

I hope you're all enjoying the warmer weather and spring flowers. Fingers crossed this Spring brings dry weather and plenty of sun!

UVM Extension is once again looking for nominations for the Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year. Nomination forms can be found [here](#). The deadline for nominations is May 1.

If you have suggestions for future UVM Extension events, please reach out directly at whitney.hull@uvm.edu. You can stay up to date on all our events, as well as find past issues of our Dairy Update at our [website](#).

Dairy News and Updates

USDA confirms avian influenza in dairy herds

Over the past several weeks, the dairy industry has been dealing with the emergence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy herds. HPAI, more commonly known as Bird Flu, is a contagious viral disease that is spread by the mucous, saliva and feces of infected migratory birds. To date, HPAI has been confirmed in eight states in 28 herds including Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Idaho, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, and South Dakota. In herds with affected cattle, the virus has infected approximately 10% of the lactating herd. These infections have been non-fatal and have had a 100% recovery rate.

The current risk to the public remains low. In a joint statement from the National Milk Producers Federation, the international Dairy Foods Association, the U.S. Dairy Export Council, and Dairy Management Inc., it was noted that the pasteurization process kills harmful microbes and pathogens in milk, including the influenza virus. Economic impacts to affected dairies are ongoing, with the Texas Department of Agriculture reporting that impacted herds could lose up to 40% of their milk production for 7-10 days until animals recover. Practicing good biosecurity measures are vital to prevent further disease spread. Below are a list of resources for more information regarding HPAI in dairy cattle.

[UVM Extension-Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in U.S. Dairy Herds](#)

[USDA APHIS-Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock](#)

[National Milk Producers Federation-HPAI Resources](#)

Exports rally after 12 months of year-over-year declines

The U.S. dairy product export market rebounded in February with export volumes increasing for the first time in more than a year. Cheese was the leader in exports with historic volumes recorded. February's cheese exports increased by 27% year-over-year to 41,854 metric tons. When adjusted for a 30-day month, February 2024 cheese exports reached a record. Shredded cheese led the growth, posting a 37% year-over-year increase. Latin America was a major driver of shredded cheese purchases, with Mexico leading purchases. Japan and the Middle East were strong as well, where U.S. dairy product demand rebounded and exports increased 37% and 43%, respectively.

Milk powder and whey showed growth as well, with nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder exports increasing by 3.4%. This is the second time in six months that export volume of milk powder and whey have surpassed year-over-year levels, leading experts to believe economic conditions and demand may be improving for consumers in Southeast Asia.

Northeast Production Trends and Price Forecast

April 15, 2024

	COMPONENT PRICES PER POUND			BOSTON PPD/cwt.	BOSTON BLEND PRICE @3.5 bf	Class Price				Class III Futures	Class IV Futures	DMC Margin ¹
	BUTTER		OTHER			I	II	III	IV			
	FAT	PROTEIN	SOLIDS									
MAR-24	\$3.24	\$1.13	\$0.29	\$3.84	\$20.18	\$22.05	\$21.12	\$16.34	\$20.09	\$16.34	\$20.09	\$10.05
APR-24	\$3.32	\$0.82	\$0.24	\$4.65	\$20.09	\$22.43	\$21.17	\$15.43	\$20.14	\$18.00	\$20.46	\$9.93
MAY-24	\$3.34	\$1.19	\$0.21	\$3.61	\$20.04	\$21.75	\$20.92	\$16.42	\$20.22	\$18.25	\$20.57	\$9.86
JUN-24	\$3.36	\$1.29	\$0.20	\$3.48	\$20.28	\$22.28	\$21.01	\$16.78	\$20.39	\$18.60	\$20.87	\$10.03
JUL-24	\$3.40	\$1.44	\$0.21	\$3.23	\$20.64	\$22.55	\$21.22	\$17.40	\$20.69	\$18.77	\$21.12	\$10.29

Source: Agri-Mark Weekly Update https://agrimark.coop/PDFs/AM_Weekly_Updates.pdf

Milk Cows and Production - Northeastern States and 24 Selected States: During February 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(million pounds)</i>	<i>(million pounds)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>
New York	630	630	1,950	2,000	1,229	1,260	2.5
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,675	1,710	781	795	1.8
Vermont	118	116	1,665	1,725	196	200	2.0
24-State Total	8,939	8,878	1,897	1,955	16,953	17,357	2.4

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Prices Received for All Milk - Northeastern States and United States: January 2024 with Comparisons

[Before deduction for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies]

State	January 2023		December 2023		January 2024	
	Price	Fat test	Price	Fat test	Price	Fat test
	<i>(dollars per cwt)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>	<i>(dollars per cwt)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>	<i>(dollars per cwt)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>
New York	23.70	4.16	21.90	4.30	21.60	4.32
Pennsylvania	23.90	4.14	21.80	4.22	21.30	4.24
Vermont	24.10	4.18	22.40	4.34	22.00	4.37
United States	23.10	4.23	20.60	4.35	20.10	4.35

Source: NASS Monthly Milk Production Report-Northeastern Region

Vermont Dairy Cow Operations by County – 2024

County	Jan.	Feb	March	% change prior month
Addison	76	77	76	-1.30%
Bennington	8	8	8	0.00%
Caledonia	40	40	40	0.00%
Chittenden	24	24	24	0.00%
Essex	9	9	9	0.00%
Franklin	93	93	93	0.00%
Grand Isle	8	8	8	0.00%
Lamoille	20	20	20	0.00%
Orange	44	45	45	0.00%
Orleans	78	78	78	0.00%
Rutland	32	31	30	-3.22%
Washington	17	17	17	0.00%
Windham	18	18	18	0.00%
Windsor	19	18	18	0.00%
TOTAL	486	486	484	-0.41%
ORGANIC	123	123	123	0.00%

Ave. # dairy farms-2020 – 636, 2021 -583 & 2022 – 549, 2023 – 503

Below is a revised summary of *Dairy Cow Farms by Size – Milking Cows* for 2023. Please use the revised information for monthly dairy updates. We had a change in our data management system which counted things differently than we had in the past. The following restores the summary to the way we have been reporting. Apologies for any confusion.

Dairy Cow Farms by Size – Milking cows

	LFO – over 700	MFO – 200 – 699	SFO –under 200	Total
2020	35	100	198 CSFO – 501	636
2021	35	95	216 CSFO - 453	583
2022	35	91	215 CSFO – 424	549
2023	35	84	208 CSFO – 376	495

CSFO as of January 31, 2018. Certified Small Farms have 50 - milking cows to 199 cows.

This table represents the number of locations producing milk, not the number of farm operations within a specific size classification as some operations produce milk at more than one location.

Vermont Dairy Data-10 year Summary

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4
Ave. Milk Price	\$23.63	\$16.49	\$15.25	\$16.78	\$15.44	\$17.46	\$16.45	\$17.23	\$24.49	\$20.84	\$19.28	\$21.07	\$19.09
Class III price	\$22.34	\$15.80	\$14.87	\$15.92	\$14.61	\$16.96	\$18.16	\$17.08	\$22.03	\$18.44	\$16.51	\$16.45	\$16.68
DMC Margin-FSA	\$0.00	MPP/ MCP Margin level	\$8.01	\$9.68	\$7.53	\$9.60	\$9.65	\$6.92	\$10.80	\$6.74	\$4.77	\$6.14	\$9.15
# of VT Cow Dairy Farms	880	853	838	796	725	677	636	583	550	514	503	496	493
Milk Production USDA	2.672 b lbs.	2.666 b lbs.	2.724 b lbs.	2.728 b lbs.	2.680 b lbs.	2.695 b lbs.	2.602 b lbs.	2.566 b lbs.	2.553 b lbs.	633 mil. lbs.	649 mil. lbs.	634 mil. lbs.	633 mil. lbs.
Ave. # of cows in VT USDA	132,000	132,000	130,000	128,667	126,833	125,583	122,167	119,667	117,667	118,000	118,000	116,000	116,000
Ave. # of cows/farm	150	155	155	162	175	185	192	205	216	230	235	234	235
Certified Organic Cow Dairy Farms	184	184	203	199	190	187	169	162	154	129	125	123	123
Off-Farm Dairy Processors	58	64	78	79	83	88	87	88	88	88	88	88	88
On-Farm Dairy Processors	62	71	67	68	63	66	67	70	70	70	70	70	70
Total Dairy Processors	120	135	145	147	146	154	154	158	158	158	158	158	158