



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review



Dated April 8, 2026

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Apr.)	\$ 17.34/cwt.	▲ 7.6 %	▲ 6.9 %	▲ 1.1 %
Class IV Milk Price (Apr.)	\$ 20.49/cwt.	▼ 0.5 %	▲ 5.1 %	▲ 14.7 %
Corn (May)	\$ 4.49/bushel	▼ 2.0 %	▲ 3.0 %	▼ 4.3 %
SBean Meal (May)	\$ 311.8/ton	▼ 1.5 %	—	▲ 7.1 %
DMC Margin (Feb.)*	\$ 8.46/cwt.	—	▲ 8.3 %	▼ 35.5 %

**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 USDA Dairy Products report, total cheese output was 1.16 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent year over year. Italian-type cheese production increased by 6.8 percent from February 2025 to 506 million pounds in February 2026. American type cheese output totaled 451 million pounds, up 1.9 percent from the same time the prior year.
- Butter production experienced a 9.1 percent increase year over year and totaled 221 million pounds in February 2026. Pennsylvania's butter output fell by 23.1 percent from February 2025 to 5.7 million pounds in February 2026. Over the same timeframe, California's butter production increased by 7.7 percent. However, butter stocks were down 17 percent year over year due to strong butter exports and international demand.
- On April 1, the USDA released the Class and component prices for March's milk. The Class II Price was \$17.34 per hundredweight (cwt), up \$2.00 from February 2026. The Class III Price rose \$1.22 per cwt from the prior month to \$16.16 for March 2026. The Class IV Price was reported at \$18.94 per cwt, up \$2.65 month over month.
- The butterfat price increased by 24 cents from February's \$1.7794 per lb. to \$2.0220 in March. The nonfat solids price was announced at \$1.3215 per lb., up 20 cents from February. Protein also experienced an increase month over month, climbing to \$2.0905 per lb. in March from \$1.9373 per lb. in February.

Government/Industry:

- Coming up, the Center for Dairy Excellence, Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, PA Beef Council, and Penn State Extension are collaborating to host Animal Care Workshops in Franklin and Somerset counties in 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.
- Last week, the Center hosted their April "All Things Dairy" conference call on April 8. Our panelists covered rural mental health tips and advice, as well as resources and information on the AgraAbility program. These conference calls aim to provide a platform for organizations and industry partners to share timely updates, resources, programs, and upcoming event relevant to the dairy community. To watch the recording, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/all-things-dairy-monthly-conference-calls/.
- On June 11, the Dairy Excellence Foundation will host their annual "A Toast to Dairy" event at Melhorn Manor in Mount Joy, PA, from 6 to 9 p.m. All proceeds from the event directly support the Foundation's dairy education programs, scholarships, internships, and more. This farm-to-fork event features food stations, tasting passports with samples from local wineries and breweries, guided cheese tasting experiences, a photo booth, caricature artists, and other fun surprises. Tickets are \$85 per person with group discounts available, but if you purchase your tickets by May 1, you will get \$10 off each ticket. With 400 people attending last year, buy your tickets now before they sell out. Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy to purchase your tickets today.