



## Markets:

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Milk Price (Aug) **	\$17.62/cwt.	▲ 0.1 %	▲ 0.2 %	▲ 4.0 %
Corn (Sept)	\$3.46/bushel	▼ 4.4 %	▼ 14.4 %	▼ 1.4 %
SBean Meal (Sept)	\$292.2/ton	▼ 0.7 %	▼ 0.9 %	▼ 6.4 %
Milk Margin (July)*	\$12.74/cwt.	—	▲ 10.6 %	▲ 24.1 %

\*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's Livestock Slaughter report shows 256,800 head of dairy cows going to auction in July, up 11 percent from June and 7 percent above July 2018 levels. Year to date, total dairy cow slaughter is up about 4.7 percent, with 85,800 more head going to auction this year than last.
- USDA's Agricultural Prices report published the July All-Milk price at \$18.70 per hundredweight, up 60 cents from last month and \$3.20 above year-ago levels. Feed costs fell from the previous month, resulting in a calculated margin of \$9.27 per hundredweight under the Dairy Margin Coverage program, which will result in a payment of 23 cents per hundredweight for those farms enrolled at the \$9.50 level.
- The average dairy price index on the latest Global Dairy Trade auction fell 0.4 percent, with butter prices remaining flat while Cheddar cheese prices fell 0.8 percent to \$3,827 per metric ton or about \$1.74 per pound. Whole milk prices fell 0.8 percent while skim milk prices were up 0.7 percent. Cheddar cheese prices on the GDT were 20 cents below the spot price for Cheddar blocks on the CME, while butter prices were 40 cents below the spot price for butter on the CME.
- Crop surveys conducted in August put crop yields under USDA's August estimates. The Pro Farmer's annual crop tour put the national average yield for corn at 163.4 bushels per acre, while DTN Progressive Farmer's satellite tour puts the average yield at 163.2 bu/acre. The USDA estimate released in early August was 169.5 bushels, down 7 percent from 2018.

## Government and Industry:

- Dairy farmers have until September 20 to enroll in Dairy Margin Coverage Program for this fiscal year. Dairy farmers are encouraged to visit their local FSA Office to sign up for the program. Milk production will be retroactively covered starting January 1, 2019. DMC margins for the first six months of the year are 7.71, 7.91, 8.66, 8.82, 9.00 and 8.63 per hundredweight, with the \$9.50 coverage level yielding a payment in all six months. Premiums for this fiscal year are also due September 20.
- Farmers can also sign up for the USDA Market Facilitation Program at their local FSA Office. Dairy producers are eligible for payments of \$0.20/cwt on their production history. The first portion is expected this month and will include 50% of the total payment, which for dairy farmers should mean an initial rate of \$0.20/cwt. on half of their production history. December 6 is the deadline to sign up, with the remaining two payments expected in December or January if market conditions warrant.
- Registration is still open for the On-Farm Dairy Innovation Forum, being held on Tuesday, September 17, from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Monongahela Room of the PA Farm Show Complex. To learn more about the event, click on it under upcoming events at [centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://centerfordairyexcellence.org).
- The Center is now accepting applications for its On-Farm Program. Grants are available for Transformation, Transition and Profit Teams, with funds covering paid team members and discovery-related costs. Farms can also apply for a Dairy Decisions Consultant Grant, which will cover the cost of a consultant to do a whole farm review and offer insight on key decisions affecting the future of the farm. Contact Melissa Anderson at 717-346-0849 or [manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:manderson@centerfordairyexcellence.org) for more information.