Lactose - Central and West U.S.

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Lactose eased at the top of the price range while the mostly range firmed at both ends, supported in part by the addition of Q3 contract pricing in this week's report. The market remains tight, with production constrained and some manufacturers already sold out into Q4. Inventories are limited with few spot loads available. Demand is strong and contract driven, with buyers occasionally willing to pay into the mid to upper $0.70s. Oceania interest for standardization continues, though nothing is available to offer. Substitution with milk protein concentrate, maltodextrin, and sugar is increasing, including for some international contracts. China demand is steady in the low $0.70s, while unground lactose has traded in the low to mid $0.60s. Overall, the market tone remains firm.

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:	.5000 - .7400
Mostly Range - Non Pharmaceutical; $/LB:	.5900 - .6900

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