

# FUTURES MARKETS

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this period was 41.2 billion pounds, up 60 percent from the same period a year ago. More specifically, commercial disappearance for individual dairy products were butter up 13.4 percent, American cheese up 10.8 percent, other cheese up 7.4 percent, and nonfat dry milk down 38.5 percent.

In general, the numbers for commercial disappearance suggest a positive response to a healthy economy. Strong demand will help offset the very strong growth in dairy product production, particularly for cheese. This will be an important key to higher milk prices later in the spring.

USDA also announced this week the March 2000 class prices applicable to all federal orders. The results are in Table 3. The Class II price was \$11.71 per cwt, up \$0.20 from February. The Class III price was unchanged at \$9.54 per cwt. And the Class IV price was \$11.00 per cwt, up \$0.20 from February.

The cash prices at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange were largely unchanged from the week before. Barrel prices were \$1.0875 per pound, blocks were \$1.1125 per

Table 3. Announcement of Class and Component Prices for March 2000  
Release Date: March 31, 2000, USDA

Class Prices:	Price
Class II price	11.71
Class II butterfat price	1.0261
Class III price	9.54
Class III skim price	6.19
Class IV price	11.00
Class IV skim milk price	7.70
Component Prices.	
Butterfat	1.0191
Nonfat solids	0.8553
Protein	1.9166
Other solids	0.0424
Product Price Averages.	
Butter	0.9497
Nonfat dry milk	1.0094
Cheese	1.1093
Dry whey	0.1780
Source:	
<a href="http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/ann_class_comp_pr-01-00.htm">http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/ann_class_comp_pr-01-00.htm</a>	

my Penn State Dairy Outlook website. I just added a page for trade in dairy products. <http://www.aers.psu.edu/dairyoutlook/Trade/TradePage.htm>

Monday and Wednesday, but fell to \$1.1075 by Friday.

For more information on market and federal order data, see

# First-Place Soybean Grower Blessed With Good Season

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looking for varieties that have the best yield.

A challenge is to control potential brown stem rot problems. Truckenmiller is always seeking varieties resistant to the stem rot fungus.

It's important to select the right varieties. "I like to prevent the problems before they start causing us problems," he said.

Last year, with dry weather, spider mites came. But rains came just in the "nick of time," he said. The more than 73-bushel-per-acre yield was the best Truckenmiller had ever seen.

Nothing different was done in the fields. The previous crop on the winning ground was corn.

Soybean harvest began Oct. 20. Truckenmiller uses his own combine.

About 2,000 bushels of beans are fed to his own dairy herd, consisting of 80 head of both registered and grade Holstein. The soybeans are fed in a TMR. The milk goes to the bottler, Readington Farms, White House, N.J.

Any soybeans not saved for feed are sold to Forman's in Turbotville.

This year Truckenmiller plans 105 acres for soybeans. He tests and compares about 2-3 different varieties to see which ones will do well for his conditions.

Truckenmiller farms with his wife, Kelly, daughter Adrea, 17, and son Alex, 15. Adrea helps with the daytime milking and Alex with milking and in the field.



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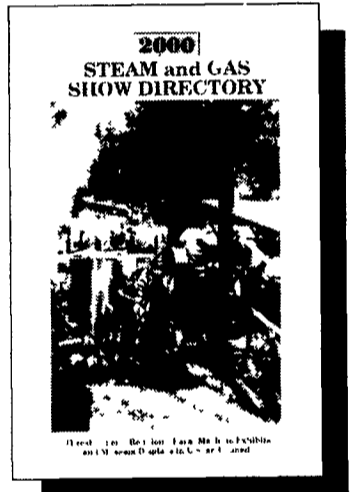
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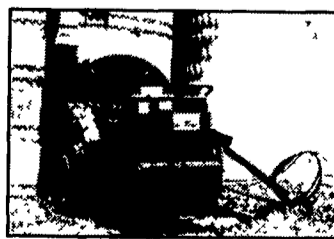
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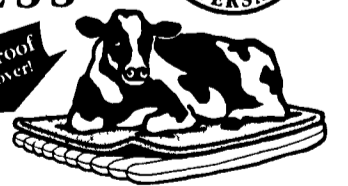


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