



CENTER FOR
DairyEXCELLENCE
Dairy Week in Review
October 20, 2026



Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Oct.)	\$15.34/cwt	+1.9%	-4.8%	-9.7%
Class IV Milk Price (Oct.)	\$20.39/cwt	-0.4%	+7.0%	+44.1%
Corn (Dec.)	\$4.67/bu	-3.3%	-12.9%	+10.4%
SBean Meal (Oct.)	\$354.8/ton	-4.1%	-1.5%	+24.5%
DMC Margin (Aug.)	\$9.34/cwt	–	-14.2%	-14.6%

**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:

- Along with a 1.7-percent increase in the US milk production in August, several other major dairy regions are on the upswing. In the 27 member states of the European Union, milk production grew by 3.3 percent year over year in August, despite a 3.2 percent decline in the United Kingdom, which includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In New Zealand, milk production is up 2.2 percent in August, with milk solids production up 3.3 percent. Collectively, the five largest dairy exports, which include the European Union, United States, New Zealand, Argentina, and Australia, were up 2.9 percent in milk production over the first eight months of 2026, producing nearly 211 million metric tons of milk from January to August.
- Year to date, US dairy exports are up 6.7 percent in total milk solid volumes, while the value of dairy exports is up 12 percent. Cheese exports are up 22 percent, while butterfat exports are up 56 percent. Dry whey product exports are up 14 percent, while whole milk powder exports are up 11 percent. Fluid milk and cream exports are up 20 percent. On the flip side, nonfat and skim milk powder exports are down 8 percent year over year.
- According to the US Dairy Export Council, cheese represents the largest share of those exports, with 59,007 metric tons of cheese exported in August, with much of that exported to Mexico, South America, and Central America. Mexico’s imports of US cheese were up 19 percent in August. Nonfat dry milk, skim milk powder and dry whey products also represent a large portion of dairy products moving overseas. While butterfat exports are growing, they represent a much smaller portion of the US’s total export sales.

Government/Industry:

- The Center will be accepting applications for their Dairy Productivity & Excellence Grants through November 1, 2026. The Dairy Productivity Grant will provide awardees with up to \$10,000 (with a 25 percent match) for first-time investments in milking efficiency, feeding, and activity monitoring technologies, including but not limited to robotic milking technology, TMR mixers, and boluses. The Dairy Excellence Grants can provide up to \$5,000 (with a 50 percent match) to fund projects that improve cow comfort, milk production per cow, and overall efficiency. These grants are competitive, and awardees will be notified by November 20, 2026. To read more about these grant programs or apply, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/grants.
- In case you missed it, the Center hosted their bi-monthly “All Things Dairy” call on Wednesday, October 21 at 1 p.m. Speakers with Chobani, the Governor’s Office, and the Commonwealth of PA, joined to provide more insight into the Chobani announcement and what it means for the future of Pennsylvania’s dairy industry. To listen to the recording, scan the QR code.

