



MILK CHECK

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(As of Nov. 14)

SCRANTON (Lackawanna Co.) — Dairy product prices last month squeezed another 25-cent increase in the Minnesota-Wisconsin price, raising it to \$12.29 for October.

That's a total of \$1.04 worth of increases since June, but 17 cents less than the October price last year.

This is the second year with two peaks in the M-W — with a high of \$12.99 in April, and now with \$12.29 in October.

Even though the M-W is now 17 cents less than last year, the average M-W, since the first of the year, is \$12.08, or 45 cents better than 1993.

You've had higher springtime prices this year, and this increase in the October M-W will produce higher farm prices for October and November

milk, in most markets. Higher prices may extend into December, in areas where Class IIIa use is low.

End Of The Line

For the M-W price, this will be the last increase of the year.

The nonfat, dry-milk price is steady to firm, mainly on the strength of more Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) sales to Mexico and Algeria, and butter demand is good for this time of the year.

Cheese prices finally took the hit that was anticipated from increasing milk production. Block cheese prices dropped 5 cents on the National Cheese Exchange in the last two weeks, and were at \$1.27 on Nov. 11.

Barrel prices have been steady at \$1.29 for eight weeks, but gave up a cent Nov. 11. Right now, barrel cheese is valued at a half-cent more than blocks of cheese. This won't last long. It only means there are more adjustments to come — perhaps this week, and possibly all the way through November.

All of this says that the 25-cent increase in the October M-W will be the last increase for the year, and that change in cheese prices so far can translate into a 50-cent drop in the November M-W price.

Increased commercial disappearance, as well as DEIP-accelerated sales of butter and dry milk powder can be expected to soften the drop in cheese price, however not enough to counter the increases in milk production already on the rise in all areas. Even the South East has increased its milk production so that there is little need for the area to import much milk.

Government Program

While the current M-W price is still \$2.29 above the support price of \$10 for manufacturing grade milk, and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is not buying dairy products under the price-support program, government purchases are still a significant portion of dairy sales.

For instance, last year the CCC bought 56.5 million pounds of cheese at market prices for the school lunch program. Also, nearly 157,000 metric tons of butter and powder were purchased through the DEIP program for export to countries that normally do not buy U.S. dairy products.

It's important to know, as the new Congress begins to fashion a new farm bill, that while funds may be less for price supports, there are other programs just as important for milk producers.

Lancaster DHIA To Meet

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster Dairy Herd Improvement Association is to hold its annual awards banquet 11:30 a.m., Dec. 6, at the Good & Plenty Restaurant in Smoketown.

In addition to announcing production award winners, Steve Hershey, vice president, is to show slides on the development of a new testing laboratory.

Tickets may be purchased from any DHI technician or by calling the office at (717) 665-5960. Lancaster DHIA provides service to Lancaster and surrounding counties.



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Promise	4.94	5.32
Average check varieties	4.70	5.12

2nd Production Year: 1991 Planting - Trial B		
Mean over Locations (T/A)		
	1993	2-Year /Avg. ('92-'93)
Promise	4.5	4.59
Average check varieties	4.37	4.37

1st Production Year: 1992 Planting - Trial A		
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Promise	5.09	
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