in a \$0.06 per cwt. indemnity payment for those covered at the maximum level, or just under \$50 on one million pounds of production history. The all-milk price increased 50 cents from January to \$20.60 per cwt. in February, down \$1 from a year ago levels.
- Lower feed costs drove the higher margins in February, with feed costs falling to their lowest level since March 2021. Feed costs per hundred pounds of milk produced fell 46 cents from last month to \$11.16 per cwt. Corn prices dropping to \$4.36 per bushel, the lowest price since January 2021. Soybean meal prices fell \$14.77 from January to \$363.63 per ton, while alfalfa hay increased \$4 to \$278 per ton. Looking ahead, USDA's DMC Decision Tool is projecting margins to improve above the \$9.50 level for the remainder of the year. However, USDA is projecting that a drop in the all-milk price to just below \$20 would trigger an indemnity payment at the current feed costs levels.

## Government and Industry:

- The USDA continues to update the industry on the spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy herds. As of April 2, twelve cases have been confirmed in dairy cattle in five states, including Texas (7 herds), Kansas (2), Michigan (1), New Mexico (1), and Idaho (1). The Idaho State Department of Agriculture did announce that the latest case, found in Idaho, was in a facility that had recently imported cattle from another state and herd with HPAI. While more information continues to be released about the disease and how it is being transmitted between cattle, the unfolding situation does demonstrate how crucial it is for all dairy farms to remain vigilant, limit cattle movement, and implement everyday biosecurity measures on the farm.
- The Center hosted a call with Pennsylvania State Veterinarian Dr. Alex Hamberg and Penn State Extension Veterinarian Dr. Hayley Springer this week to help answer questions related to the situation and Pennsylvania's response. A recording of that call as available at [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/HPIA-industry-call/](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/HPIA-industry-call/).