



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review

Dated December 23, 2025



Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Dec.)	\$ 15.77/cwt.	▼ 0.4 %	▼ 8.2 %	▼ 15.5 %
Class IV Milk Price (Dec.)	\$ 13.55/cwt.	▼ 1.9 %	▼ 2.0 %	▼ 34.7 %
Corn (Mar.)	\$ 4.47/bushel	▲ 2.5 %	▲ 5.4 %	▲ 0.2 %
SBean Meal (Jan.)	\$ 298.6/ton	▼ 1.3 %	▼ 5.0 %	▲ 1.4 %
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:

- Based on the NMPF Dairy Market Report, October's U.S. fluid milk sales were down 0.1 percent year over year, proceeding a 2.5 increase in September. The U.S. total milkfat production increased by 5.5 percent from the prior year in August—October, approximately two percentage points quicker than fluid milk production over the same time period.
- U.S. cheddar production climbed 3.2 percent August-October year over year, a significant drop from its 8.8 percent annual growth May-July. Cheese, nonfat dry milk, and dry whey prices experienced moderate shifts from September to November; however, butter prices fell by a whopping \$0.40/lb over the same timeframe. The average dairy product prices fell by 1.6 percent for November.
- After a 6.7 percent decrease in their milk output in 2024, production ramped up exponentially as cumulative volumes were up 10.4 percent in the first 11 months of this year. Argentina's growth can be attributed to their country's expanding herds, increasing by 33,130 head to 1.499 million, as well as increased productivity. While most of the production increase has fed into the domestic market, Argentinian exports have strengthened in the past few months, as they shipped more than 21,000 MT of milk powder to the global market.
- From January to October, Uruguay's milk production rose by 5 percent with total 2025 exports experiencing a 4.2 percent increase through November compared to the prior year's levels. Brazil's milk output rose by 9.1 percent through the first 9 months of 2025. Year to date, Chile's and Colombia's milk production grew by 7.3 and 3.4 percent, respectively. With global milk volume increasing, additional supplies have pushed global prices downward. While South America's milk production has been rapidly expanding in 2025, like in many other parts of the globe, South America's producers may slow production in a broader effort to correct the global milk supply in 2026.

Government/Industry:

- In mid-December, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National Veterinary Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed a detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a Wisconsin dairy herd in Dodge County. This marks the known first case of HPAI in cattle for Wisconsin. Since the outbreak in March 2024, dairy cattle in 18 states have been infected, and for this year, APHIS has only received reports of cases in a small number of states. Dairy farmers are encouraged to implement a biosecurity plan and practices, as well as report any illnesses in wild or domestic flocks.
- On December 15, the House of Representatives approved the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025." The Act allows schools the flexibility to offer flavored and plain whole and 2% milk options. The passage of the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act" represents a huge step forward in fortifying the nutritional value of school lunches and supporting U.S. dairy farmers.
- 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. For more information or to apply, scan the QR code.

