

**MIELKE MARKET**

# Farm milk price slips to \$21.36

By Lee Mielke  
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The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the June Federal Order Class III benchmark milk price on July 3 at \$21.36 per hundredweight, down \$1.21 from May. That price is still \$3.34 above June 2013 and equates to about \$1.84 per gallon to the farmer.

The half-year Class III average now stands at \$22.68, up from \$17.74 at this time a year ago and \$15.90 in 2012.

Looking ahead, Class III futures settled as follows: July \$21.38, August \$20.58, September \$20.32, October \$20.25, November \$19.81, and December \$19.50.

The June Class IV price is \$23.13, up 48 cents from May and \$4.25 above a year ago. The 2014 average now stands at \$23.09, up from \$18.17 a year ago and \$14.90 in 2012.

The four-week National Dairy Product Sales Report surveyed cheese price used in calculating this month's prices was \$2.0358 per pound, down 13.5 cents from May. Butter averaged \$2.1874, up 14 cents. Nonfat dry milk averaged \$1.8633, down 1.4 cents, and dry whey averaged 67.89 cents per pound, up fractionally from May.

The California Depart-

ment of Food and Agriculture announced its June 4b cheese milk price at \$19.07 per hundredweight, down another 27 cents from May after losing \$2.39 last month, and \$2.29 below the comparable Federal Order Class III price but still \$3.16 above June 2013. That puts the midyear 4b average at \$20.63, up from \$16.05 at this time a year ago and \$13.83 in 2012.

The June 4a butter-powder price is \$23.19, up 62 cents from May and \$4.80 above a year ago. The 4a average now stands at \$22.94, up from \$17.94 a year ago and \$14.73 in 2012.

These prices include the CDFA-mandated price enhancement, but this will be the final month of that. As of July 1, all California prices will be under the old formulas.

Cash cheese prices are below \$2 per pound again.

Cheese production is steady across the nation as manufacturing milk is readily available in most regions, according to Dairy Market News. Cheese plants are operating at or near capacity to take advantage of milk supplies.

Despite fluctuations, cash butter ended up unchanged on the week at \$2.39 per pound.

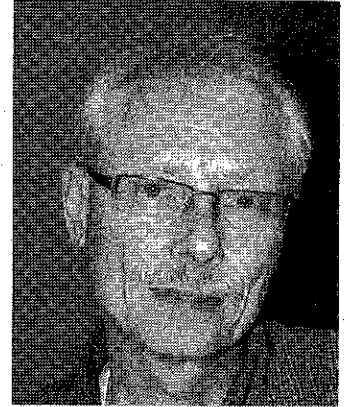
Cash Grade A nonfat

dry milk closed Thursday at \$1.7725, down 3.5 cents on the week. Four train cars were sold. NDPSR powder averaged \$1.8796, up 0.6 cent, and dry whey averaged 68.31 cents per pound, up 0.4 cent.

The preliminary June milk-feed price ratio was unchanged from the revised May level, according to USDA's Ag Prices report. That ratio is at 2.24, unchanged from May, and compares to 1.52 in May 2013. The index is based on the current milk price in relationship to feed prices for a ration of 51 percent corn, 8 percent soybeans and 41 percent alfalfa hay. In other words, one pound of milk today can purchase 2.28 pounds of dairy feed of that blend.

The June U.S. average all-milk price was \$23.30/cwt., down from \$24.20 in May but up from \$19.50 in June 2013. June corn, at \$4.37 per bushel, was down 34 cents from May and \$2.60 less than June 2013. Soybeans averaged \$14.10 per bushel, down 30 cents from May and \$1 per bushel below a year ago. Alfalfa hay averaged \$222 per ton, down \$2 from May but \$2 per ton more than in June 2013.

The report shows the preliminary June cull price for beef and dairy combined averaged \$105 per cwt., up \$1



from May, and \$23.40 per cwt. above June 2013.

Dan McBride of the Northwest Dairy Association made these price projections for the Class III price and Pacific Northwest blend price:

Month	Class III	PNW Blend
June (current)	\$21.36	\$22.80
July	\$21.40	\$22.40
Aug.	\$20.50	\$21.90
Sept.	\$20.30	\$21.40
Oct.	\$20.25	\$20.60
Nov.	\$19.80	\$19.90
Dec.	\$19.50	\$19.40
Jan.	\$18.80	\$18.80
Feb.	\$18.30	\$18.60

Lee Mielke, of Lynden, is editor of the Mielke Market Weekly and associate editor of DairyBusiness Update. Whatcom County has about 100 dairy farms.

**4-H REPORTS**

**BARNYARD KIDS**  
Reporter: Luke Wolfisberg

On June 26 the Barnyard Kids 4-H Club held a meeting. As our president was absent, secretary Katelyn Oostra called us to order at 7:12 p.m. For roll call, people answered with their favorite part of summer. The Northwest Washington Fair was the favorite. The Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge were led by Sarah Lagerwey and Jenna Dickinson, respectively.

As there were neither minutes nor a treasurer's report, we moved on to project reports. The following members stated their name, grade, school and main project and answered a few questions: Karibeth Engelsma, Rafe Wolfisberg and Luke Wolfisberg.

On activity reports, everyone discussed the picnic/flower planting in late May. Then Lexi Neil talked about the Farmers Day Parade on June 7. To finish

up, Lathan VanderLeest talked about the dairy judging practice on June 14.

In new business, the combined Washington State Jersey and Holstein shows will be held July 16-18 at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds. The annual club picnic will be held on July 31, with a pizza dinner starting around 7 p.m. In

regard to fair preparations, we discussed decorating and putting up waterers, but we haven't specified a date yet. Online entries for the fair are due by July 25.

To finish up the night, Karen Steensma and Tony Lapsansky gave an amazing presentation on predators of unwanted birds on dairy and berry farms.

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