

April 27, 2026

MARKET NEWS

Butter Stocks Balloon

Daily Dairy Report | April 24, 2026

Butter inventories jumped 32.6 million pounds last month, marking the largest February-to-March increase since 1991, at the height of the low-fat craze. According to USDA's Cold Storage report, there were 288.8 million pounds of butter in refrigerated warehouses Mar. 31. While that was 10.6% smaller than the butter stockpile in March 2025, the deficit narrowed significantly from a 16.2% year-over-year shortfall in February. U.S. milkfat output has been growing quickly enough to offset record-setting exports and allow for significant increases in butter inventory. In January and February, concerns that big exports and low stocks would translate to a shortage in the summer and autumn pushed futures sharply higher. Those anxieties have evaporated. This week MAY to SEP butter futures logged life-of-contract lows.

Cheese inventories rose seasonally, with stocks up 13.5 million pounds from February to March, in line with typical spring increases. Thanks to record-smashing exports and decent domestic demand, cheese stocks have not been burdensome. Inventories were 1.6% lower than March 2025 volumes and the lowest monthly tally since 2020. Relatively tight stocks buoyed Cheddar prices from their late-2025 and early-2026 lows south of \$1.40/lb. But the market has stalled around \$1.65. The U.S. dairy industry has invested in significant increases in cheese production capacity, and prices must stay low enough to maintain robust exports. Otherwise, cheese can pile up very quickly.

CME spot nonfat dry milk (NDM) notched a fresh all-time high this week and closed at \$2.26/lb. USDA's Dairy Market News (DMN) reported that "Milk output is strong and drying operations are running busy schedules." However, due to lower U.S. milk powder output in 2025 and early 2026, inventories have been tight, and "spot purchasers say it is difficult to find loads." Facing record-high prices, NDM users "are only buying loads to meet their immediate needs," according to DMN. But enough milk powder buyers have been caught short to keep a bid under an already pricey market.

The relentless rise in U.S. NDM has been boosting other markets. At this week's Global Dairy Trade (GDT) auction, Mexico bid on skim milk powder (SMP). That was unusual, as Mexican buyers typically source their NDM and SMP from the U.S. But the chasm between U.S. and international prices has stretched wide enough to overcome America's geographic and administrative advantages. Despite strong milk powder output in Europe and Oceania, GDT SMP climbed to its highest price since 2022.

Strength in the NDM market is lifting Class IV futures to extremely lofty values relative to Class III milk. Today, May Class IV's settlement is \$22.29/cwt., \$4.73 higher than May Class III futures. That's the second-highest premium to Class III futures of any month in the past 15 years. It appears Class IV futures are pulling Class III prices higher as well. Cheese processors who use milk powder to fortify their vats are likely inclined to do without it at today's prices. Over time, that will reduce demand for NDM and could slow the growth in U.S. cheese production. While the price impact of this gradual shift takes time, the forward-looking futures market seems to anticipate the adjustment. For now, though, the wide III-IV spread benefits dairy producers who sell Class I milk under the "higher of" formula that was reinstated last June.

- NMPF submitted [comments](#) to EPA last week supporting the USDA application to produce the *NovoFly* male-only genetically engineered New World screwworm because it's a scientifically sound and practical tool. NMPF is encouraging others to share support with EPA through this [call-to-action](#) before the public comment period ends at 11:59 p.m. ET tonight.
- The farm bill is set to move in the House this week, starting with a meeting today in the House Rules Committee to set terms of a vote on the farm bill, including how many of the 361 proposed amendments will make it onto the House floor. The vote is expected on Thursday.

[The cost of fertilizer, fuel is pushing some farmers to the brink](#)

NPR – April 25

The Trump administration's tariffs, and other countries' retaliatory measures that followed have gutted the export markets Delta farmers depend on, leading to major losses for small farmers like Sledge Taylor in the Mississippi Delta, who is now also grappling with rising costs caused by a war thousands of miles away.

[The MAHA revolt threatening the farm bill](#)

Politico – April 26

Republican infighting between two important constituencies — the agriculture sector and the MAHA coalition — is threatening passage of a bill leaders are counting on to help woo rural voters ahead of the midterms. House GOP leaders hope this week to advance a long-stalled farm bill that would secure a slew of industry and rural investments.

[‘Staggering’ number of people believe claims about raw milk](#)

Scientific American – April 26

More than two-thirds of the public believe at least one false or unproven health claim — such as the idea that taking paracetamol during pregnancy causes autism — a new survey finds. The results hint that a large, and potentially growing, number of people are questioning scientific evidence. The survey of more than 16,000 people across 16 countries asked whether they believed claims that are not supported by research, including that ‘raw milk is healthier than pasteurized.’

EMPLOYEE NEWS

We are pleased to announce the promotion of **Zachary Steele** to Quality Supervisor within the Quality Department in Ovid, MI.

Zac began his career with MMPA in 1998 as an operator on the production floor. In 2000, he transitioned to the Ovid lab, followed by a move into a Production Supervisor role in 2008. In 2010, he stepped into his most recent position as Preventative Maintenance Supervisor.

In his new role, Zac will be responsible for maintaining and enhancing the effectiveness of all Quality and Food Safety programs within the Ovid facility. This includes oversight of SQF, FSMA, and other regulatory programs, as well as supporting continuous improvement initiatives across the plant. His work will help ensure compliance with internal policies, customer requirements, and government regulations while fostering a strong culture of quality and operational excellence.

Please join me in congratulating Zac on his well-deserved promotion!

We are pleased to announce the promotion of **Deryck Fries** to Relief Production Supervisor at the Constantine, MI plant.

Deryck began his career with MMPA in 2001 as a Production Operator. Throughout his tenure, he has gained extensive experience operating a variety of processing equipment, including the separator, evaporator, dryer, and UF system. In addition, Deryck has played an active role in training and mentoring new operators and has worked closely with management to develop and refine Standard Operating Procedures.

Please join me in congratulating Deryck on his new supervisory role!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Rhonda Waldrop** as Customer Service Representative in Novi, MI, reporting to Elizabeth Robbins.

In her role, Rhonda will be responsible for receiving and entering customer orders, assisting with hauling coordination, providing post-sales support by resolving customer issues and concerns, and building strong working relationships with both customers and the sales team.

Rhonda brings extensive experience to MMPA, having served as Customer Service Team Leader at Pilz Automation Safety since 2004.

Please join me in welcoming Rhonda to MMPA!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Eric Mueller** as 2nd Shift Maintenance Supervisor in Canton, OH. Eric will report directly to Paul Gemma, Maintenance Manager.

In this role, Eric will be responsible for overseeing all maintenance and repair activities during the second shift. He will focus on ensuring safety, maximizing equipment uptime, and leading a team of skilled maintenance technicians. His responsibilities will also include providing hands-on troubleshooting expertise and technical guidance on plant equipment and machinery.

Prior to joining Superior Dairy, Eric served as Maintenance Supervisor with American Standard. He also held prior maintenance roles at Spectrum Metal Finishing and BRT Extrusions.

Please join me in welcoming Eric to MMPA!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Nicholas Kelly** as 2nd Shift Maintenance Supervisor in Ovid, MI.

Nicholas will be responsible for supervising daily maintenance activities and systems to support the manufacturing needs of the milk processing facility, while ensuring adherence to cost guidelines and operational standards.

Most recently, Nicholas served as Maintenance Group Leader with General Motors. Prior to GM, he worked at Jones Lang LaSalle as a Maintenance Supervisor.

Please join me in welcoming Nicholas to MMPA!

IT SUPPORT

Submitting a ticket through one of the methods below ensures your issue is routed to the correct team as quickly as possible:

- Self Service Portal (SSP)- Submit a ticket through the [Self-Service Portal \(SSP\)](#). For faster resolution, please include your contact information, a clear description of the issue and any troubleshooting already performed.
- Phone Support (Preferred for After Hours)- Call 1-888-709-4628. You will be guided through a phone tree to the appropriate technician. If all technicians are unavailable, leave a voicemail and this will automatically create a ticket and notifies the on-call technician.
- Email support@mimilk.com with a clear subject line and detailed description of the issue.

MMPA CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out MMPA's career center in [ADP](#)! The Career Center will show you, as an employee, all open positions across MMPA.

You can access the career center by logging into ADP: Myself > Talent > Career Center

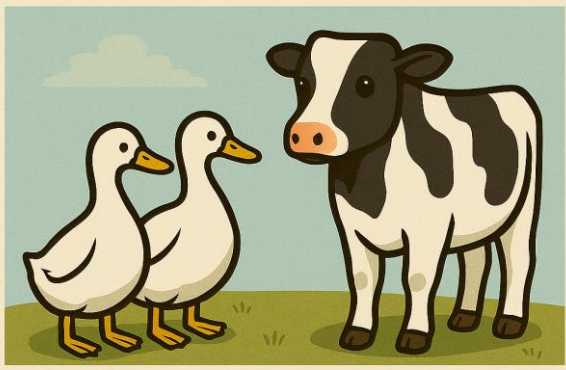
In the Career Center, you can:

- share a position with a friend or peer via email or social media
- track your applications (if you apply to an internal posting)
- refer a friend

[View openings »](#)

Contact [Kelly Kerrigan](#) if you or someone you know may be interested in a position.

DAIRY HUMOR



**I HAVE TWO DUCKS,
ONE COW, WHAT DO
YOU CALL THEM?
QUACKERS AND MILK.**
