



# MemberConnection

CONNECTING MEMBERS TO THE LATEST CO-OP NEWS | APRIL 2026



## Remus and Ovid achieve production milestones

Two MMPA facilities recently marked significant production milestones in April, reflecting continued progress across the cooperative's processing network.

At the Remus, Michigan facility, the team completed its first cottage cheese test run on April 10, producing 7,000 pounds. The run represents an important step as the plant moves forward with new production capabilities.

At the Ovid plant, the team processed more than 1 million pounds of ultrafiltered milk for the first time, signaling continued growth in meeting demand for ultrafiltered milk production.

First announced in December, the projects at both the Remus and Ovid facilities are part of MMPA's broader effort to strengthen processing capacity and better position the cooperative for future growth. The Remus project focuses on expanding product capabilities with the addition of cottage cheese production, while expansion at the Ovid plant is designed to increase ultrafiltered milk processing capacity. Together, these investments reflect a long-term commitment to adding value to members' milk and ensuring MMPA continues diversifying our product mix and meeting evolving market demands.

## MMPA meets with legislators in D.C.

In late March, the Ag Leaders of Michigan (ALM) hosted an event in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Michigan's Congressional delegation. The discussion focused on priorities and opportunities for the dairy and agriculture industries, including labor legislation and the Farm Bill.

Agricultural Leaders of Michigan is a coalition of agricultural, commodity and agri-business leaders committed to bolstering the profile of the industry and educating policymakers about core issues affecting Michigan agriculture and agri-businesses. Members include MMPA, Michigan Pork Producers Association, GreenStone Farm Credit Services and the Michigan Agri-Business Association.



### UPCOMING EVENT

Photo Contest, May 1 - July 1

## News from Novi

The weather has created trying conditions for many throughout the Midwest, especially with the amount of rain and fluctuating temperatures. Despite the weather, there's a lot of excitement around the commissioning of our cottage cheese plant in Remus and the ultrafiltered milk expansion at Ovid.

This month, we began running milk through Ovid's ultrafiltered milk expansion and have already sent several loads out of the facility. As we continue to drive toward optimizing production throughput, our customers are eager to receive the additional volume that is demanded in the marketplace.

There's still work to be done at Remus as we move through the final stages of commissioning, but we're getting close to producing saleable cottage cheese product. That can't come soon enough for us or our partner Good Culture.

We're equally excited about producing our first batch of ethanol at the distillery in Constantine. There are still regulatory steps that need to be completed before we can move our first saleable load, but we're getting close. The light is at the end of the tunnel, and we look forward to reaching that milestone soon.

Speaking of milestones, the powder market has moved into territory we haven't seen in some time. With prices exceeding \$2, demand continues to be strong, driven largely by the protein market which competes for the skim components. As a result, less product is moving through dryers, tightening supply and supporting these elevated price levels. While the cheese market has shown less momentum, our diversified product mix allows us to capture opportunities where the market is providing them.

This past month, we also had the opportunity to meet with legislators during a fly-in with Ag Leaders of Michigan. Board members Doug, Chapin, Tony Jandernoa and Bruce Benthem, participated in those discussions, helping reinforce the importance of passing a Farm Bill, along with addressing ongoing labor challenges. It's critical that policymakers hear directly from member-owners on these issues.

While weather conditions haven't been ideal in some areas, I want to wish everyone a safe planting season. I look forward to sharing more about the progress we're making at our plant facilities in the near future.

—Joe Diglio, MMPA President & CEO

## UPDATES & REMINDERS

### Over \$4 million paid to MMPA members

Earlier this month, MMPA made cash payments totaling nearly \$4.1 million in the retirement of 2016 certificates of equity. This is in addition to the over \$1.4 million in cash patronage from 2025 earnings paid earlier this year. MMPA's strong financial position allows us to return allocated equities to members on a ten-year revolving basis.

### Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund deadline May 1

Youth who exhibit at the Michigan State Fair, Michigan Livestock Expo and Michigan Dairy Expo are eligible to apply for a scholarship through the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF). The 2026 MYLSF Scholarship deadline for application is May 3, 2026. Learn more at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/mylsf>.

### Farm Bill Heading to the House Floor

The House Rules Committee posted the Farm Bill to its website and signaled floor action for next week, the week of April 27. The next several days are critical in shaping what ultimately reaches the House floor. Conversations are ongoing behind the scenes, with cautious optimism that a bill can pass the House.

### Michigan Dairy Ambassador Program accepting applications soon

Applications for the 2026 Michigan Dairy Ambassador Scholarship and Leadership Program will be accepted soon. The program offers dairy communication and leadership training as well as opportunities to promote dairy in their community and throughout the state to Michigan high school and college students interested in dairy and/or pursuing a career in the dairy industry. The program will conclude at the 2027 Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference. Learn more and watch for the application and deadline at [glrdc.org](http://glrdc.org).

### Help support MSU Dairy programs

Michigan dairy producers are being asked to support two Michigan State University (MSU) initiatives, both aimed at strengthening the future of the industry and intended to work side by side:

1. The Dairy Cattle Teaching and Research Center campaign focuses on completing funding for the new facility. Backed in part by state investment, the project now looks to private support to close the gap and bring the vision fully online.
2. Alongside that effort is the Dr. Joe Domecq Dairy Education Endowment, which supports the people and programming behind the facility. The goal is to expand teaching capacity, launch a student run herd, develop a stand-alone Dairy Science major, and continue building a strong pipeline of graduates prepared for careers in dairy.

Information on the two fundraising campaigns, including how to give, will be shared in the May/June issue of the *Milk Messenger*.

# MARKET REPORT

## Statistical Summary | FOR MILK MARKETED IN FEBRUARY 2026

### MMPA Reporting

#### Average All Milk Price

\$17.55

#### Average Butterfat

4.41%

#### Average Protein

3.40%

#### Average SCC

158,000 cells / mL

#### Total Milk Production

+3.43% over February 2025

### AMS Survey Prices

(monthly average, per pound)

#### Cheese

1.4338 / LB

#### Butter

1.6966 / LB

#### Milk Powders

Nonfat Dry Milk

1.3726 / LB

Dry Whey

0.6931 / LB

### Market Statistics - Mideast Federal Order #33

	# This Month	# Year Ago	% Change
Total Class 1 Sales	547,961,890	559,223,884	-2.01%
Total Class 2 Sales	389,859,231	308,010,551	26.57%
Total Class 3 Sales	613,339,303	604,883,192	1.40%
Total Class 4 Sales	207,897,058	204,774,111	1.53%
Total Production	1,759,057,482	1,676,891,738	4.90%
Class 1 Utilization	31.2%	33.3%	

### Mideast Federal Order #33

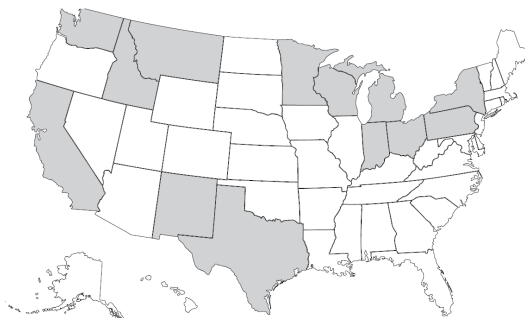
Total Producers.....	3,336
Avg. Daily Production per farm.....	18,832
Avg. Protein Test.....	3.44%
Avg. Butterfat Test.....	4.47%
Avg. Oth Solids Test.....	5.78%

### Component Pricing Information - Mideast Federal Order #33

Protein Price /lb. ....	\$1.9373
Butterfat Price /lb. ....	\$1.7794
Other Solids Price /lb.....	\$0.4391
Class III Price @ 3.5% .....	\$14.94
Prod. Price Diff /cwt. - Mich Mkt .....	\$1.00
Uniform Price @ 3.5%.....	\$15.94
SCC Adjustment /cwt /1000.....	\$0.00072

### National Trends\*

(production in millions of pounds)



\*For 24 States

	2026	2025	% Change
California	3,236	3,162	+2.3
Wisconsin	2,548	2,479	+2.8
Idaho	1,405	1,358	+3.5
New York	1,290	1,251	+3.1
Texas	1,468	1,395	+5.2
Michigan	986	948	+4.0
Minnesota	829	803	+3.2
Pennsylvania	760	775	-1.9
New Mexico	447	474	-5.7
Washington	443	464	-4.5
Ohio	451	444	+1.6
Indiana	370	353	+4.8
Total U.S.*	17,559	17,030	+3.1
U.S Y-T-D *	36,654	35,453	+3.4

## MMPA NEWS

### MMPA Photo Contest to open May 1

The 2026 MMPA Photo Contest will open on May 1. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit photos that are reflective of what encompasses our cooperative and capture a wide variety of the dairy farm lifestyle.

Photos can include, but are not limited to, cattle, crops, equipment, dairy events and families working together on the farm. The submission deadline is July 1, 2026.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[WWW.MIMILK.COM/PHOTO-CONTEST](http://WWW.MIMILK.COM/PHOTO-CONTEST)



### MARKET NEWS | USDA Dairy Market News - April 17, 2026

**CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS:** Northeast cheese production is mixed as some plants face downtime while others run busy schedules supported by ample milk. Retail demand is softer, but bulk interest and strong export orders to Southeast Asia and the Middle East keep inventories balanced. Central milk output remains strong, with plentiful spot volumes and Class III spot prices ranging from \$8-under to \$2-under Class. Cheesemakers note some maintenance downtime, but production stays strong as demand and firmer export interest keep spot loads available. Western milk supplies keep cheese output steady, though spot milk is tightening. Domestic demand is quieter due to a conference, but international interest is stronger. Overall market sentiment is neutral.

**FLUID MILK:** Nationwide, milk production is seasonally strong and volumes are up. The Northeast and Upper Midwest are in the beginning stages of spring flush while states with warmer climates are nearing the end of the flush. Class I demand is steady to strong. Most educational institutions have resumed classes after spring break, keeping demand up. Class II demand is steady to strong. Ice cream production is on the rise, and manufacturers are taking in spot loads of cream to maintain full schedules. Class III production is steady. Downtime left spot loads of milk available on the market in several areas. Class III milk prices range from \$8-under to \$2-under Class this week. Class IV demand is strong. Butter churns are operating at or near full capacity and some facilities are taking spot loads of cream. Condensed skim is more available this week due to downtime in some facilities.

**BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS:** Domestic butter demand is mixed. Some stakeholders in the West region report strong demand, while some in the Central and East regions report lighter demand. Export demand is strong and butter produced in the US remains competitively priced. Cream spot loads are available for butter manufacturers. Demand from butter makers for spot cream is not heavy. Cream intakes at butter facilities are meeting expectations. Butter production is generally active seven days a week and sufficiently keeping up with demand. Bulk butter overages range from 2 cents below to 7 cents above market across all regions.

**DRY PRODUCTS:** Nonfat dry milk prices posted strong gains across all regions this week, led by notable increases at the top of the mostly range for low/medium heat in the Central and East regions. Big gains were also seen at the top of each price range for all heat categories across all regions. Dry buttermilk prices also moved higher nationwide, with the most significant jump occurring at the top of the West region price range. Dry whey markets were mixed, showing steady to modest shifts. Central region prices held firm at the top of both the range and mostly series, while the bottom of the range edged lower and the lower end of the mostly series increased. The West region declined throughout the series except for a steady bottom of the mostly range. Prices in the East remained unchanged. Whey protein concentrate 34% saw a sharp increase at the top of the price range while the rest of the series held steady. Dry whole milk prices firmed at both ends of the range, supported in part by strengthening nonfat dry milk markets.



The MMPA Farm Supply Store, based in Mt. Pleasant, offers a variety of products including sanitation chemicals, udder and milk prep supplies, minerals, milk replacers, hoses, filters, inflations, testing equipment and MMPA apparel. To order products, call 877-367-6455 or visit [mimilk.com/farm-supply-store](http://mimilk.com/farm-supply-store).



**Featured Product:** LD-44Z Fly Spray (\$18.22 OR \$17.31\*)

\*Valid on online orders only through May 22, 2026.

