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**Dairy** EXCELLENCE  
 Dairy Week In Review

Dated May 24, 2023



**Markets:**

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (May)	\$16.20/cwt.	—	▼ 13.0 %	▼ 37.8 %
Class IV Milk Price (May)	\$18.10/cwt.	—	▲ 0.6 %	▼ 27.7 %
Corn (July)	\$ 5.87/bushel	▲ 4.6 %	▼ 3.8 %	▼ 24.0 %
SBean Meal (July)	\$402.2/ton	▼ 5.5 %	▼ 5.7 %	▼ 5.7 %
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.*

- Total US milk production was up 0.3 percent to 19.2 billion pounds in April, with production per cow up 1 pound to 2,037 pounds. The nation's dairy herd grew by 26,000 head from a year ago to 9.43 million head, but shrank 16,000 head from a month ago. California is down 1.9 percent from a year ago, while Wisconsin was up 0.1 percent. Idaho, New York, Texas, Michigan and Minnesota all had modest growth, up 2.7, 2.4, 1.3, 2.6 and 1.5 percent, respectively. Pennsylvania's milk production was flat from a year ago, with 1,000 fewer cows but 5 pounds more milk per cow. This is the fourth month in a row that Pennsylvania's dairy herd stayed flat.
- Beef prices are sending more dairy cows to the marketplace. The USDA Livestock Slaughter report shows dairy cow slaughter up nearly 9,000 head from a year ago to 306,100 head in March. Dairy cow slaughter is up 57,000 head for the year, as of the first week in May.
- The USDA Cold Storage report shows total cheese inventories were up 3 million pounds from March to 1.46 billion pounds at the end of April. Typically cheese inventories grow by 30 million pounds in April. Overall cheese stocks were down 1.2 percent from a year ago. American cheese stocks were up by 11.5 million pounds from month to month, up 0.3 percent from a year ago. In contrast, butter stocks were up 18.2 million pounds from March to 327.7 million pounds at the end of April, up 9.8 percent from a year ago. Month-to-month growth in butter stocks didn't keep pace with historical trends, though, at only about half the typical growth for this season.
- More than 81 percent of the nation's corn crop is now planted, according to the latest USDA Crop Progress report published on May 22nd. Historical averages have about 75 percent of the crop planted by this time of year. Over 50 percent of the nation's corn crop has emerged, as of last week. In Pennsylvania, only 64 percent of the corn crop is planted, with 31 percent emerged. About 66 percent of the nation's soybean crop was planted, as of the end of last week, with 36 percent emerged.

**Government & Industry:**

- USDA plans to purchase various protein items to support activities to leverage American Agriculture to feed kids and families. Potential materials may include dairy, meat, fish, and poultry items. Up to 47.6 million pounds of cheese will be solicited by the agency as part of the program. The funds, provided through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, will support nearly \$1 billion to purchase food for emergency food providers like food banks.
- Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) member cooperatives accepted eight offers of export assistance from CWT that helped them capture sales contracts for 1.6 million pounds (722 MT) of American-type cheese, 55,000 pounds (25 MT) of butter and 44,000 pounds (20 MT) of whole milk powder. CWT-assisted member cooperative year-to-date export sales total 18.6 million pounds of American-type cheeses, 594,000 pounds of butter (82% milkfat), 2,000 pounds of anhydrous milkfat, 24.6 million pounds of whole milk powder and 3.6 million pounds of cream cheese. These sales are the equivalent of 392.6 million pounds of milk on a milkfat basis.