

CDE DAIRY MARKETS & MANAGEMENT UPDATE

All prices — MARCH 4, 2026 — except where noted

Milk production and upcoming events:

In the February USDA Milk Production Report, the year-end U.S. data was released. For last year, the U.S. milk production totaled 232 billion pounds, a 2.6 percent increase from 2024's total pounds. For 2025, the U.S. milk production total was revised upward 176 million pounds from January's initial estimate. Looking back over the past ten years, the nation's milk supply was up 9.0 percent from 2016 to 2025.

For 2025, the U.S. production per cow averaged 24,390 pounds over the past year, up 218 pounds from 2024's average. For 2025, the nation's herd averaged 9.50 million head, a 153,000 head increase from 2024. Compared to 2016, the U.S. average numbers of milk cows is up 1.6 percent. The total number of licensed dairy herds in the U.S. fell 4.2 percent from 2024's 24,645 to 23,609 in 2025.

For January 2026, U.S. milk output reached 19.8 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from the same month the prior year. January's monthly milk production per cow averaged 2,068 pounds, up 24 pounds from January 2025 and up 26 pounds from December. In January 2026, U.S. milk cow numbers reached 9.58 million head, a 189,000 head increase from January 2025.

Across the country, California, Wisconsin, and Idaho led the nation in annual milk production for 2025 at approximately 41.0 billion, 32.6 billion, and 18.3 billion pounds, respectively. However, Kansas and South Dakota reported the highest milk growth percentages increasing by 17.2 and 9.5 percent from 2024's total to 2025. Both states experienced significant growth in their processing capacities, as well as expansion in their dairy herds.

For 2025, Pennsylvania's milk production dropped by 0.5 percent from 2024 at 9.78 million pounds to 9.74 million in 2025. The Keystone State's annual production per cow averaged 21,121 pounds (approximately 2,520 gallons), up 84 pounds from 2024. Pennsylvania's milk cow numbers averaged 461,000

million head, down 4,000 head from the prior year. From



By VALERIE MASON-FAITH
Center for Dairy Excellence
vmason@centerfordairyexcellence.org



2024 to 2025, the number of licensed Pennsylvania dairy herds decreased from 4,680 to 4,360. Pennsylvania still holds the second largest number of dairies in the country, second only to Wisconsin with 5,375 total dairies for 2025.

Starting off 2026, the U.S. milk supply totaled 19.8 billion pounds, up 616 million pounds or 3.2 percent year over year. The nation's milking herd averaged 9.58 million head in January 2026, a 189,000-head increase from the same month the prior year. The monthly average production per cow rose by 24 pounds from 2,044 pounds in January 2025 to 2,068 pounds in January 2026.

For January 2026, Pennsylvania's milk production totaled 817 million pounds in January 2026, down 3.0 percent from January 2025. Milk cow numbers for the state fell 11,000 head year over year to 454,000 head in January 2026. Monthly production per cow decreased by 10 pounds from 1,810 pounds in January 2025 to 1,800 pounds in January 2026.

Coming up, the Center for Dairy Excellence, Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, PA Beef Council, and Penn State Extension are collaborating to host five Animal Care Workshops in Lancaster, Berks, Centre, Franklin, and Somerset counties in late March and April. Each on-farm workshop will feature four sessions led by industry experts and educators on animal handling/stewardship and meat quality issues, calving issues and dystocia, down cow and transition cow protocols, and farm safety. The workshops are free and count towards FARM program continuing education credits. There will also be a Spanish translator available for Spanish-speaking participants. Lunch will be provided. To read more about the workshops or to register, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/event

Prices change daily. This market information is an example for educational purposes. The market data shown below are compiled weekly by Farmshine, via CME & USDA reports.

CME DAILY FUTURES & OPTIONS TRADING — MAR. 4, 2026 AT THE CLOSE

	MAR-26	APR-26	MAY-26	JUN-26	JUL-26	AUG-26	SEP-26	OCT-26	NOV-26	DEC-26	JAN-27	FEB-27	TREND											
CLASS III MILK FUTURES (\$/CWT) vs. week ago: Mar-May26 down 10 to 30¢, rest of board up 5 to 30¢.	16.60	17.64	18.05	18.30	18.44	18.49	18.56	18.50	18.30	17.75	17.25	17.25	↑↑											
CLASS IV MILK FUTURES (\$/CWT) vs. week ago: Mar-Apr26 down 5 to 25¢, May-Jun26 up 10¢, Jul-Sep26 dn 30¢, Oct26-Feb27 up 5 to 30¢	19.51	19.75	19.50	19.50	19.08	19.00	19.06	19.13	18.99	18.60	18.22	18.09	↑↑											
MILK BASIS (MAILBOX minus CLASS 3 \$/CWT) 2018-23 AVG FOR NORTHEAST & MIDEAST STATES OF PA, NY, NEW ENGL., OH vs. NAT'L AVERAGE - YOUR INDIVIDUAL BASIS WILL VARY	18.96	18.48	18.64	18.27	18.52	18.15	18.68	18.38	18.65	18.35	18.62	18.41	19.27	18.75	20.20	19.76	20.58	20.17	20.25	19.64	19.22	18.75	18.82	18.25
MAILBOX	16.98	16.98	17.31	17.31	17.33	17.33	18.16	18.16	18.16	18.16	17.59	17.59	17.60	17.60	18.72	18.72	19.07	19.07	17.30	17.30	16.81	16.81	16.03	16.03
CLASS III	1.98	1.50	1.33	0.96	1.19	0.82	0.52	0.22	0.49	0.19	1.03	0.82	1.67	1.15	1.48	1.04	1.51	1.10	2.95	2.34	2.41	1.94	2.79	2.22

	MAR-26	MAY-26	JUL-26	SEP-26	DEC-26	MAR-27	MAY-27	JUL-27	SEP-27	DEC-27	MAR-28	MAY-28	JUL-28	TREND			
CORN FUTURES (\$/BU)	4.316	4.446	4.544	4.562	4.706	4.826	4.890	4.930	4.714	4.764	4.870	4.919	4.940	↑↑			
SOYMEAL FUTURES (\$/TON)	305.5	309.4	313.3	312.7	311.2	309.0	311.2	311.3	310.5	311.3	313.2	312.2	310.4	↓↓			
U.S. AVG PREMIUM ALFALFA & ALFALFA/GRASS HAY 20-22% CP - Source: USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report	206.63	192.20	184.82	184.49	189.60	195.30	195.50	187.01	188.00	195.00	202.00	179.00	192.00	202.00	206.60	*208.60	↑↑

	SEP-24	OCT-24	NOV-24	DEC-24	JAN-25	FEB-25	MAR-25	APR-25	MAY-25	JUN-25	JUL-25	AUG-25	SEP-25	OCT-25	NOV-25	DEC-25	*JAN-26
DMC OFFICIAL GROSS MARGINS per cwt(USDA All-Milk, com, alfalfa & Ill. soybean, feed for ALL CLASSES of dairy cattle on farm)	15.57	15.17	14.29	13.38	13.85	13.12	11.55	10.42	10.40	11.10	10.94	11.52	10.87	10.52	10.04	9.42	*7.81
MARGIN	25.50	25.20	24.20	23.30	24.10	23.60	22.00	21.00	21.30	21.30	20.80	20.90	20.40	20.00	19.70	19.00	*17.50
ALL MILK	9.93	10.03	9.91	9.92	10.25	10.48	10.45	10.58	10.90	10.20	9.86	9.38	9.53	9.48	9.66	9.58	*9.69
FEED \$																	

	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26	03/17/26
DAIRY COMMODITIES - GLOBAL BIWEEKLY Internet Auction (\$/LB) 03/03/26	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714	1.4714
Weighted Avg. 1 to 6 mo. FORWARD CONTRACTS per metric ton converted to \$/LB	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501	1.9501
NEXT GDT Auction 03/17/26	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526	3.0526
ALL-PRODUCT INDEX	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427	3.2427
MILKFEAT (AMF)	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269	1.4269
BUTTERMILK POWDER	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620	0.6620
LACTOSE																	

	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26	03/03/26		
ANNOUNCED FEDERAL ORDER PRICES (\$/CWT)	15.47	9.91	15.34	14.94	16.29	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50		
NASS ALL-MILK (\$/CWT)	14.70	9.99	13.92	14.89	13.55	19.00	4.51F	18.90	4.50F	21.02	11.42	21.08	20.18	19.90	24.10	4.46F	24.70	4.39F	
CURRENT FEDERAL ORDER VALUES (\$/LB) * = NEW	1.4338	0.2519	0.2003	1.1819	1.9373	1.6966	0.2272	0.1715	1.4694	1.3726	0.2393	0.1678	1.1333	1.1220	0.6931	0.2668	0.1991	0.4263	0.4391

	JAN-25	FEB-25	MAR-25	APR-25	MAY-25	JUN-25	JUL-25	AUG-25	SEP-25	OCT-25	NOV-25	DEC-25	JAN-26
U.S. AVG. BRED COWS & HEIFERS (3rd trimester) per head as reported by USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report	N/A	N/A	2921	(ltd)	N/A	N/A	2650	N/A	N/A	N/A	2600	N/A	N/A
U.S. AVG. FRESH/MILKING COWS per head as reported by USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3021	N/A	3010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Q4-25	Q3-25	Q4-24	Q3-24	Q4-23	Q3-23	Q4-22	Q3-22	Q4-21	Q3-21	Q4-20	Q3-20	Q4-19	Q3-19
CATTLE - DAIRY PURPOSES(\$/HD) USDA and other auction reports combined 4-week rolling average as of JAN. 19, 2025	2860	3110	2660	2600	3200	3100	2800	3000	1400	N/A	2300	N/A	2600	2000
MILK COWS (NASS) U.S. Avg.	2860	3110	2660	2600	3200	3100	2800	3000	1400	N/A	2300	N/A	2600	2000
MILKING HEIFERS: Springing	3300	3600	3200	3100	2800	2200	1200	1500	1400	N/A	2000	1800	2000	1800
PA Auction Markets Feb. 12-16, 2026	N/A	167.00	155.00	138.50	N/A	174.75	157.85	152.50	N/A	140.50	138.75	128.25	N/A	128.25

FED STEERS (\$/CWT LIVELWEIGHT)

Choice & Prime 1250-1550 lb

BULL CALVES: No. 1 & 2, 90-130 lbs (\$/cwt livelweight)

Holstein N/A

Beef-X-Dairy 230.25

WK AGO N/A

YR AGO 230.25

1300.00

1675.00

1225.00

1625.00

1390.00

1900.00

725.00

1000.00

725.00

1200.00

brought to you by: