



CENTER FOR  
**Dairy** EXCELLENCE  
**Dairy Week In Review**

Dated December 17, 2025



| Dairy Prices                | Price          | Chge. from Week Ago | Chge. from Month Ago | Chge. from Year Ago |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Class III Milk Price (Dec.) | \$ 15.84/cwt.  | ▼ 0.8 %             | ▼ 8.1 %              | ▼ 15.5 %            |
| Class IV Milk Price (Dec.)  | \$ 13.81/cwt.  | ▲ 0.3 %             | ▼ 0.1 %              | ▼ 33.4 %            |
| Corn (Mar.)                 | \$ 4.36/bushel | ▼ 1.1 %             | ▼ 0.2 %              | ▼ 1.6 %             |
| SBean Meal (Jan.)           | \$ 302.4/ton   | ▼ 3.5 %             | ▼ 7.5 %              | ▲ 5.3 %             |
| DMC Margin (Oct.)*          | \$ 10.52/cwt.  | —                   | ▼ 8.7 %              | ▼ 30.7 %            |

*\*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:**

- The USDA announced September's and October's margin to be \$10.87 and \$10.52 per hundredweight (cwt) for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), down 65 cents and \$1.00 from August's margin of \$11.52 per cwt. Both month's margins were above \$9.50, which resulted in no indemnities being triggered at any coverage level.
- Over the past two months, the all-milk price fell to \$20.40 per cwt in September, then to \$20.00 in October from August's \$11.52. Prior to this, August 2023 was the last time the all-milk price dropped below \$20.00 per cwt. While milk prices decreased, feed costs were up from August, reaching \$9.53 per cwt in September and falling slightly to \$9.48 in October.
- Based on the DMC Decision Tool (updated Dec. 16), forecasts have November's and December's margins projected at \$9.54 and \$8.83 per cwt, respectively. If these projections hold true, participating dairies could see a small indemnity in December. The all-milk price is forecasted to fall to \$19.61 per cwt, then to \$18.92 per cwt for the last two months of the program year.
- For November and December, feed cost projections are expected to climb to \$10.07 and \$10.09 per cwt, respectively. For November and December, corn and soybean meal prices projections are up from the prior months, helping to fuel the increase in feed costs.

**Government/Industry:**

- Enrollment for the 2026 DMC Program still has not opened, with coverage in the current program expiring in December. Under the "Big Beautiful Bill" passed in July 2025, coverage levels in the program increase from a maximum of 5 million pounds to 6 million pounds beginning in January 2026. In the past, when enrollment was delayed into the new year, dairy producers received any announced indemnity payments retroactively once the program opens enrollment.
- Penn State Extension will be hosting a series of "Milk Matters" workshops January through March in several locations throughout the state on utilizing DHIA records, troubleshooting common milk quality issues, interpreting culture results, and more. These workshops are designed to equip dairy farm owners and employees with the knowledge to better guide culling decisions, treatment protocols, and best practices. Registration is \$10 per person. Visit [www.extension.psu.edu](http://www.extension.psu.edu) to register or for more details.
- The Center is now accepting applications for their new Dairy Productivity Grant that is focused on first-time investments in milking efficiency, feeding, and activity monitoring technologies. Covered projects could include, but are not limited to, pipelines, robotic milking technology, TMR mixers, feed tracking, boluses, and collars. If approved, you will receive up to \$10,000 for your project with a 25 percent match. Applications will be accepted through January 5, 2026. This is a competitive grant, so awardees will be notified by January 15, 2026. For more information or to apply, scan the QR code.

