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Dairy EXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review

Dated May 10, 2023

Markets:

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (April)	\$16.40/cwt.	▼ 2.5 %	▼ 12.2 %	▼ 34.2 %
Class IV Milk Price (May)	\$17.99/cwt.	▲ 0.2 %	▲ 0.6 %	▼ 26.8 %
Corn (May)	\$ 6.42/bushel	▼ 0.5 %	▼ 2.2 %	▼ 20.0 %
SBean Meal (May)	\$416.4/ton	▼ 1.9 %	▼ 9.6 %	▲ 4.0 %
DMC Margin (March)*	\$ 6.08/cwt.	—	▼ 1.8 %	▼ 47.8 %

**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.*

- The latest USDA Dairy Products report shows March 2023 cheese production up 11.7 percent from last month to 1.23 billion pounds, falling 0.2 percent from a year ago's production level. Italian type cheese production was down 1.5 percent from last March to 512 million pounds, while American type cheese production was up 12.5 percent to 499 million pounds. Butter production was up 1.4 percent from a year ago to 205 million pounds, up 9.5 percent from February. Nonfat dry milk powder production was up 4.4 percent from a year ago, while skim milk powder production fell 16.1 percent.
- For the first time in 12 months, US dairy export volumes fell year over year, falling 0.4 percent in March. Despite the dip, year-to-date value and volumes of US dairy exports grew. US dairy export volumes were up 5 percent for the quarter, or 25,398 metric tons, while the value of those exports was up 3 percent, or \$65 million. Several key categories experienced growth for the quarter, including nonfat and skim milk powder (+3%), cheese (+4%), and lactose (+26%).
- The spring planting season has begun, according to the latest USDA Crop Progress report. The top 18 corn producers, including Pennsylvania which is ranked 16th, planted 92% of the nation's soybeans in 2022. The top 18 soybean producers planted 95% of the nation's soybeans. Pennsylvania just misses the top 18 soybean producers, ranking as the 20th most acres of soybeans planted.
- Even though only one full week of May is complete, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas have planted 70% or more of their 2022 acreage. Missouri and North Carolina lead the way with 92% and 85%, respectively, of their corn crop planted. Missouri is well ahead of its five-year average of 56%, but North Carolina is right on target with a five-year average of 84% planted by the week ending May 7. At 73% of acreage planted, Illinois has also outpaced its five-year average of 46%. Michigan, Wisconsin and North Dakota are the only three states that are behind. Pennsylvania is on pace with its five-year average. The top 18 corn producing states have an average of 49% of the corn crop in the ground. This is seven percentage points higher than the five-year average. Only 12% of the corn planted has pushed its way through the ground. This is on par with the five-year average of 11%. Currently, 17% of the corn acreage is planted across the Keystone State, two percentage points ahead of its 15%, five-year average.
- In general, soybean planting is ahead of schedule as well. With 35% of soybeans estimated to have been planted, it is 14 percentage points ahead of the five-year average of 21% by the week ending May 7, 2023. Just like corn, some of the warmer climate states of the top 18 have a larger percentage of their soybean crop planted. Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas have 71%, 62%, 38%, and 58%, respectively, of their soybean crop planted. These acres planted surpass the five-year average by a combined average of 18 percentage points. Some of the cooler climates within the corn belt are also surprisingly well ahead of their five-year average. Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa have 66%, 33%, and 49% of the respective soybean acres planted.