



Fluid Milk and Cream - Central U.S.

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As snowfall has blanketed or at least dusted a large percentage of the Central U.S. over the past week, milk output increases continue to be reported at the farm level. Particularly, milkfat and milkfat-per-cow numbers are evidence of both ample feed and improved cow comfort situations in the Midwest. Condensed skim availability grew through the holiday week. Similar reports were made regarding both cream and fluid milk. Milk prices as low as \$2.50-under Class III were reported over the holiday week, but the price bounced back to flat market and up to \$1-over on the top end of that range. Class I demand is still present, despite being slower due to holiday breaks, but cheesemakers continue to say offers are limited to mum even after last week's onslaught. Last year, contacts reported spot milk prices from \$3-under to flat Class the week after Thanksgiving. By the end of December 2022, \$10-under Class prices became a weekly fixture in the report. At the moment, milk and cream markets are more balanced than they were this time last year when the proverbial floodgates opened. Cream, like fluid milk, was widely available with the plant downtime last week. Spots were reported at flat 1.00 multiple. Butter makers say that was short-lived though, as they reported spot offers and trades in the 1.16+ realm, up to 1.20+. Class II and III demand needs are, at least near-term, picking up some from pre-Thanksgiving weeks. Feed quality/quantity is reportedly top-tier right now, and with fewer cows/herds across the region, values-per-cow are reportedly keeping dairy operators content.

Price Range - Class III Milk; \$/CWT; Spot Basis: 00 -1.00

Trade Activity: Slow

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

Commodity				Low Price	High Price
Cream	All Classes	\$/LB Butterfat		2.9183	3.1448
Cream	All Classes	Multiples Range		1.1600	1.2500
Cream	Class II	\$/LB Butterfat		3.0190	3.1448
Cream	Class II	Multiples Range		1.2000	1.2500

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