



## Lactose - Central and West U.S.

Agricultural Marketing Service  
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Lactose prices held steady this week. Inventories remain tight, demand is strong across domestic and export markets, and spot prices continue to firm. Some contacts note that production is behind across all mesh sizes, leaving no spot availability through July and August. June 100-mesh contracts are reported in the low to mid \$0.60s. Q3 contracts range from the upper \$0.50s to the low \$0.70s with some contacts noting that most buyers are renewing steady Q3 volumes. Some discounted off-specification product moved recently. Several contacts report that Q3 contract expectations have risen several cents above the current average of the mostly price. Domestic demand is strong from the Midwest. Export interest is solid, with premiums achievable in some destinations and New Zealand continues to pull significant volumes for standardization. Some Mexican buyers are limiting purchases due to higher prices, though U.S. lactose remains well below EU levels and competitive into Asia. Contacts note several customers are evaluating milk permeate as a substitute, which is currently priced in the mid to upper \$0.40s. Overall, the market tone remains constrained by limited supply and high demand.

### Prices for: Central and Western U.S., Spot Sales And Up to 3 Month Contracts, F.O.B., Conventional, and Edible Lactose

Price Range - Non Pharmaceutical; \$/LB:	.4600 - .7200
Mostly Range - Non Pharmaceutical; \$/LB:	.5500 - .6300

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Published by:  
Dairy Market News - Madison, WI  
MICHAEL CORBIN  
Email: michael.corbin@usda.gov

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