



CENTER FOR
Dairy EXCELLENCE
Dairy Week In Review



Dated February 5, 2025

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (Jan)	\$20.33/cwt.	—	▼ 0.7%	▲ 26.0 %
Class IV Milk Price (Jan)	\$20.08/cwt.	▼ 3.7 %	▼ 0.4 %	▼ 0.2 %
Corn (Mar)	\$ 4.94/bushel	▲ 1.9 %	▲ 7.9 %	▲ 13.8 %
SBean Meal (Mar)	\$ 314.0/ton	▲ 4.1 %	▼ 6.3 %	▼ 10.6 %
DMC Margin (Dec)*	\$ 13.38/cwt.	▼ 6.4 %	▼ 6.4 %	▲ 39.7%

**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 USDA Cattle Inventory report, all dairy heifers (500 lbs and over) dropped from 3.951 million to 3.914 million head, a 1% drop. Beef heifer numbers followed suit with a 1% dip year over year. With replacement heifer inventories tight across the board, high cattle prices could continue.
- While heifer inventories are down, U.S. milk cow numbers are slightly up in January 2025 from 2024 as dairies hang onto their milk cows longer before culling. On the other hand,, beef cow numbers were down 1% from January 2024's level to 27.9 million head.
- Calf inventories (under 500 lbs) were down slightly year over year to 13.5 million head in January 2025. The 2024 calf drop was estimated at 33.5 million head, a little under 2023's total. With 2024 U.S. calf numbers down slightly from 2023's levels, it reinforces that producers were not able to rebuild their herds in the last year.
- PA cattle and calf numbers were down 1% year over year. PA beef cow numbers dropped 5% from January's 2024's 205,000 to 195,000 head in January 2025. However, PA milk cow numbers held steady at 465,000 head in the same period. PA dairy industry, like most of the Northeast, remains stable due to a more sustainable management approach and ample demand.
- U.S. cattle inventories are contracting. Increased beef prices have led to more farmers selling heifers for market than breeding. Also, more dairies are taking advantage of dairy-on-beef crossbreeding. While they're getting good money from feeder sales on these crossbreds, purebred beef and dairy replacement heifer pools are shrinking.

Government/Industry:

- This past week the PA Dept. of Ag. announced preliminary findings of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) strain found in wild birds in several commercial poultry flocks in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon, and Lancaster counties. The PDA's quarantine order requires dairy farms inside the 3 km infected zone to submit weekly bulk tank or the in-line samples for testing until the control area is closed. While this strain is not the same one found in dairy cattle, these precautions were implemented to protect PA's dairies and poultry flocks. For more information on surveillance efforts, contact the PDA at RA-ahds@pa.gov.
- Penn State Extension will be hosting additional workshops in Leesport, New Enterprise, and Greensburg throughout the coming month to help dairy producers create effective biosecurity plans in accordance with PDA guidelines. During these open house style workshops, dairy farmers can show up between 9am and 3pm to receive one-on-one help to work through the biosecurity plan components and state requirements. Registration is not required but is appreciated. Contact your local extension office.
- The Center offers biosecurity kits and "No Trespassing" signs at no cost to Pennsylvania dairy farmers. The biosecurity kits contain resources, tools, and signage to help dairies improve biosecurity on their operations. The "No Trespassing" signs encourage visitors to stop and call before entering the farm. To order either of these or additional free materials, visit the Center's website.
- The 2025 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) enrollment period will run from Jan. 29 to Mar. 31, 2025. Utilizing DMC can help farmers protect themselves from milk market and feed cost volatility and can be an important tool in their risk management strategy. To sign up or learn more about DMC, contact your local FSA Office.
- The Center, Professional Dairy Managers of PA, Penn State Extension, and PA Beef Council are working together to host a series of free Animal Care Workshops for dairy farmers and employees throughout March and April. Each workshop will run from 9am to 3pm and will offer antibiotic stewardship and pain management, calf care and nutrition, fitness to transport, and biosecurity sessions with an optional farm tour afterwards. Every participant will receive a certificate to show commitment to animal care and the National FARM program. To register for one of the five locations in Cumberland, Lancaster, Crawford, Mifflin, and Bradford counties, please visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/animal-care to register.