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**Dairy** EXCELLENCE  
 Dairy Week In Review

Dated April 12, 2018



## Markets:

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Milk Price (April) **	\$15.40/cwt.	▼ 0.4 %	▼ 0.2 %	▼ 4.7 %
Corn (May)	\$3.87/bushel	▲ 1.6 %	▲ 1.0 %	▲ 4.8 %
SBean Meal (May)	\$380.2/ton	▲ 2.4 %	▲ 3.2 %	▲ 21.8 %
Milk Margin (Feb)*	\$ 9.82/cwt.	—	▼ 9.8 %	▼ 27.2 %

\*Each issue of "Dairy Week in Review" will report on current "Milk Margin," or the dollars remaining per one hundred lbs. of milk after feed is paid for, based on data for a 65-pound herd in the latest "PA Dairy Industry Performance Scorecard." Milk margin is affected by both milk & feed prices. \*\* The milk price reported is the Class III futures price for the next month plus a basis of \$1.00, an estimate of what could be on your milk check next month.

- USDA lowered the latest forecast for the 2018 all-milk price by about 20 cents to a range of \$15.60 - \$16.10 per hundredweight, according to USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report. The milk production forecast was unchanged from last month. Corn stocks were increased by 55 million bushels to 2.182 billion bushels, while soybean stocks were lowered by 5 million bushels to 550 million bushels.
- US dairy product exports increased in February, reaching all-time highs for the month in some categories, according to recent data released by the USDA. US butter and milkfat exports totaled 4.9 million pounds, up 19.8 percent from the prior year. US total cheese exports were up 6.8 percent to 62.1 million pounds. Nonfat dry milk and skim milk powder exports were up 27.4 percent to 146 million pounds, the second highest month on record. Whole milk powder exports were also up significantly, growing 162 percent to 5.1 million pounds.

## Industry:

- The USDA has reopened the sign up period for dairy producers to enroll in the new and improved Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), which offers better protection for dairy producers. Recent changes authorized under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 authorizes the FSA to open an enrollment period from April 9 to June 1 for 2018, which will be retroactive to January 1. Changes include margin calculations done on a monthly instead of bi-monthly basis, covered production increasing to 5 million pounds on the Tier 1 premium schedule, and lower premium rates for Tier 1 producers. To learn more about the new program or to enroll, visit your local FSA Office.
- The center's Dairy Decisions Consultant (DDC) Program provides up to \$3,500 in funding to work with an outside consultant to evaluate your operation and identify opportunities to enhance your performance and overall profitability. Farmers who need assistance in financial planning can leverage this and other programs available through the Center. Call Melissa Anderson at 717-346-0849 to learn more.
- A series of roundtable meetings for agri-service representatives working with dairy farmers will begin on Tuesday, April 17. The meetings will be held in Bedford, Grove City, Lancaster, State College, Mansfield, and Carlisle. They will offer a forum to discuss the findings of the recently-released 2017 Pennsylvania Dairy Study and will include a sharing session on techniques for communicating with farmers in overstressed situations..