



# Dairy Review

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## FEATURES

- 1** CWT Farm Audits Completed
- 2** Production, Prices, Quota Transfers, Alfalfa
- 3** Foot and Mouth Disease
- 4** National Dairy Situation and Outlook
- 4** USDA BSE Border Update
- 5** Controlling Johnhe's Disease
- 5** USDA Report Changes
- 6** Department Calls Hearing
- 6** Undersecretary Staffing Changes
- 8** Pool and Mailbox Prices



California Department of Food and Agriculture  
A.G. Kawamura, Secretary



## CWT REPORTS ON SECOND HERD RETIREMENT INITIATIVE

*Farm Audits Completed: 363 Dairies Accepted into the Initiative*

Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) has completed the process of auditing farms that were tentatively accepted into CWT's second herd retirement program, releasing the final analysis of farms, cows, and milk involved in the second round of the program. Under CWT's program, farmers bid to be paid for the volume of milk that their herds produced, and they also recover the market price for those herds when sold for beef.

After completing all of the on-farm audits, CWT accepted bids from 363 farms that had offered to retire their dairy herds. The audits confirmed that there were 50,478 dairy cows being retired from those farms, all of which will be sold promptly by the participating farmers for conversion into beef. The cows being retired had produced approximately 908 million pounds of milk on an annual basis, which represents a little more than one-half of one percent of the estimated 170 billion pounds of milk produced in the U.S. in 2004. There were 15 fewer farms accepted in the program than had initially been accepted last November at the end of the bidding process.

The average bid accepted in the second herd retirement program was \$5.24/cwt, with no bid accepted above \$7.63/cwt. The 363 accepted bids were selected from a total of 736 submitted. The 908 million pounds of milk removed is 4% higher than CWT's initial goal of 870 million pounds. In the first herd retirement program in the fall of 2003, CWT accepted bids from 299 farms that retired 33,000 cows representing 608 million pounds of milk. ☀

ACCEPTED BIDS	Region 1 (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)	Region 2 (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MO, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)	Region 3 (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, WI)	Region 4 (AZ, CO, KS, NE, NM, OK, TX)	Region 5 (CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY)	TOTALS
# of bids	53	39	150	72	49	<b>363</b>
Milk volume (1000's)	68,928	62,063	141,906	284,043	351,470	<b>908,412</b>
Cow numbers	3,871	4,066	8,479	16,184	17,878	<b>50,478</b>
Avg. bid \$ per hundredweight	5.32	4.76	5.22	5.47	5.42	<b>5.24</b>

## January Milk Production

Milk production in California for DJanuary 2005 totaled 3.07 billion pounds, up 2.7 percent from January 2004. USDA's estimate for U.S milk production for January 2005 in the 23 major dairy states is 13.2 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from January 2004. Production per cow in the 23 major states averaged 1,637 pounds for January, 13 pounds above January 2004. ☀

## Minimum Class Prices

Statewide average hundredweight prices

Class	Jan.	Feb.	March
1	\$18.55	\$15.35	\$15.35
2	\$13.67	\$13.48	\$13.48
3	\$13.51	\$13.32	\$13.32
4a	\$12.26	N/A	N/A
4b	\$14.38	N/A	N/A

## Federal Order and California Minimum Class 1 Prices

Average Hundredweight Prices

Regions	Jan	Feb	Mar
Phoenix, Arizona	\$19.00	\$16.14	N/A
Southern California	\$18.69	\$15.49	\$16.35
Portland, Oregon	\$18.55	\$15.69	N/A
Northern California	\$18.42	\$15.22	\$16.08
Boston (Northeast)	\$19.90	\$17.04	N/A

## Quota Transfer Summary

For January 2005, six dairy producers transferred 4,771 pounds of SNF quota. January quota sales averaged \$471 per pound of SNF (without cows), average ratio of 2.49. For February 2005, four dairy producers transferred 3,361 pounds of SNF quota. February quota sales averaged \$472 per pound of SNF (without cows), average ratio of 2.49. ☀

## Alfalfa Update: February

**Northern California:** Premium and Supreme alfalfa was steady in a very thin test, with light to limited supplies. Fair and Good alfalfa was mostly steady with a good demand but light supplies. Retail and Stable hay was steady with a thin test, very limited supplies. Retail and Stable hay sales were limited, too few to test the last half of the month. Most hays are coming from out of state now.

**Southern California:** Premium and Supreme alfalfa not well tested with very limited supplies. Fair and Good alfalfa on limited test, with light supplies. Retail and Stable hay sales were steady with good demand and light supplies. Rain caused problems during the month with hay production, with more rain predicted for late in the month. ☀

## Supreme Hay Prices

Statewide average prices per ton

Area	1/28	2/4	2/11	2/18
Petaluma	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Valley <sup>1</sup>	\$179-192	\$180	N/A	N/A
South Valley <sup>2</sup>	\$180-190	\$178-190	N/A	\$187-189
Chino Valley	N/A	\$155	N/A	\$170-177

<sup>1</sup> North Valley is Escalon, Modesto and Turlock areas.

<sup>2</sup> South Valley is Tulare, Visalia and Hanford areas.

## Alfalfa Hay Sales/Delivery

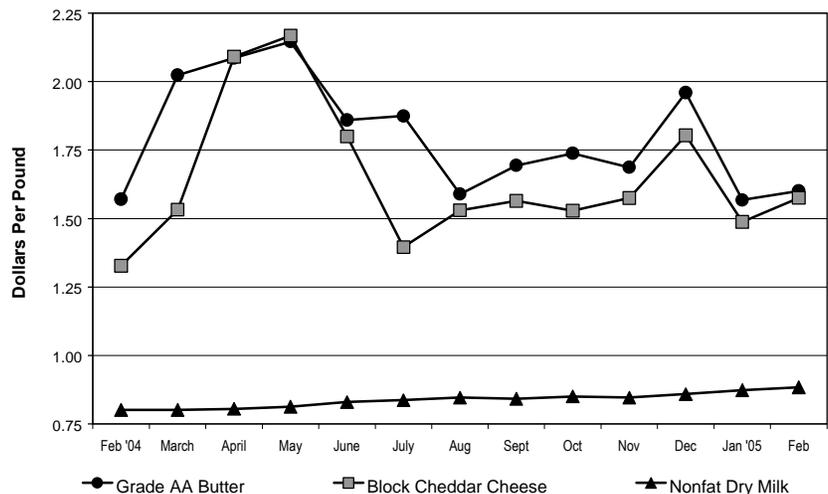
	Jan	Feb
Tons Sold <sup>1</sup>	45,904	28,390
Tons Delivered <sup>2</sup>	28,720	20,345

<sup>1</sup> For current or future delivery.

<sup>2</sup> Contracted or current sales.

Alfalfa hay sales, deliveries and Supreme quality prices per ton, delivered to dairies, as reported by the USDA Market News Service, Moses Lake, WA, (509) 765-3611, <http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm>

**Grade AA Butter, Block Cheddar Cheese, and Nonfat Dry Milk Prices Used in the Calculation of California Class 1 Milk Prices**





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**CADMS Press Release-** by Clair Spackman

## What would an outbreak of FMD do to California?

In 2001 an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the UK resulted in catastrophic economic losses exceeding \$15 billion including nearly \$1 billion to livestock producers. Because of the epidemic at least 6 million animals were slaughtered. Any outbreak of FMD in the US today where the density of livestock animals is high would likely be as devastating as the one that hit the UK in 2001. The last outbreak of FMD in the US occurred in 1929, therefore specific information on virus transmission and factors that could contribute to its spread through current livestock practices in the US are not available for use in creation of strategic plans. Computer models can predict how an FMD epidemic would unfold in a livestock region for which information are available regarding husbandry practices.

In 1998, Drs Thomas Bates, Tim Carpenter and Mark Thurmond DVM from the University of California, Davis created a simulation model designed to characterize the size and duration of an FMD epidemic in the Kings, Tulare and Fresno counties of California, which are known for their intensive livestock practices. The model can be used to assess the merit of various strategies to minimize simulated FMD outbreaks for the specific 3-county region.

Last November, the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance (CADMS) in the School of Veterinary Medicine along with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) carried out a joint exercise that examined the rapid response team actions and inter-agency coordination at an incident command post during a hypothetical FMD outbreak in Tulare, California. They used the model as a tool to predict how best to contain the outbreak.

According to Dr. Carpenter, "the exercise made it very clear that knowing the precise locations of livestock and the movements of animals, vehicles and people on and off the farm are critical in order to be able to predict where the disease will spread, and the magnitude of the outbreak. The accuracy of this information is what limits the success at which the impact of various alternative control measures can be predicted".

Dean Tjornehoj, Director of Quality Assurance for Land O'Lakes Dairyman's Division, was also involved in the exercise. Through the results obtained during the exercise Dean realized just how devastating an outbreak of FMD would be. "The model really shows how critical it is to be familiar with the behavior of the disease and also with the agencies and authorities that would be required to take action should an outbreak occur".

Now there are new plans in the works to expand the original model to encompass all of California and ultimately within the next couple of years to a national level. CADMS is collecting information from other states as it becomes available and already has some information from Texas, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Michigan. In order to obtain the necessary information for the model about livestock operations in California, questionnaires will be sent to livestock producers throughout the state. After going over the questionnaires, Dean Tjornehoj believes that all livestock producers will find them simple and short to complete, "it really won't take producers long to fill out this questionnaire, and it is critical to get all livestock producers to fill out the questionnaires in order to be able to have the best model. This will bring increased safety and security to the livestock industry".

The current project is backed by CDFA and USDA as well as the Department of Homeland Security. According to CADMS analysts Ricardo Ertze and Rui Lopes who have been working to create the new questionnaires, producers can expect to "receive the surveys in the mail sometime in March". Clair Spackman from CADMS, along with various associations and coops are working together to improve compliance. "Producers can be assured that all information is confidential and will only be used for modeling purposes. The bottom line is we want the model to be able to tell us what strategies will be the best and most effective at saving producers livelihoods should an outbreak of FMD occur. Our best chance of being able to do that is by having the most accurate and up-to-dated information possible". Anyone who has any questions about the questionnaire or project in general should call CADMS (530) 297-4621. 

## **Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns Issues Statement On BSE Update:**

*Dated February 9, 2005:*

“On Dec. 29, 2004, USDA released a final rule that establishes criteria for geographic regions to be recognized as presenting minimal risk of introducing BSE into the United States. It places Canada in the minimal-risk category, and defines the requirements that must be met for the import of certain ruminants and ruminant products from Canada. A minimal-risk region can include a region in which BSE-infected animals have been diagnosed, but where sufficient risk-mitigation measures have been put in place to make the introduction of BSE into the United States unlikely. “Our ongoing investigations into the recent finds of BSE in Canada in animals over 30 months are not complete. Therefore, I feel it is prudent to delay the effective date for allowing imports of meat from animals 30 months and over.

“This action also addresses concerns over the portion of the minimal-risk rule that would reopen the Canadian border for beef from animals 30 months and over, while keeping it closed for imports of older live cattle for processing in the United States. Some have suggested that this part of the rule does not reflect the evidence that beef from animals 30 months and over processed in Canada has the same risk profile as beef from Canadian animals 30 months and over processed in the United States.

“At the same time, I am asking U.S. officials to move forward in consideration and development of a plan to allow imports of animals 30 months and older for slaughter as well as beef from over 30-month animals as the next step in resuming full trade with Canada. As always, decisions will be made based on the latest scientific information and with the protection of public and animal health the highest priority.

“We remain very confident that the combination of the rule’s requirements, in addition to the animal and public health measures that Canada has in place to prevent the spread of BSE, along with the extensive U.S. regulatory food-safety and animal-health systems, provide the protection to U.S. consumers and livestock. The removal of Specified Risk Materials is the most effective barrier to protect consumers, and therefore the rest of the rule will proceed as announced.” 

## **National Dairy Situation and Outlook – USDA Estimates**

### **Milk Production and Cow Numbers**

Monthly: Compared to 2004, USDA estimates that overall milk production across the U.S. was up 0.9% in January, led by Idaho’s 5.5% growth in milk production (on 23,000 more cows and no change in milk per cow). California’s estimated production was up 2.8% (on 38,000 more cows and 10 more pounds per cow). Among the western states, Arizona was up 4.2%; New Mexico down 4.7%; and Washington up 0.4%. Three of the top 10 states reported a decrease: Wisconsin -0.5%, New Mexico -4.7%, and Minnesota -0.7%.

Quarterly: For the fourth quarter of 2004 compared to the third quarter of 2004, U.S. milk cow numbers were down 0.14% at 9.018 million, production per cow was down 0.5%; the net effect was a 0.7% decrease in milk production to 41.9 billion pounds. USDA projects that for the first quarter of 2005 compared to the fourth quarter of 2004, U.S. milk cow numbers will decrease 40,000 cows to 8.980 million cows, production per cow will be up 4.1%; the net effect would be a 3.6% increase in milk production to 43.4 billion pounds.

### **Milk Prices**

Comparing the fourth quarter of 2004 to the third quarter of 2004, U.S. average milk prices were up \$0.50/cwt. to \$16.00/cwt. USDA projects that for the first quarter of 2005, U.S. average milk prices will be down \$0.20-\$0.50/cwt. compared to the fourth quarter; including a \$1.30-\$2.30 decrease/cwt. Class 4b price change and a \$0.20-0.60 decrease/cwt. Class 4a price change.

### **Utility Cow Prices**

Comparing the fourth quarter of 2004 to the third quarter of 2004, average U.S. utility cow prices were down \$5.50/cwt. to a national average of \$50.78/cwt. USDA projects that utility cow prices will average \$51-53 in the first quarter of 2005.

Information from the USDA-NASS publication “Milk Production” and the USDA-ERS publication: “Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook.” 

## **California Dairy Review Available on Website**

A reminder to readers that this publication is available on the Dairy Marketing Branch website at [http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/dairy/ca\\_dairyrev\\_newsletter.html](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/dairy/ca_dairyrev_newsletter.html) 

## INCENTIVES FOR CONTROLLING JOHNE'S DISEASE

Johne's disease, caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, infects the intestinal tract of ruminants. Cattle are usually infected as calves but do not show clinical signs until they are three or more years of age. The disease develops slowly and eventually kills the infected animal. There is no effective treatment. Cattle with advanced Johne's disease have chronic diarrhea and continually lose weight despite having good appetites.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has received financial assistance for the Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program is designed to increase cattle producers' awareness of Johne's disease, encourage producers to have a risk assessment done on their herd, and develop a herd plan to address those risks. Funds are available to Johne's certified veterinarians to educate producers, administer risk assessments and develop herd management plans.

The California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory also received funds from the USDA to test blood from a sample of cows in herds enrolled on the program. Fecal samples will also be cultured from cows that test positive on the blood test, at no cost to the producer.

There are currently 180 Johne's certified veterinarians in California. Last year 12 of these veterinarians received funds to perform a total of 49 risk assessments and herd plans. CDFA urges producers to get involved in the Johne's Disease Control Program and contact their veterinarians.

You may also contact Dr. Randy Anderson, California Johne's Disease Coordinator, at (209) 988-1421 with questions about the Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program.

For more information, check the CDFA Web site at [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov), or contact the CDFA District Office in your area. 

## USDA Milk Production Report Changes

A big change arrived with the January "Milk Production" report, released by the USDA on Feb. 17. In it, the USDA added the states of Colorado, Kansas and Oregon to its monthly milk-production-estimating program. The top-23 dairy states account for 91 percent of U.S. milk production. The last time the USDA made a change to its monthly estimating program was in 1997 when it dropped Maryland, North Carolina and Tennessee and added Arizona.

In the new top-23 dairy states for January 2005, U.S. milk production climbed 1.3 percent, totalling 13.2 billion pounds for the month. Milk production per cow continued to exceed year-ago levels during January. In the top-23 dairy states, milk per cow averaged 1,637 pounds for the month — 13 pounds higher than January 2004.

Milk-cow numbers also continued to advance on a year-over-year basis. During January, the 23-state herd totaled 8.08 million head — up 38,000 head versus a year ago, but down 15,000 head from December 2004.

The report also included 2004 annual milk production. Milk production in the entire U.S. totaled 170.8 billion pounds during 2004 — up 0.2 percent versus 2003. U.S. milk production per cow averaged 18,957 pounds during 2004 — up 197 pounds from 2003. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. was 9.01 million head during 2004 — down 0.8 percent versus 2003.

In the report, the USDA also showed the number of U.S. operations with milk cows. In 2004, there were 81,440 operations with one or more head of milk cows — down 4,920 versus 2003. However, the number of licensed dairy herds — the average number of dairy farms licensed to sell milk based on counts from state and regulatory agencies — was 66,830 in 2004. That's a loss of 3,545 operations versus 2003.

To access the complete January "Milk Production" report, released Feb. 17, visit the Web site: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/dairy/pmp-bb/2005/> 

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
<b>USDA/APHIS/VS</b>	<b>916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690</b>

## **Department Calls Hearing on Amendments to Class 1 Pricing Formula**

On February 9, 2005, the Department received a petition from Dairy Institute of California (Dairy Institute), requesting a public hearing to consider amendments to the Plans. The Dairy Institute petition proposes amending the Commodity Reference Price (CRP) adjuster employed in the Class 1 (milk used in fluid products including lowfat, reduced-fat, and nonfat milks) milk pricing formulas.

The Department has called a hearing to be held on May 3, 2005, at 8:30 am at the Red Lion Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. To ensure the opportunity for all persons in attendance to enter testimony and evidence into the hearing record, if necessary the hearing will be continued to the following day.

The hearing will consider Dairy Institute's proposed changes to specific components of the current Class 1 pricing formulas and any other aspects of the Class 1 formulas that are raised by alternative proposals received in the time and format specified. The hearing will also consider the factual basis, evidence and the legal authority upon which to make any and/or all of the proposed amendments to the Plans.

All interested parties are entitled to submit proposals detailing alternative adjustments in the Class 1 price formulas. Alternative proposals must be signed by a responsible party and received by the Department's Dairy Marketing Branch no later than 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The Dairy Marketing Branch's office location is the Downtown Plaza, 560 J Street, Suite 150, Sacramento. Alternative proposals may be sent electronically via email to [dairy@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:dairy@cdfa.ca.gov), faxed to (916) 341-6697, or mailed to Hearing Officer, c/o Cdfa Dairy Marketing Branch, 1220 N Street, Sacramento CA 95814.

**Public Workshop** - To assist interested persons in preparing for the hearing, a public workshop will be held on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, 300 J Street Sacramento in the California Room beginning at 9:00 a.m. At this workshop, interested persons can review and discuss all proposals submitted

with Department staff and other interested parties. The Department will supply background and analysis of the petitions and only those alternative proposals submitted by the March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

The Department's entire hearing exhibit for this hearing will be available for public inspection at the Dairy Marketing Branch office on April 25, 2005. If any interested party has questions regarding the call of this hearing please contact Dave Ikari at (916) 341-5988. 

## **Cdfa Undersecretary Staff Undergoing Changes . . .**

### **Chuck Ahlem**

Outgoing Undersecretary Chuck Ahlem is praised for his dedication and devoting his full attention to serving the Governor, the Department and the people of California during his service as Undersecretary. In his decision to return to the private sector, Chuck will be better able to provide leadership to Hilmar Cheese as it works to complete a pioneering water treatment facility that is due to be operational within a few months. In addition, Chuck is committed to the ideal of creating partnerships among the agriculture industry, scientists, environmentalists and regulators to solve environmental challenges for succeeding generations.

The Department extended their gratitude to Chuck for his service and wished he and his family the very best. Chuck remains a vital part of the agricultural leadership of this state and the Department looks forward to working with him to fulfill the Governor's commitment for a vibrant future for California agriculture.

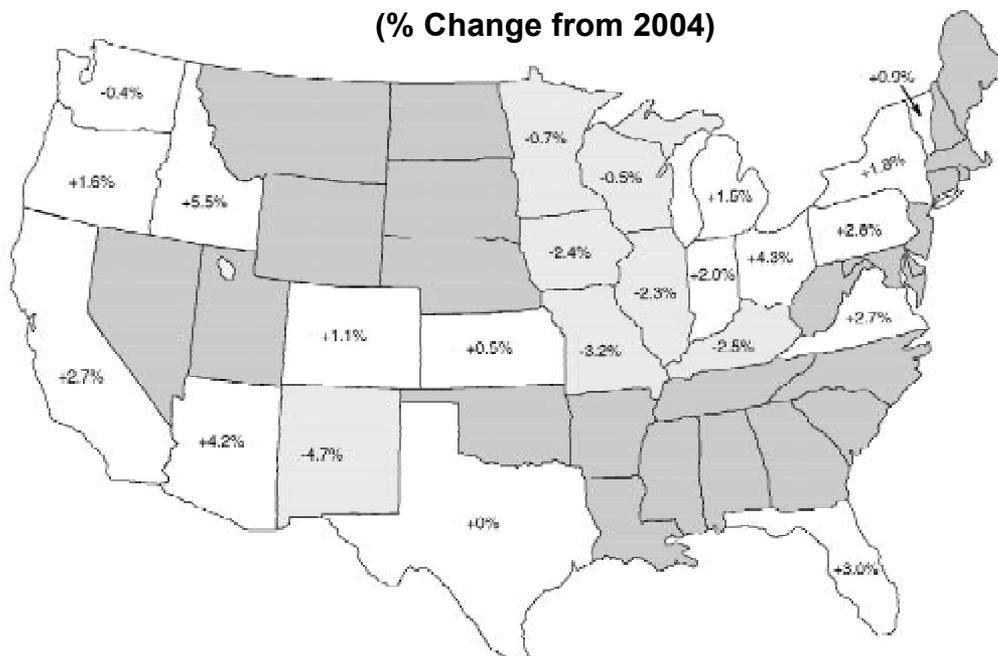
### **A.J. Yates**

A.J. Yates, 70, of Kerman, has been appointed Undersecretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture. He has served as Agricultural Marketing Service Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the past four years where he oversaw 50 programs designed to market American agricultural products. Yates previously served for nine years as Deputy Secretary and later as Undersecretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This position does not require Senate confirmation.

The Department welcomes A.J. and looks forward to working together for California's agricultural future. 

## January Milk Production in the Top 23 States

(% Change from 2004)



### For the U.S. overall, comparing January 2005 to January 2004:

- Milk production during January was up 0.7%
- The number of cows on farms was 8.993 million head, up 8,000 head
- Production per cow averaged 1,616 pounds, 13 pounds more than January 2004
- Three of the top twenty-three milk producing states showed a decrease in milk production

As reported by USDA  
and CDFA (for California)

## Milk Production Cost Comparison Summary for California <sup>1/</sup>

By Month, January 2004-December 2005

Month	North Coast		North Valley		South Valley		Southern California		Statewide Weighted Average	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
<i>Dollars per Hundredweight</i>										
January	15.45		13.82		12.19		12.82		12.98	
February	15.81		13.61		12.47		12.96		13.06	
March	14.37		13.16		12.24		13.08		12.77	
April	13.77		13.27		12.50		13.07		12.91	
May	13.44		13.23		12.76		13.35		13.04	
June	13.70		13.45		13.09		13.63		13.32	
July	13.66		13.03		12.83		13.41		13.01	
August	14.16		13.00		12.82		13.48		13.03	
September	14.33		13.44		13.11		13.56		13.34	
October	14.22		13.43		13.08		13.38		13.29	
November	15.25		13.91		13.43		14.17		13.77	
December										

1/ Cost Comparison Summary data includes an allowance for management and a return on investment.



# Hundredweight Pool Prices

Month	Quota	Overbase
July '03	\$12.72	\$11.02
August	\$13.96	\$12.26
September	\$14.34	\$12.64
October	\$14.45	\$12.75
November	\$13.56	\$11.86
December	\$13.09	\$11.39
January '04	\$12.71	\$11.01
February	\$13.32	\$11.62
March	\$15.44	\$13.74
April	\$18.23	\$16.53
May	\$18.69	\$16.99
June	\$17.46	\$15.76
July	\$15.03	\$13.33
August	\$14.74	\$13.04
September	\$15.21	\$13.51
October	\$14.81	\$13.11
November	\$15.74	\$14.04
December	\$15.74	\$14.04
January '05	\$15.50	\$13.80

# Milk Mailbox Prices

## Milk Mailbox Prices in Dollars per Hundredweight

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
California <sup>1</sup>	\$17.57	\$16.38	\$13.91	\$13.73	\$14.37	\$14.12	\$15.23
USDA <sup>2</sup>	\$19.01	\$18.25	\$16.32	\$14.75	\$15.37	\$15.58	\$16.12

<sup>1</sup> California mailbox price calculated by CDFSA.  
<sup>2</sup> All federal milk market order weighted average, as calculated by USDA.



In November 2004, mailbox prices for selected reporting areas in Federal milk orders averaged \$16.12 per cwt, \$0.54 more than the figure for the previous month. The component tests of producer milk in November 2004 were: buttersfat, 0.77%; protein, 0.10%; and other solids 5.60%. On an individual reporting area basis, mailbox prices increased in all reporting areas, and ranged from \$18.17 in Florida to \$14.24 in New Mexico. In November 2003, the Federal milk order all-area average mailbox price was \$14.57, \$1.55 lower.

<sup>1</sup> Mailbox prices for Idaho and Utah are being discontinued due to the termination of the Western Federal Order.

In accordance with the California Government Code and ADA requirements, this publication can be made available in an alternative format by contacting Karen Dapper at (916) 341-5988, by email at dairy@cdfa.ca.gov, or contacting TDD 1-800-735-0193.

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**Milk Pricing Information:**  
 Within California 1-800-503-3490  
 Outside California 1-916-442-MILK

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