



MemberConnection

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



MMPA Scholarship Opportunities

MMPA members, children of members and employees of members attending Michigan State University (MSU), Purdue University or The Ohio State University are eligible to apply for MMPA scholarships. Authorized by the MMPA Board of Directors, the scholarships encourage post high school study for students interested in careers in the dairy industry.

Students attending MSU who are pursuing a dairy management certificate in the Institute of Agricultural Technology or who are enrolled in the Dairy Concentration Program in the Department of Animal Science may apply for \$2,000 per semester (for members or children of members) or \$1,750 per semester (for employees of members) scholarship monies. Preference given to those students enrolled in the 2-year dairy management program. Scholarship applications are due by October 1.

At Purdue University and The Ohio State University, there is a \$1,000 scholarship available for a student who is a member or child of a member enrolled in any agriculture-related major.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT [HTTPS://WWW.MIMILK.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://www.mimilk.com/scholarships).

FARM Program opportunity for input

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has kicked-off its open comment period for both the Animal Care and Workforce Development programs' proposed Version 2028 updates to compile and incorporate farmer and industry feedback.

As part of this process, you have an opportunity to provide comments, feedback and concerns related to the proposed revisions by Oct. 2.

The FARM Workforce Development Task Force and Farmer Advisory Council work together to put forward recommendations to the NMPF Executive Committee, and the NMPF Board of Directors will provide final approval on any and all recommendations. Once approved, FARM Version 2028 will take effect Jan. 1, 2028.

More information about Version 2028 development is available on the FARM Program website.

Learn more and share your feedback at nationaldairyfarm.com by October 2, 2026. Prefer a paper survey? Contact your Member Representative to request a copy you can complete and mail in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 25 & 26: Virtual Membership Briefings

News from Novi

With summer now in full swing, we're all navigating the challenges that come with the season. The heat and humidity throughout the country has taken a toll on domestic milk production. We've certainly seen the effect across our membership. In some parts of our region, milk production has declined by more than 15 percent due to these weather conditions. Additionally, components (butterfat and protein) have also continued to lower from where they were earlier this year, ultimately affecting the amount of product needed to service demand in the marketplace.

We continue to commission our new assets while developing and refining efficiencies. Every day we continue to improve, and we're excited about the opportunities these investments will provide moving forward.

As for markets, there has been plenty of volatility over the past several weeks. Powder has come off its recent highs and been hovering around \$1.50 per pound, which seems more in line with global market conditions. On the other hand, as butterfat production on the farm has eased, butter prices have continued to strengthen. That gives us the opportunity to capture additional value from products that see strong seasonal demand, like ice cream and other frozen novelty products. The cheese market has remained relatively stable, which is somewhat surprising considering inventories being well balanced.

Markets will be a topic of discussion at our Virtual Membership Briefings scheduled for next month, and I encourage you to join us. You'll hear updates from MMPA leadership, along with an outlook from the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) economist on market demand and pricing forecasts. It's always a valuable opportunity to gain a better understanding of where the markets may be headed and what that could mean for your operation.

Speaking of NMPE, their team continues to work diligently on important labor issues, including the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act and the administration's reclassification of the H-2A program. We've seen some encouraging progress, but there is still work to do. This month, several board members and I will be in Washington, D.C., continuing to advocate for meaningful labor reform and making sure the needs of dairy producers are heard. We'll be sure to keep you updated as developments occur.

I know many of you are spending long days out in the elements this time of year. Take care of yourselves, stay safe and be mindful of the conditions you can't control, whether that's the heat, humidity or poor air quality. Thank you for everything you do each day to produce high-quality milk and feeding the world!

—Joe Diglio, MMPA President & CEO

UPDATES & REMINDERS

MMPA Virtual Membership Briefings: August 25 & 26

MMPA members are invited to attend virtual membership meetings on Tuesday, August 25 at 1 p.m. or Wednesday, August 26 at 10 a.m. During both meetings, members will hear from MMPA leadership and receive an update on markets and cooperative happenings. Both meetings will cover the same content and provide an opportunity for members to ask questions and engage with MMPA leadership. Advanced registration is required. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/VirtualMMPA2026>.

MMPA Nominating Committee accepting applications for MMPA Board

Four district positions on the MMPA Board of Directors are up for election at the District Meetings to be held in December. The district directors with terms expiring in 2027 are Paul Keener from District 1, Brian Preston from District 2, Eric Frahm from District 4, and Corby Werth from District 4.

To be nominated and run for one of these positions on the board of directors, candidates must submit an application by September 17. The District Nominating Committees will meet virtually in September to determine the slate of nominees. Contact Jessica Welch at jessica.welch@mimilk.com or at 248-897-3400 to receive an application.

Dairy gets traction on workforce reform

In June, the Trump Administration released guidance that gives dairy farmers clarity on how they can use the H-2A visa program, confirming that dairy work can qualify for H-2A workers when a farm can show it has a temporary or seasonal labor need. Under the new guidance, dairy farms with distinct breeding or calving seasons may be able to establish a qualifying seasonal labor need tied to those production cycles.

In addition, the House Agriculture Committee Chairman GT Thompson's introduced the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act. This bill would tackle the dairy industry's statutory problems with H-2A by eliminating the seasonal provision and allowing employment contracts to run up to 350 days. It would also cut down on duplicative paperwork and unruly costs and include a narrow path for current employees to transition into the H-2A program. Advancing this bill will take tremendous work. You can help by contacting your legislators and participating in the National Milk Producer Federation's call to action at <https://www.nmpf.org/take-action/>.

MMPA Reporting

Average All Milk Price

\$20.96

Average Butterfat

4.24%

Average Protein

3.29%

Average SCC

164,000 cells / mL

Total Milk Production

-2.78% over May 2025

AMS Survey Prices

(monthly average, per pound)

Cheese

1.6577 / LB

Butter

1.6311 / LB

Milk Powders

Nonfat Dry Milk

2.0809 / LB

Dry Whey

0.6396 / LB

Market Statistics - Mideast Federal Order #33

	# This Month	# Year Ago	% Change
Total Class 1 Sales	559,323,271	572,560,405	-2.31%
Total Class 2 Sales	219,088,916	336,596,887	-34.91%
Total Class 3 Sales	725,945,808	621,729,443	16.76%
Total Class 4 Sales	85,273,490	273,389,125	-68.81%
Total Production	1,589,631,485	1,804,275,860	-11.90%
Class 1 Utilization	35.2%	31.7%	

Mideast Federal Order #33

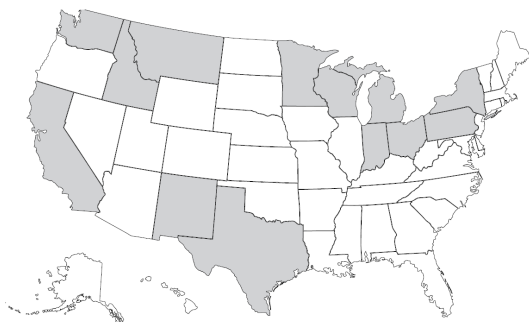
Total Producers.....	3,368
Avg. Daily Production per farm.....	15,225
Avg. Protein Test	3.35%
Avg. Butterfat Test	4.30%
Avg. Oth Solids Test	5.78%

Component Pricing Information -
Mideast Federal Order #33

Protein Price /lb.	\$2.7477
Butterfat Price /lb.	\$1.7001
Other Solids Price /lb.	\$0.3840
Class III Price @ 3.5%	\$16.92
Prod. Price Diff /cwt. - Mich Mkt	\$2.51
Uniform Price @ 3.5%	\$19.43
SCC Adjustment /cwt /1000	\$0.00083

National Trends*

(production in millions of pounds)



*For 24 States

	2026	2025	% Change
California	3,608	3,565	+1.2
Wisconsin	2,899	2,834	+2.3
Texas	1,635	1,572	+4.0
Idaho	1,614	1,569	+2.9
New York	1,445	1,420	+1.8
Michigan	1,116	1,087	+2.7
Minnesota	936	917	+2.1
Pennsylvania	832	848	-1.9
New Mexico	515	517	-0.4
Washington	495	499	-0.8
Ohio	511	506	+1.0
Indiana	411	403	+2.0
Total U.S.*	19,767	19,298	+2.4
U.S Y-T-D*	95,245	92,534	+2.9

MMPA Photo Contest deadline extended!

The 2026 MMPA Photo Contest deadline has been extended to August 1. Interested applicants are encouraged to enter 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.MIMILK.COM/PHOTO-CONTEST



MARKET NEWS | *USDA Dairy Market News - July 17, 2026*

CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS: East region cheese production is steady as cheesemakers receive adequate milk supplies. Hot weather is impacting milk volumes and components, but cheesemakers are not concerned. Demand is seasonally soft. Inventories are stable and the market tone is steady to slightly weaker. High temperatures are affecting cow comfort and milk output. Spot milk offers are light, but some contacts are able to secure loads below Class, while other cheesemakers are paying higher prices to keep vats full. Demand is steady, spot loads of cheese are available, but lighter production schedules will tighten inventories. Cheese makers are receiving contractual milk loads and spot milk availability is tight in the West. Production schedules are stable, and production is on pace or slightly ahead of demand for most types of cheese. Domestic and International demand is steady.

DRY PRODUCTS: Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk prices moved lower across the prices for all regions except for the Central and East mostly price series moving higher. High heat prices moved lower in both regions. Buttermilk powder prices were lower at both ends in the East and higher on both ends in the West. Dry whey pricing varied in each region. The top of range and mostly series increased in the Central region. Both ends of the range increased in the East, and the West held steady at the bottom but saw a decrease at the top of the range. The lactose price range increased at the top of the range and the mostly price series and held steady at the bottom. Whey protein concentrate 34% price range was unchanged but the mostly series increased at the top. Acid and rennet casein prices remained the same this week.

BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS: Domestic butter demand is steady across all three regions. Export demand varies from steady to strong. Spot cream loads are tighter in some parts of the country. Spot cream demand from butter manufacturers varies from steady to stronger. Butter production schedules are mixed but are generally busier in the West region. Some stakeholders are more actively seeking open capacity for micro-fixing butter inventories. Spot loads are available for 80 or 82 percent butterfat buyers. Bulk butter overages range from 3 below to 5 above market across all regions.

FLUID MILK: Milk production is mixed across regions this week, with ongoing operational challenges influencing both milk and cream movement. In the East, several facilities encountered unplanned downtime, leading to rerouting of milk and cream to other processors. Cream and condensed skim supplies are ample, and Class II continues to absorb much of the available cream. Condensed skim demand is light to steady, with slight upward price movement reported. In the Central region, summer conditions continue to limit farm level milk output. Some plants experiencing downtime are offering small volumes of spot milk, though overall availability remains lighter. Class I demand is steady to lighter. Demand for Classes II and IV remains strong. Cheesemakers continue to seek additional Class III spot milk, though offers are limited. Butter makers are searching for additional volumes of Class IV supply to maintain churn activity. Across the West, production varies by area. Some California processors report above expected intakes, while processors in other states report lighter farm level output and occasional equipment issues are restricting operating schedules.



FARM SUPPLY
STORE

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.



Featured Product: High Visibility Bibbed Overalls Waterproof (\$73.63 – \$75.73 OR \$ \$69.95-71.94*)

**Valid on online orders only through August 24, 2026.*