



**CENTER FOR**  
**Dairy EXCELLENCE**  
**Dairy Week In Review**

Dated August 10, 2021



## Markets:

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Class III Milk Price (August)	\$16.07/cwt.	▲ 0.2 %	▼ 4.2 %	▼ 17.6 %
Class IV Milk Price (August)	\$15.55/cwt.	—	▼ 3.6 %	▲ 15.1 %
Corn (September)	\$ 5.49/bushel	▲ 0.5 %	▼ 16.6 %	▲ 56.4 %
SBean Meal (August)	\$360.3/ton	▲ 1.9 %	▼ 1.5 %	▲ 27.9 %
Milk Margin (May)*	\$11.43/cwt.	—	▲ 10.43 %	▲ 68.34 %

*\*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."*

- US dairy exports set a new record in June, up 5.7 percent from a year ago to 199,383 metric tons of milk solids sold overseas. The total export value was also up, increasing 14.7 percent to \$670 million. Butterfat volumes exported grew by nearly 65 percent, while whey products also boasted significant increases. Cheese exports fell 13.1 percent, while whole milk powder exports were down nearly 40 percent. US dairy exports represented 18.1 percent of US milk solids during the month of June, down slightly from April and May levels but up about a half percent from a year ago. Through the end of June 2021, exports are on pace to exceed 2020 volume and value. Dairy export volume for the first half of the year increased 12.7 percent to 1.183 million metric tons (MT) compared to 1.049 million MT during the first half of 2020. The value of these exports was up 13.3 percent to nearly \$3.81 million. The top 4 dairy export categories include skim milk powder plus nonfat dry milk (SMP/NDM), dry whey, cheese, and lactose. These four categories currently account for 88 percent of the total export volume.
- The US Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) has announced July's unemployment rate at 5.4 percent, down from June's 5.9 percent and significantly lower than July 2020 when it was above 10 percent. Average hourly wages across all workers has increased to \$30.54 per hour, marking the fourth month of growth and up \$1.20 from a year ago. The unemployment rate historically averages about 5.8 percent.
- About 95 percent of the US corn crop is in the silking stage, according to the latest US Crop Progress Report, with 64 percent of the crop rated good to excellent. That's down slightly from where the corn crop was a year ago, with 71 percent in the good to excellent conditions categories. About 88 percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop is rated in the good to excellent categories. About 60 percent of the US soybean crop is rated in the good to excellent conditions categories, down from the 74 percent that was rated there at this time last year.

## Government and Industry:

- The US Senate Appropriations Committee approved its annual spending bill for the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration. The \$25.85 billion appropriations bill includes more money for agricultural research, nutrition funding and rural housing. It represents a \$2.5 billion increase over current funding levels, slightly less than the House-passed agriculture appropriations bill would provide.
- The Senate also passed a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill this week, which makes far-reaching investments in the nation's public works system, including \$550 billion in new spending on roads and bridges, rural broadband, and clean energy technology. The measure must also be approved by the House.
- The Penn State Extension Dairy Team will host the "Dairy Workforce Focus: Changing Workforce Dynamics" webinar on Monday, August 16, from 12 - 1 p.m. The webinar will feature Phil Durst, Senior Extension Educator at Michigan State University, who will discuss strategies for improving labor efficiency. To register, go to [extension.psu.edu/dairy-workforce-focus-changing-workforce-dynamics](https://extension.psu.edu/dairy-workforce-focus-changing-workforce-dynamics).