

# Glickman Announces Milk Marketing Order Reforms

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minimum prices for milk used in nearly all dairy products, with a Class III price for cheese and a Class IV price for butter and dry milk products. These new prices will be determined monthly and will be the same in all markets. This change better reflects the value of

milk components (protein, butterfat, nonfat solids) used in manufactured dairy products

- Setting monthly prices for drinking milk (Class I) by using either the Class III or IV price (whichever is higher) plus a differential that varies by location
- Adopting a national

system of Class I prices that is based, in part, on market distribution costs

- Determining monthly prices for milk used for soft products (Class II), such as yogurt and ice cream, by adding 70 cents to the Class IV price
- Standardizing and consolidating certain

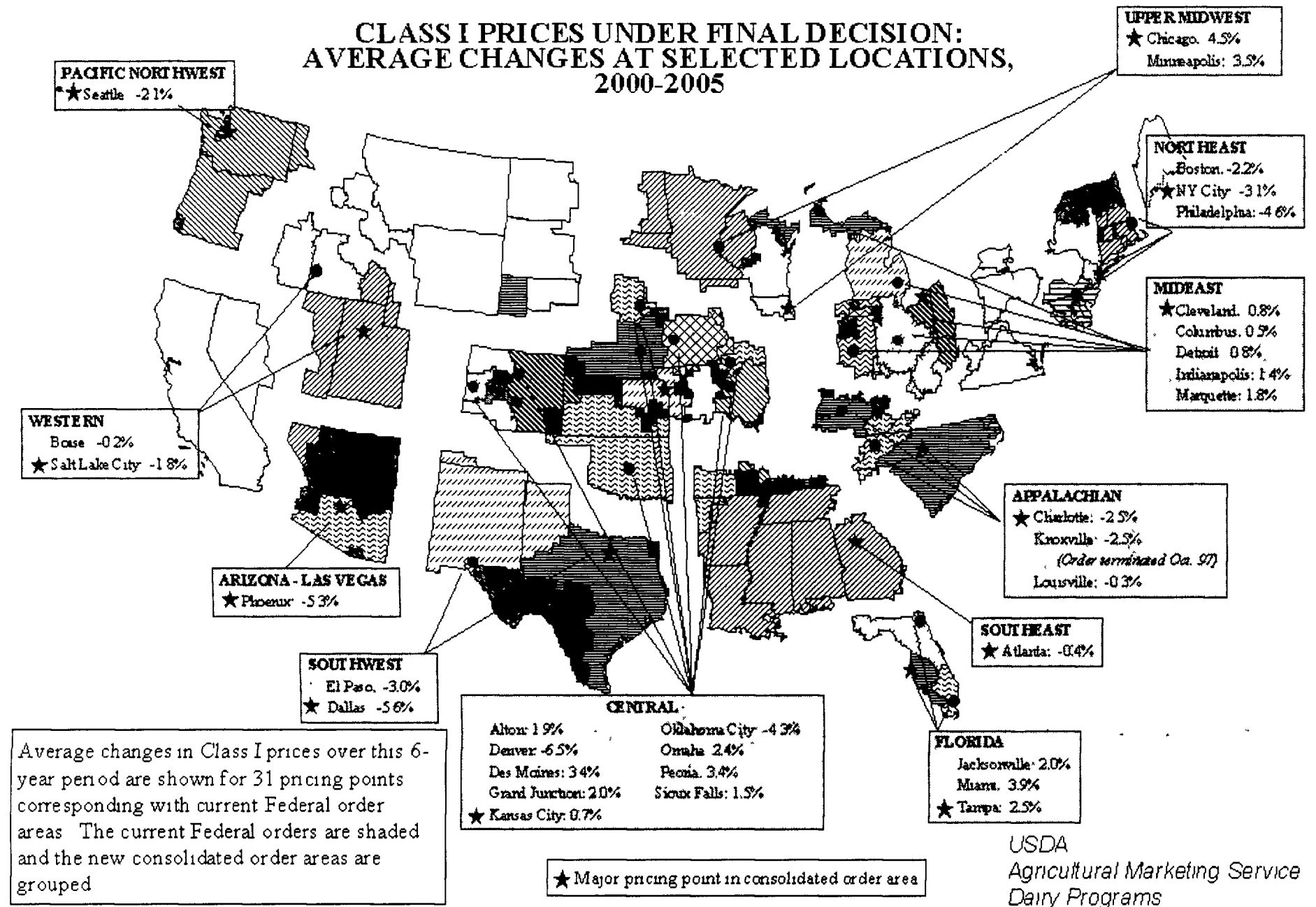
details in the orders to provide consistent definitions of key terms and reporting requirements

The newly consolidated orders must be approved by either two-thirds of producers in a marketing area or by producers who supply two-thirds of the milk in a marketing area. USDA will

conduct producer referendums later this year. If approved by referendum, the changes will take effect on Oct. 1, 1999.

The Secretary's final decision will appear in the Federal Register on April 2, 1999. The decision and additional background information can be accessed on the web at [www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/reform](http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/reform).

## CLASS I PRICES UNDER FINAL DECISION: AVERAGE CHANGES AT SELECTED LOCATIONS, 2000-2005



## The New And Improved Penn State Swine Research Center



### From the Department of Dairy and Animal Science

This regular column from Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science features the research findings, student opportunities, and reports on other important topics generated in the Department. The back issues of the column are archived on Lancaster Farming's Internet [www.lancasterfarming.com](http://www.lancasterfarming.com) home page. Look for them.

**Keith A. Bryan**  
Instructor in Animal Science

The Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State has a new and improved swine research center, which will allow it to increase the size of its herd and expand its undergraduate education, research, and extension outreach programs.

In January 1998, work was completed on a new farrowing and nursery facility, and the existing buildings were remodeled for more efficient handling of both pigs and manure. These changes are the first significant modifications since the modified open-front finishing building was completed in 1981.

and the main barn was placed in operation in 1959. The improvements will allow Penn State's sow herd to grow to about 110 sows, primarily purebred Yorkshires.

The new facility consists of two rooms containing 12 farrowing crates each and two corresponding nursery rooms which each hold up to 120 pigs. The farrowing rooms feature flip-rail farrowing crates, smooth, cast iron flooring under the sows for comfort and durability, and plastic flooring under the baby pigs for warmth. The same plastic flooring is used in the nursery rooms where pigs are weaned and moved at four weeks of age. Both farrowing and

nursery rooms are carefully cleaned and disinfected between groups of pigs using high pressure hot water lines installed in each room.

Dave Hosterman, swine herdsman, has noticed significant improvements in performance due to the new facilities. "We have been able to raise more pigs per litter with heavier 21-day litter weights in the new facility, due to a more controlled and comfortable environment. Because of convenience, we can feed the sows more often which helps to boost milk production, and improves 21-day weights. This has been apparent as a gilt raised 14 pigs with a litter weight of 158 lbs at 21 days. It's nice to teach the students to farrow sows and care for the litters in a comfortable, controlled environment."

Each of the existing wings of the main barn have new front gate panels and they have been remodeled to accommodate liquid manure. Unlike the old system which required wood shavings as bedding and twice-daily shoveling, all manure now drains by gravity into a Y gutter under the center aisle and flows to the underground storage tank when the plug is pulled. Likewise,

liquid manure from the existing modified open-front building also flows into the underground tank. Manure from the holding tank is pumped into trucks in a new drive-through building, prior to being applied to the fields. "The liquid manure system works well with our 'state-of-the-art' manure handling system. We can empty our 40,000-gallon underground manure tank in two or three hours, and we have been able to save about \$5,000 per year in bedding costs," reports Hosterman.

In order to better protect the swine herd from diseases, some bio-security restrictions have been placed on visitors. Guests to the new facility can observe pigs in the farrowing and nursery rooms through windows designed for that purpose. Visitors will not have direct contact with any pigs, but the observation windows are designed for ample viewing by

people of all ages.

The swine center will play an important role in undergraduate education, research, and extension outreach programs. In addition to traditional classes such as swine management, and livestock evaluation and selection, new ventilation concepts can be taught. The state-of-the-art ventilation system provides a good opportunity for hands-on teaching.

More frequent farrowing means that research emphasis can be expanded. Most research activities will continue to focus on the already successful physiology programs, but new research efforts in a wide range of disciplines will soon be underway with the opportunities that the new facility provides. "The new facility certainly has been an improvement to the operation and we look to the future for continued improvements," says Hosterman.

