

DAIRY MARKET NEWS AT A GLANCE

**CME GROUP CASH MARKETS (3/7)**

**BUTTER:** Grade AA closed at \$2.3100. The weekly average for Grade AA is \$2.2975 (-0.0505).

**CHEESE:** Barrels closed at \$1.6300 and 40# blocks at \$1.6225. The weekly average for barrels is \$1.7005 (-0.0940) and blocks \$1.6380 (-0.2170).

**NONFAT DRY MILK:** Grade A closed at \$1.1550. The weekly average for Grade A is \$1.1750 (-0.0315).

**DRY WHEY:** Extra grade dry whey closed at \$0.4900. The weekly average for dry whey is \$0.4980 (-0.0300).

**BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS:** Domestic retail butter demand is mixed. Some manufacturers describe demand from international buyers as very strong over much of Q1 thus far. Bulk butter demand is generally steady. Stakeholders noted upward movement with respect to cream multiples this week, but plenty of cream is available throughout the country, and it is generally affordable for butter makers. Butter manufacturers are strongly churning cream and growing butter inventories for the most part. Bulk butter overages range from 12 cents below to 5 cents above market, across all regions.

**CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS:** Cheese production schedules are trending steady to stronger across the U.S. In the East region, contacts share available milk volumes are higher than normal for this time of year. Cheese demand is in balance with current supplies. Cheese production schedules are reportedly active. Cheesemakers in the Central region share balanced milk availability with spot milk prices ranging from \$1.50 below Class III to flat Class. Contacts share slower demand notes and note cheese inventories are growing. Seasonal milk production is increasing in the West region. Contacts share spot milk loads are readily available for Class III processors. Cheese production schedules are trending steady to stronger. Domestic demand is steady to lighter.

**FLUID MILK HIGHLIGHTS:** Across the nation, milk production is undergoing a strengthening trend as spring flush approaches. That said, how milk intakes are meeting processor expectations are mixed. In the West, a few manufacturers describe milk intakes as falling below expectations. However, in the East, milk intakes are higher than anticipated. Central cheesemakers indicate that spot loads of milk have become slightly more available, especially when neighboring plants have reduced schedules. Spot milk prices this week were reported from \$1.50 under to Class III. Demand from all Classes is steady; however, regions with traditionally high Class I usage continue to pull heavily on milk supplies. Cream remains readily available. Some industry contacts suggest a slight increase in spot cream interest may help reduce the glut. Condensed skim availability is increasing with mixed demand. Cream multiples for all Classes are 0.90 – 1.05 in the East, 0.70 – 1.08 in the Central region, and 0.70 – 1.05 in the West.

**DRY PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHTS:** Contacts suggest there is more caution regarding the trading of a number of dry dairy commodity markets due to hesitant international buying interest. Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices were lower in the Central and East regions, while steady to lower in the West. As condensed skim availabilities and NDM production grows, demand has shifted from steady to quiet. High heat NDM prices were steady in the Central/East, while lower in the West. Dry buttermilk prices followed that pattern: steady in the Central/East regions while dropping in the West on growing supplies due to the deluge of cream moving into churns throughout much of 2025 so far. Dry whey prices were steady to lower in the Central region but lower in the rest of the country. Lactose prices were steady on somewhat limited availability. Whey protein concentrate 34% prices continued their bullish march forward. Contacts say demand remains intact and there is a clear limitation on recent production and availability. Dry whole milk prices decreased, as milk output begins its seasonal push higher. Rennet casein prices held steady, while acid casein prices moved lower.

**ORGANIC DAIRY MARKET NEWS:** In the UK, a recently released report regarding organic markets in 2024 revealed sales of organic food and beverage products grew last year across retail and food service. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) released monthly export volumes and values for organic milk categorized as HS-10 code 0401201000 for January 2025 indicating organic milk exports were up month prior and from January 2024. The December 2024 European organic milk average pay price increased in Austria, Germany and Bavaria compared to November but decreased in France.

In the last two retail ad surveys the number of organic dairy ads increased from the prior weeks. Milk was the most advertised organic dairy commodity this week. Organic cream cheese, flavored milk, and sour cream were not present in the week 10 retail ad survey after appearing in the prior week's survey.

**NATIONAL RETAIL REPORT:** It has become a rare occurrence when ice cream is not the most advertised dairy item. It is an even rarer occurrence when butter is. This week, conventional butter in one-pound packages was the most advertised single dairy item. Organic half-gallon milk ad totals remained atop the organic list this week. Total conventional dairy ad numbers increased 18 percent, while organic ad totals increased 39 percent.

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**DAIRY MARKET NEWS PRICE SUMMARY FOR MARCH 3 - 7, 2025  
PRICES (\$/LB) & CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS PUBLISHED PRICES**

| Commodity             | Range           | Mostly          | Commodity         | Range           | Mostly          | Commodity               | Range           | Mostly        |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>NDM</b>            |                 |                 | <b>BUTTERMILK</b> |                 |                 | <b>LACTOSE</b>          |                 |               |
| Central Low/Med. Heat | 1.1800 1.2800   | 1.2000 1.2400   | Central/East      | 1.1700 1.3000   |                 | Central/West            | 0.3100 0.4300   | 0.3675 0.4125 |
| Change                | -0.0200 -0.0300 | -0.0400 -0.0200 | Change            | N.C. N.C.       |                 | Change                  | N.C. N.C.       | N.C. 0.0050   |
| Central High Heat     | 1.3200 1.4100   |                 | West              | 1.2100 1.3400   | 1.2800 1.3200   | <b>WPC 34%</b>          |                 |               |
| Change                | N.C. N.C.       |                 | Change            | -0.0800 -0.0300 | -0.0300 -0.0200 | Central/West            | 1.7400 1.8200   | 1.7450 1.7850 |
| West Low/Med. Heat    | 1.1500 1.2600   | 1.1800 1.2300   | <b>WHEY</b>       |                 |                 | Change                  | 0.0400 0.0300   | 0.0300 0.0200 |
| Change                | N.C. -0.0400    | -0.0200 -0.0300 | Central           | 0.4100 0.5900   | 0.4800 0.5400   | <b>CASEIN</b>           |                 |               |
| West High Heat        | 1.2775 1.3900   |                 | Change            | -0.0700 N.C.    | -0.0400 -0.0100 | Rennet                  | 3.4500 3.7000   |               |
| Change                | -0.0525 -0.0400 |                 | West              | 0.5100 0.7100   | 0.5600 0.6400   | Change                  | N.C. N.C.       |               |
| <b>DRY WHOLE MILK</b> |                 |                 | Change            | -0.0200 -0.0250 | -0.0100 -0.0300 | Acid                    | 3.5000 3.9500   |               |
| National              | 1.9800 2.1800   |                 | Northeast         | 0.5100 0.6600   |                 | Change                  | -0.1000 -0.1000 |               |
| Change                | -0.0600 -0.0600 |                 | Change            | -0.0200 -0.0150 |                 | <b>ANIMAL FEED WHEY</b> |                 |               |
|                       |                 |                 |                   |                 |                 | Central                 | 0.4000 0.4200   |               |
|                       |                 |                 |                   |                 |                 | Change                  | N.C. -0.0100    |               |