

CDE DAIRY MARKETS & MANAGEMENT UPDATE

All prices — May 6, 2026 — except where noted

No DMC payment for March milk

What's up in future markets and events

The USDA announced March's margin is \$9.57 per hundred-weight (cwt) for the Dairy Margin Coverage program. At the \$9.50 coverage level, participating dairies did not receive indemnities. For program year 2026, this will be the first month when the margin was above the \$9.50 trigger, resulting in no payments. March's margin was up \$1.11 per cwt from February and was down \$1.98 per cwt from March 2025.

From February to March, the all-milk price increased \$1.40 per cwt from \$18.30 to \$19.70. From March 2025 to 2026, the all-milk price was down \$2.30 per cwt from \$22.00 per cwt. Looking back five years, the all-milk price rose by \$2.30 per cwt from \$17.40 in March 2021 to March 2026.

The March feed costs rose by 29 cents from \$9.84 in February to \$10.13. Year over year, feed costs fell 42 cents from \$10.45 in March 2025 to 2026. When comparing March 2026 and 2021, feed costs are down by \$1.01 per cwt from \$11.14.

For March 2026, the corn price climbed 16 cents from \$4.11 in February to \$4.27 per bu. However, when compared to the same month the prior year, the corn price was 30 cents below the \$4.57 per bu. reported in March 2025.

Month over month, the premium alfalfa hay price increased by only \$1.00 per ton to \$230 per ton for March 2026. The soybean meal (SBM) price increased by \$13.77 per ton from \$312.38 in February to \$326.15 in March 2026 and was up \$22.35 per ton from \$303.80 in March 2025.

Updated May 4, the DMC Decision tool forecasts margins to remain above the \$9.50 trigger for the rest of the program year. Based on current market factors, the DMC Decision tool forecasts margin projections to increase to \$10.31 per cwt for April, then fluctuating to climb to \$11.17 in November, before falling to \$10.91 in December.

All-milk price forecasts expect to see an increase to \$21.35 in May, then fall to a projected \$20.97 by July, before rebounding to

\$21.83 in November, and then dipping to \$21.60 per cwt in December.

Current feed cost projections rise to \$10.86 per cwt in August, fall to \$10.66 in November, then increase to \$10.69 in December. SBM prices are forecasted to remain between \$322 and \$329 per ton for the rest of 2026, averaging \$322.82 per ton. Corn price projections are expected to reach \$4.98 per bu. in August, close out the year at \$4.83, and average \$4.61 for the year. Premium alfalfa hay prices are forecasted to stay between \$224 and \$229 per ton for the remaining months and average \$27.61 per ton.

This past week, the Center hosted their May "Protecting Your Profits" webinar titled, "Spring Dairy Market Update: 6 Areas to Watch & Ways to Manage Risk." Kathleen Wolfley and Bryce Windecker from Ever.Ag covered milk supply expectations on a global and U.S. scale, support in the Class IV market, cheese market dynamics, the critical role of exports, hot protein markets, and the macro market influence. They also touched on ways producers can effectively mitigate dairy price risk in the current dairy market environment. To watch the recorded webinar, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/pyp.

On June 11, the Dairy Excellence Foundation will host their annual "A Toast to Dairy" event at Melhorn Manor in Mount Joy, PA, from 6 to 9 p.m. All proceeds from the event directly support the Foundation's dairy education programs, scholarships, internships, and more.

This farm-to-fork event features food stations, tasting passports with samples from local wineries and breweries, guided cheese tasting experiences, a photo booth, caricature artists, and other fun surprises. Tickets are \$85 per person with group discounts available. With last year's event reaching 400 attendees, buy your tickets now before they sell out. Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy to purchase your tickets today.



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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 — MAY 6, 2026 AT THE CLOSE

	MAY-26	JUN-26	JUL-26	AUG-26	SEP-26	OCT-26	NOV-26	DEC-26	JAN-27	FEB-27	MAR-27	APR-27	TREND
CLASS III MILK FUTURES (\$/CWT) vs. week ago: <i>May-Aug26 down 50 to 60¢, the rest of the board down 10 to 30¢, except Nov-Dec26 up 5¢.</i>	17.21	17.75	18.29	18.66	19.00	19.03	18.88	18.30	17.65	17.62	17.60	17.60	↓
CLASS IV MILK FUTURES (\$/CWT) vs. week ago: <i>May26 dn 25¢, Jun25 up 12¢, Jul-Aug26 dn 5 to 15¢; rest of board down 20 to 50¢.</i>	22.02	22.62	21.70	20.72	20.30	19.70	19.50	19.00	18.75	18.65	18.55	18.49	↓

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

Mailbox	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	18.96	18.48	18.64	18.27
Class III	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	16.98	16.98	17.31	17.31
BASIS	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	1.98	1.50	1.33	0.96

CORN FUTURES (\$/BU)

	MAY-26	JUL-26	SEP-26	DEC-26	MAR-27	MAY-27	JUL-27	SEP-27	DEC-27	MAR-28	MAY-28	JUL-28	SEP-28	TREND
	4.526	4.684	4.750	4.900	5.032	5.106	5.144	4.970	5.006	5.106	5.154	5.170	4.820	↓

SOYMEAL FUTURES (\$/TON)

	MAY-26	JUL-26	AUG-26	SEP-26	OCT-26	DEC-26	JAN-27	MAR-27	MAY-27	JUL-27	AUG-27	SEP-27	OCT-27	TREND
	319.8	317.3	313.9	311.6	309.6	313.4	314.4	313.8	313.9	316.4	315.6	313.7	310.8	↑

U.S. AVG PREMIUM ALFALFA & ALFALFA/GRASS HAY 20-22% CP - Source: USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report

	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	FEB-26	MAR-26	*APR-26
	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	215.90	193.75	*211.24

DMC OFFICIAL GROSS MARGINS per cwt(USDA All-Milk, com, alfalfa & Ill. soybean, feed for ALL CLASSES of dairy cattle on farm)

	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	FEB-26	*MAR-26
MARGIN	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	8.46	*9.57
ALL MILK	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	18.30	*19.70
FEED \$	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	9.84	*10.31

DAIRY COMMODITIES - GLOBAL BIWEEKLY Internet Auction (\$/LB) 05/05/26

	Weighted Avg. 1 to 6 mo. FORWARD CONTRACTS per metric ton converted to \$/LB	U.S. CME SPOT DAILY (\$/LB) 05/06/26	U.S. WEEKLY USDA NDPSR (\$/LB) WK ENDING 05/02/26*
NEXT GDT AUCTION 05/19/26	SKIM POWDER (SMP) 1.6089 ↑ 3.0%	Prev. 5 day Lds Spot price Weekly Avg	FMMO PROD MIL. LBS WTED AVG \$
ALL-PRODUCT INDEX 1.8720 ↑ 1.5%	BUTTER 2.5061 ↓ 2.6%	NFD 24 2.2925 ↑ 2.2792 ↑	FNDM 15.3 2.0222 ↑
MILKFAT (AMF) 2.9307 ↑ 1.1%	CHEDDAR (BULK) 2.0915 ↓ 3.6%	BUTTER 47 1.6400 ↓ 1.6017 ↓	BUTTER 3.8 1.7152 ↓
BUTTERMILK POWDER 1.5726 ↑ 9.0%	MOZZARELLA (BULK) 2.1819 ↑ 4.7%	CHEDDAR-40 37 1.6600 ↑ 1.6450 ↑	CHEESE-40 9.9 1.6452 ↓
LACTOSE 0.7000 ↑ 3.7%	WHOLE POWDER (WMP) 1.6969 ↑ 2.2%	CHEDDAR-500 0 1.6150NC 1.6150NC	CHEESE-500 REPORT ENDED
		DRY WHEY 2 0.7000 ↓ 0.6967 ↓	DRY WHEY 9.5 0.6353 ↑

ANNOUNCED FEDERAL ORDER PRICES (\$/CWT) NASS ALL-MILK (\$/CWT)

	CL I ADV ↑	CL I SKIM ↑	*CL III ↑	*CL III ↑	*CL IV ↑	*ALL-MILK-U.S.	*ALL-MILK-PA
20.15(MAY)	14.12(MAY)	*18.82(APR)	*16.82(APR)	*20.22(APR)	*19.70(MAR) ↑	*20.10(MAR) ↑	
MAY CL I Skim ESL Adj. (-0.49) ↓	*NEW RULE; ADV BF 1.86 ↓			4.39F	4.38F		
18.66	12.00	17.35	16.16	18.94	18.30 4.48F	18.60 4.49F	
18.37	9.45	19.22	17.48	17.92	22.00 4.36F	22.90 4.35F	

U.S. AVG. BRED COWS & HEIFERS (3rd trimester) per head as reported by USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report

	FEB-25	MAR-25	APR-25	MAY-25	JUN-25	JUL-25	AUG-25	SEP-25	OCT-25	NOV-25	DEC-25	JAN-26	FEB-26	*MAR-26
2921(ttd)	N/A	N/A	2650	N/A	N/A	N/A	2600	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2750	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	3021	N/A	3010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2700	N/A
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CATTLE - DAIRY PURPOSES(\$/HD) USDA and other auction reports combined 4-week rolling average as of APR 28, 2026

	MILK COWS (NASS) U.S. Avg.	MILKING HEIFERS: Springing	Bred	BxD	OPEN: 300-600 lbs	BXD	600-900 lbs	BXD	900-1100 lbs	BULLS(800-1300lbs)			
	*\$3130 Q1-26 ↑	*\$2890 Q4-25	3500	All Dairy	3700	3000	3000	1700	1700	2400	N/A	2600	2000
	\$2860 Q1-26	\$2660 Q4-24	3000		3500	2650	2500	1000	1300	1875	N/A	2000	1800

PA Auction Markets Apr. 30-May 5, 2026

	CULL MARKET COWS (\$/CWT LIVELWEIGHT)	FED STEERS (\$/CWT LIVELWEIGHT)	Holstein	Beef-X-Dairy	WK AGO	YR AGO
Premium White	Breakers	Boners	Lean			
N/A	174.10 ↑	161.75 ↑	145.60 ↑			
	WEEK AGO					
	170.60	160.25	142.50			
	YEAR AGO					
	149.25	143.10	134.50			

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

	70- 85 lbs	1435.00 ↓	1850.00 ↓	1500.00	1950.00	900.00	1225.00
	1525.00 ↓	2200.00 ↓	1675.00	2300.00	985.00	1440.00	

Price averages do not include lower-end common

Average to high dressing

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