

Fluid Milk and Cream - Central U.S.

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Spring flush levels of milk output are being reported in Texas, but contacts are hesitant to use the coveted phrase yet in the upper Midwest. They say winter weather remains somewhat intact in the early spring months, as snow is still on the ground in some areas, but warmer temperatures are in the near term forecast, which could contribute to increased cow comfort and general workability on the farm. There were some increases reported month to month, but they are slight when compared to the South and Southwest portions of the region. Class I orders are stronger this week, but advanced orders for week 15 are noted as flat to lower. School districts' orders continue to keep bottlers busy, but school orders will inevitably begin their downslides in upcoming weeks, particularly in the Southern areas where schools break for the summer in May. Cheesemakers who are actively producing are clearing a lot of milk loads in the upper Midwest. Spot prices this week ranged from \$2 under Class to Class III. Even though cheese production is mixed, as plant managers are using some downtime due to continued staffing shortages, milk is notably less available than it has been in the past two years during the early spring weeks. Field and crop conditions are improving in parts of Texas and Oklahoma, as beneficial and steady rains have been covering wheat and hay fields over the past two weeks. The aforementioned snow spots in the upper Midwest have continued to pause preparations for fieldwork in that area, but contacts suggest that could change posthaste. Cream availability is readily accessible, which continues to defy some end users' expectations this close to the spring holiday season. Butter makers say they expect Class II and Class III production to pick up soon, though. Condensed skim availability is noted as sideways, as buyers say discounts are few and far between. As has been the case, hauling condensed skim within the region continues to burden handlers.

The DMN monthly average of the range price series for Upper Midwest Class II cream during March was \$3.5377, compared to \$3.3252 in February.

Price Range - Class III Milk; \$/CWT; Spot Basis: -2.00 - .00
Trade Activity: Moderate

Midwestern U.S., F.O.B. Cream

Multiples Range - All Classes:	1.2500 - 1.3400
Price Range - Class II; \$/LB Butterfat:	3.4758 - 3.6388
Multiples Range - Class II:	1.2800 - 1.3400

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ISRAEL WEBER, 608-422-8601

Email: israel.weber@usda.gov

Additional Dairy Market News Information:

Dairy Market News (DMN) by Phone: (608)422-8602

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