USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DAIRY MARKET NEWS

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WEEK OF JULY 6 – 10, 2026
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DAIRY MARKET NEWS AT A GLANCE

CME GROUP CASH MARKETS (7/10)

BUTTER: Grade AA closed at $1.6500. The weekly average for Grade AA is $1.6500 (-0.0288).

CHEESE: Barrels closed at $1.5600 and 40# blocks at $1.5475. The weekly average for barrels is $1.5270 (+0.0507) and blocks $1.5150 (+0.0862).

NONFAT DRY MILK: Grade A closed at $1.5550. The weekly average for Grade A is $1.5160 (-0.0759).

DRY WHEY: Extra grade dry whey closed at $0.6900. The weekly average for dry whey is $0.6790 (-0.0060).

BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS: Domestic butter demand varies from steady to lighter throughout the country. Export butter demand varies from steady to strong. Spot cream loads are tighter following the holiday weekend, but there is enough available to meet the needs of butter manufacturers. Demand from butter makers is generally stronger. Stakeholders in the West and Central regions report stronger production schedules than stakeholders in the East region. Spot loads of 80 and 82 percent butterfat butter are available. Bulk butter overages range from 3 below to 5 above market across all regions.

CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS: East region cheese production is steady, though extreme heat is trimming milk volumes and components. Seasonal July demand softness and lighter private label contracting persist. Some inventories sit slightly above year-ago levels but are manageable, leaving the market tone steady to slightly weaker. Central region cheese production is steady to stronger. Demand is mixed with steady retail, light food service, and strong exports despite pressure from declining European prices. West region milk and cream output are lighter, but cheese plants are receiving expected deliveries. Class III spot milk is available, with moderate demand. Cheese production is stable. Spot loads vary from tight to accessible, and domestic and international demand is steady.

FLUID MILK HIGHLIGHTS: Warmer temperatures nationwide are affecting cow comfort, contributing to declining milk production and lower milk components. In addition to lower milk volumes, some producers are having trouble transporting milk and cream. Class I demand is seasonally light with no expected changes in the coming weeks. Class II manufacturers are pulling large volumes of milk cream to meet seasonal demand for ice cream. The majority of spot cream sales are going to Class II facilities. Class III milk demand is increasing in the Central region and steady to light in all other areas. Spot prices for Class III milk range from $3-under to $5-over Class. Contacts indicate the top of the spot range increased as many facilities are using all available volumes. Class IV demand is steady. Some facilities were buying spot cream for churns at the end of last week due to the holiday, but spot cream availability tightened as the week progressed. Condensed skim volumes are less available this week compared to last. Some buyers can still find spot volumes, but prices are lower this week. Cream multiples for all Classes range: 1.12 – 1.47 in the East; 1.17 – 1.37 in the Midwest;1.00 – 1.22 in the West.

DRY PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHTS: Nonfat dry milk prices moved lower across all regions and heat levels, except for a notable increase at the top of the Central and East price range for low/medium heat. Dry buttermilk prices in the Central and East were steady at the top but declined at the lower end, and prices weakened across the full series in the West. Dry whey pricing was unchanged in all regions aside from a decrease at the top of the Central range. Lactose eased at the top of the price range while the mostly series firmed at both ends, bolstered in part by the addition of Q3 contract pricing. Whey protein concentrate 34% strengthened at the top of the price range while holding steady elsewhere. Dry whole milk prices increased at both ends of the range, with most trading occurring in the lower half. Acid and rennet casein both posted significant increases, with the largest gains occurring at the lower end of each price range.

ORGANIC DAIRY MARKET NEWS: The Pennsylvania Monthly Organic Dairy Report, a report created as part of the Organic Dairy Initiative sponsored by the 2018 farm bill, covering April 2026 was released on July 10, 2026. This report showed the weighted average price for fluid milk increased by 9.99 percent from March. The Vermont Monthly Organic Dairy Report showed the weighted average price for fluid milk increased 3.47 percent from March. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) releases monthly export data which includes export volumes and values for organic milk categorized as HS-10 code 0401201000. Recently released data for May 2026 indicated organic milk exports were 359,258 liters, down 2.4 percent from the month prior, but up 35.7 percent from May 2025. A large Dutch organic milk processor announced that the guaranteed price for organic farm milk in July 2026 is 63.50 EUR/100kg ($72.63 USD), up 1.75 from June 2026.

WEEKLY GROCERY STORE ACTIVITY: This week conventional dairy ads decreased 8 percent, and organic ads are down 14 percent. Most conventional commodities appeared in fewer ads in Week 28, but ads for flavored milk, cheese, and yogurt increased. In the organic aisle, the only commodities present in last week's survey that appeared in more ads this week are cheese and milk.

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DAIRY MARKET NEWS PRICE SUMMARY FOR JULY 6-10, 2026
PRICES ($/LB) & CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS PUBLISHED PRICES

Commodity		Range		Mostly	
NDM					
Central Low/Med. Heat		1.5000	1.9000	1.5500	1.6000
	Change	-0.0400	0.1100	-0.0500	-0.0800
Central High Heat		1.6200	1.9100		
	Change	-0.0600	-0.1800		
West Low/Med. Heat		1.5400	1.7400	1.5800	1.6800
	Change	-0.0600	-0.0600	-0.0600	-0.0400
West High Heat		1.6400	1.8000		
	Change	-0.0350	-0.0600		
DRY WHOLE MILK					
National		2.0900	2.2900		
	Change	0.0300	0.0300		

Commodity		Range		Mostly	
BUTTERMILK					
Central/East		1.6000	1.7800		
	Change	-0.0200	N.C.		
West		1.5400	1.8000	1.6400	1.7400
	Change	-0.0600	-0.0500	-0.0600	-0.0600
WHEY					
Central		0.6000	0.7000	0.6200	0.6800
	Change	N.C.	-0.0200	N.C.	N.C.
West		0.6500	0.7600	0.6600	0.7100
	Change	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
Northeast		0.6200	0.6900		
	Change	N.C.	N.C.		

Commodity		Range		Mostly	
LACTOSE					
Central/West		0.5000	0.7400	0.5900	0.6900
	Change	N.C.	-0.0100	0.0400	0.0400
WPC 34%					
Central/West		1.6300	2.1800	1.8500	1.9500
	Change	N.C.	0.1300	N.C.	N.C.
CASEIN					
Rennet		4.4000	5.6000		
	Change	0.5000	0.1000		
Acid		4.3000	4.9000		
	Change	0.3000	0.1500		
ANIMAL FEED WHEY					
Central		0.3500	0.3800		
	Change	N.C.	N.C.		

COMMODITY	MONDAY Jul 06	TUESDAY Jul 07	WEDNESDAY Jul 08	THURSDAY Jul 09	FRIDAY Jul 10	WEEKLY CHANGE	WEEKLY AVERAGE
CHEESE BARRELS	1.4850 (+0.0100)	1.5200 (+0.0350)	1.5200 (N.C.)	1.5500 (+0.0300)	1.5600 (+0.0100)	(+0.0850)	1.5270 (+0.0507)
40 POUND BLOCKS	1.4475 (+0.0150)	1.5100 (+0.0625)	1.5050 (-0.0050)	1.5650 (+0.0600)	1.5475 (-0.0175)	(+0.1150)	1.5150 (+0.0862)
NONFAT DRY MILK GRADE A	1.5000 (-0.0050)	1.4750 (-0.0250)	1.5000 (+0.0250)	1.5500 (+0.0500)	1.5550 (+0.0050)	(+0.0500)	1.5160 (-0.0759)
BUTTER GRADE AA	1.6500 (+0.0125)	1.6500 (N.C.)	1.6500 (N.C.)	1.6500 (N.C.)	1.6500 (N.C.)	(+0.0125)	1.6500 (-0.0288)
DRY WHEY EXTRA GRADE	0.6750 (-0.0100)	0.6725 (-0.0025)	0.6725 (N.C.)	0.6850 (+0.0125)	0.6900 (+0.0050)	(+0.0050)	0.6790 (-0.0060)

Prices are USD per lb. in carlot quantities. Carlot unit weights: Cheese, 40,000-44,000 lbs.; Nonfat Dry Milk, 41,000-45,000 lbs.; Butter, 40,000-43,000 lbs.; Dry Whey, 41,000-45,000 lbs. Weekly Change is the sum of daily price changes. Weekly Average is the simple average of the daily close prices for the calendar week. Weekly Average Change is the difference between current and previous Weekly Average. Computed by Dairy Market News for informational purposes.

Five days of trading information can be found at https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/spot-call-data.html

BUTTER

EAST

Cream for butter churns was readily available late last week due to the holiday, with some processing plants closing early. Cream began tightening by the end of the week. Early this week, contacts noted stronger nationwide interest in cream, particularly for Class II. Heat across the region is beginning to influence milk flows, lowering volumes and component levels, and creating transportation challenges. These developments layer onto the typical July slowdown in butter production. As churns drop schedules and reduce operations to five days a week, retail demand is still steadily met, and inventories are aligned with expectations. Overall, the market remains steady with tightening cream supplies, as conditions return to normal.

All First Sales, F.O.B., Grade AA, Conventional, and Edible Butter
Bulk Basis Pricing - 80% Butterfat $/LB: -0.0200 – +0.0500

CENTRAL

In the Central region high temperatures are negatively impacting milk output and component levels. Contacts say cream production is declining week-to-week but remains up from this time last year. Demand for cream picked up following the long holiday weekend and cream multiples are pushing higher this week. The strongest demand is from Class II manufacturers, who are pulling in the majority of the cream on the market. Some butter makers say they are purchasing some cream to keep churns full. Butter makers are running full production schedules and building inventories for use later in the year. Contacts say domestic butter demand is steady to light. Spot loads of 80 percent butterfat butter are available. Export demand is strong, but lighter than it was earlier in the year, and spot inventories of 82 percent butterfat butter are snug.

All First Sales, F.O.B., Grade AA, Conventional, and Edible Butter
Bulk Basis Pricing - 80% Butterfat $/LB: -0.0300 – +0.0200

WEST

Although milk and cream production is lighter in the West, stakeholders note some inexpensive, available spot loads of cream. Spot cream demand from butter manufactures is moderate. Butter producers generally report all their churns are active, keeping production and inventories stable. 80 and 82 percent butterfat butter spot loads are available. Domestic butter demand varies from steady to somewhat lighter this week. Many butter manufacturers note year-to-date sales are up, especially bulk butter sales. Export demand is steady.

All First Sales, F.O.B., Grade AA, Conventional, and Edible Butter
Bulk Basis Pricing - 80% Butterfat $/LB: 0.0000 – +0.0300