

# The Market Administrator's

# BULLETIN

## NORTHEAST MARKETING AREA

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Federal Order No. 1

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### February Pool Price Calculation

The February 2026 statistical uniform price (SUP) for the Northeast Marketing Area was announced at \$17.31 per hundredweight for milk delivered to plants located in Suffolk County, Massachusetts (Boston), the pricing point for the Northeast Order. The statistical uniform price is calculated at 3.5 percent butterfat, 3.18 percent protein, and 5.79 percent other solids. If reported at the average tests of producer pooled milk, the SUP would be \$19.57 per hundredweight. The February statistical uniform price was 67 cents per hundredweight above the January price. The February producer price differential (PPD) at Suffolk County was \$2.37 per hundredweight, an increase of 32 cents from the previous month.

#### Product Prices Effect

Commodity prices for February: the butter price rose 27 cents, the nonfat dry milk price increased 18 cents, dry whey was down 1 cent, and the cheese price increased 3 cents, all on a per pound basis. The commodity price changes translated to a 33-cent increase in the butterfat price, an 18-cent increase in the nonfat solids price, a 1-cent decrease in the other solids price, and a 24-cent drop in the protein price, all on a per pound basis.

Class Prices for February: Class I, based on prices in January, dropped \$1.65; Class II increased \$1.42; Class III rose 35 cents; and Class IV increased \$2.74, all on a per hundredweight basis. The increase in the butterfat price from January increased the pool value was enough to witness a modest increase in the PPD. The increase in PPD and notably recovery in the Class IV and Class II prices caused the statistical uniform price to experience an increase from the previous month.

#### Selected Statistics

The average daily delivery per producer for February 2026 set a new record high for the Northeast Order, the Class II utilization was the highest volume for the month of February since the inception of the order, and the Class III utilization was the second highest volume for the month of February. For the third consecutive month the average producer butterfat test tied for record high in the Northeast Order and the average producer protein test was the second highest since the creation of the Order. ❖

### Pool Summary

- A total of 7,153 producers were pooled under the Order with an average daily delivery per producer of 10,739 pounds.
- Pooled milk receipts totaled 2.136 billion pounds, an increase of 1.0 percent from last month on an average daily basis.
- Class I usage (milk for bottling) accounted for 28.7 percent of total milk receipts, down 0.2 percentage points from January.
- The average butterfat test of producer receipts was 4.56 percent.
- The average true protein test of producer receipts was 3.39 percent.
- The average other solids test of producer receipts was 5.75 percent. ❖

#### Class Utilization

Pooled Milk	Percent	Pounds
Class I	28.7	612,580,031
Class II	28.3	605,513,163
Class III	29.7	633,743,639
Class IV	13.3	283,679,294
Total Pooled Milk		2,135,516,127

#### Producer Component Prices

	2026	2025
	\$/lb	
Protein Price	1.9373	2.5337
Butterfat Price	1.7794	2.8186
Other Solids Price	0.4391	0.4799

#### Class Prices

	2026	2025
	\$/cwt	
Class I	19.80	24.52
Class II	15.34	21.08
Class III	14.94	20.18
Class IV	16.29	19.90

# Market Service 2025 Summary

The Market Administrator of the Northeast Order oversees a Market Services program that verifies or establishes weights, samples and tests of producer milk, and provides market information for producers who are not receiving such services from a cooperative association.

## Calibration Program

One aspect of Market Services is the bulk tank calibration program. The Northeast Order operates two calibration trucks with onboard metering equipment and a supply of water. The Market Service department calibrated 145 farm bulk tanks throughout the Northeast Marketing Area milkshed in 2025. Additionally, 122 bulk tanks were checked for accuracy. In providing these services, the two trucks combined covered 28,193 miles in 2025.

Briefly, a tank calibration involves delivering precise volumes of water and measuring the depth of water in the tank after each delivery throughout the entire capacity of the tank. Based on these measurements, with volume tolerances applied, a new and accurate bulk tank conversion chart is prepared. A tank check involves measuring the tank at about four or five different levels and comparing those readings against the conversion chart to determine the accuracy of the chart. The chart is used by milk haulers to convert the volume of the milk in the bulk tank to pounds of milk, the basis on which producers are paid.

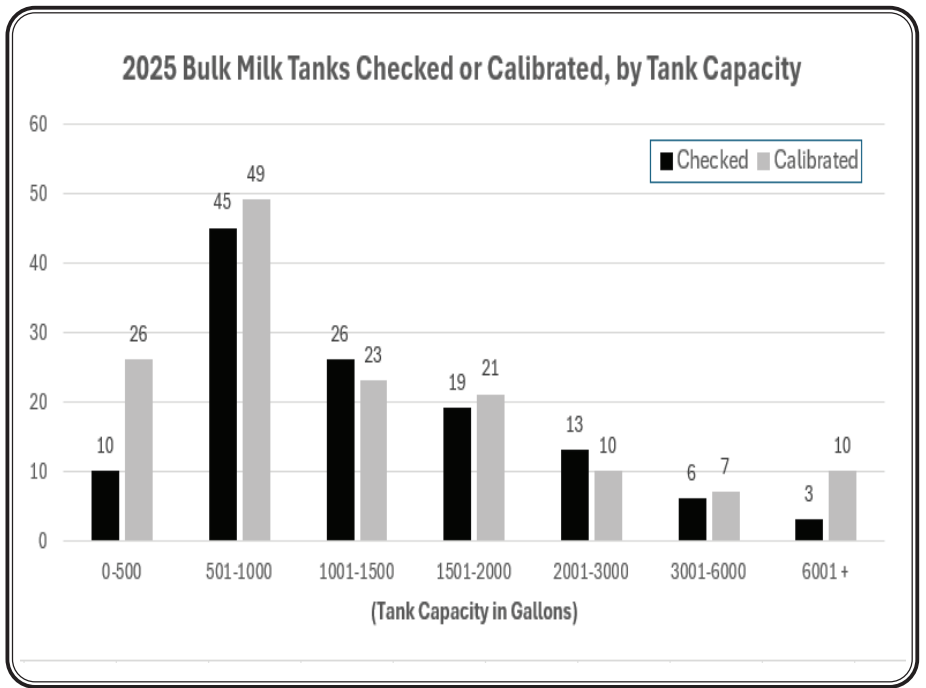
## Checks/Calibration Results

Of the 122 tanks that received a check, only 9 (7.4 percent) were found to be out of tolerance. All these then received a full calibration. Of the remaining 136 calibrations, 113 tanks were calibrated as new installations on farms to improve or expand on site milk storage, 12 tanks were calibrated after being moved within the same farm, and 11 tanks were calibrated at a handler request.

Of the tanks that were recalibrated or calibrated, 68 percent were 1,500 gallon tanks or smaller, the same percent as the previous year. The 267 tank checks, calibrations and recalibrations and other support and supply services required a total at least 362 farm visits in 2025. The accompanying chart shows a breakdown of calibrations by tank size.

## Payment Test Verification Program

The Federal Order also requires the Market Administrator to verify or establish the payment tests for the non-member (independent) producers. The verification of tests is a valuable service to producers to assure accurate payments for their milk. In 2025,



the Market Service department tested 14,771 samples of producer milk. Of the samples that were tested, 7 samples (0.05 percent) were determined to be outliers and were removed from any statistical comparisons to handler payment tests. The remaining 14,764 samples were used to verify the accuracy of payment tests.

Additionally, the Market Service department laboratory staff prepared and distributed 18 sets of raw milk control samples to industry labs that conduct producer payment testing. These samples, with their accompanying reference chemistry values submitted by the 8 participating Federal Order laboratories, serve as standards used to set and verify the accuracy of baseline calibrations of infrared milk analyzers used by the industry for payment testing.

In addition to the raw milk control samples, the laboratory prepared and distributed 18 sets of finished product fluid milk control samples to industry labs. The accompanying reference chemistry submitted by the laboratory is used to verify the accuracy of infrared milk analyzers used for fluid milk processing of skim, 1%, 2%, and whole milk.

Along with each new set of control samples distributed to the Northeast Market Area, the laboratory staff routinely analyzed instrument performance of data submitted by 23 industry laboratories. Of these monitored labs, 6 are performing producer payment testing. This routine laboratory monitoring ensures accurate producer testing performance. Additionally, 7 laboratory evaluations were conducted to ensure proper sample handling and testing of producer payment samples. ❖

## US Milk Production

Total milk production in the United States increased in 2025, growing around 5.9 billion pounds; for comparison, in 2024 milk production declined, falling by only 443 million pounds. Milk production in the top ten milk-producing states increased (2.9 percent) when compared to 2024. The accompanying table shows the top ten states ranked by their total 2025 production and comparisons to the selected 24 states total and the 2025 U.S. total for production, cows, and milk production per cow (MPC) as reported by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

### Top Ten Rankings

Compared to 2024, four states in the top ten milk producing states have changed positions. Idaho rose to third place, Texas dropped to fourth, New Mexico moved up to tenth, Iowa moved to ninth, and Washington dropped out of the top ten to number eleven. Idaho reported the largest year-to-year increase in production of the top ten at 7.6 percent on a daily average basis, an increase of 1.2 billion pounds. Milk production percentage changes are measured on a daily average basis to account for the extra day of production in 2024 due to it being a leap year. Texas had the second largest increase from the previous year at 7.2 percent, with a 1.2-billion-pound increase in volume. All but two states in the top ten reported an increase from 2024; Pennsylvania fell 0.2 percent and New Mexico dropped 0.9 percent.

Of the NASS selected 24 states, only four reported decreases from the prior year. Washington reported the largest decline (6.5 percent) of the group, followed by Illinois at 1.7 percent. The largest increase reported by this group was Kansas with 17.5 percent, followed by South Dakota (9.8 percent) and Georgia (8.1 percent). The selected 24 states in total accounted for 96.1 percent of the U.S. total milk production in 2025, up a slight 0.1 percent from the prior year.

The combined total of milk production for New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont was 28.8 billion pounds, an increase of 1.6 percent from 2024 and accounts for 12.4 percent of national milk production.

Top Ten States Ranked by Milk Production, 2025

Rank	State	2024 million pounds	2025 million pounds	Percent Change*	2025	
					Cows 1,000 head	MPC# pounds
1	California	40,288	40,950	1.9	1,712	23,919
2	Wisconsin	32,332	32,588	1.1	1,273	25,599
3	Idaho	17,022	18,258	7.6	714	25,571
4	Texas	17,037	18,207	7.2	696	26,159
5	New York	16,110	16,568	3.1	642	25,807
6	Michigan	12,133	12,546	3.7	453	27,695
7	Minnesota	10,396	10,616	2.4	447	23,749
8	Pennsylvania	9,782	9,737	(0.2)	461	21,121
9	Iowa	6,012	6,053	1.0	244	24,807
10	New Mexico	5,932	5,864	(0.9)	237	24,743
Top Ten Total		167,044	171,387	2.9	6,879	24,914
NASS 24 Total		216,758	222,648	3.0	9,064	24,564
U.S. Total		225,889	231,658	2.8	9,498	24,390

Source: NASS, *Milk Production*.

# Milk Produced per Cow.

\*Adjusted for leap year, daily average

### Cow Numbers and Production per Cow

Nationally, the number of milk cows increased 2.7 percent in 2025. Of the states reported by NASS, 20 states showed an increase in the number of cows. Eleven states reported decreases and the remainder had no change. Of those states with decreasing cow numbers, two were in the top ten states (Pennsylvania and New Mexico). Kansas reported the largest percentage increase (9.2 percent) and grew to almost 206,000 head; South Dakota had the second largest increase (8.9 percent) with 232,000 head. California had 18.0 percent of the 2025 total number of cows in the U.S.; Wisconsin followed with 13.4 percent. The combined total for New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont was up 0.7 percent from 2024 and accounted for 12.8 percent of total milking cows in the US.

Average MPC nationally increased by 742 pounds; Georgia had the greatest increase in MPC at 4.1 percent, followed by Florida at 4.0 percent. Twenty-five of the states reported had a positive change in MPC; five of them were in the top ten. Iowa was the only top ten state that experienced a decrease in MPC of 0.1 percent. The U.S. average milk per cow was 24,917 pounds per head in 2025. ❖



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### Computation of Producer Price Differential and Statistical Uniform Price\*

		<u>Product Pounds</u>	<u>Price per cwt. / lb.</u>	<u>Component Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Class I	Skim Milk	597,752,489	\$15.09	\$90,200,850.59	
	Butterfat	14,827,542	1.4956	22,176,071.82	
Less:	Location Adjustment to Handlers			(4,539,922.92)	\$107,836,999.49
Class II	Butterfat	34,603,019	1.7864	61,814,833.17	
	Nonfat Solids	54,746,044	1.0129	55,452,267.98	117,267,101.15
Class III	Butterfat	32,592,063	1.7794	57,994,316.88	
	Protein	21,432,817	1.9373	41,521,796.35	
	Other Solids	36,247,801	0.4391	15,916,409.43	115,432,522.66
Class IV	Butterfat	15,345,977	1.7794	27,306,631.49	
	Nonfat Solids	25,726,528	1.1220	28,865,164.42	56,171,795.91
<b>Total Classified Value</b>					<b>\$396,708,419.21</b>
Add:	Value for 60(e) through 60(i)				1,979,793.47
	Other Source Receipts	326,426			
<b>Total Pool Value</b>					<b>\$398,688,212.68</b>
Less:	Value of Producer Butterfat	97,368,601	1.7794	(173,257,688.59)	
	Value of Producer Protein	72,337,892	1.9373	(140,140,198.17)	
	Value of Producer Other Solids	122,840,983	0.4391	(53,939,475.68)	(367,337,362.44)
<b>Total PPD Value before Adjustments</b>					<b>\$31,350,850.24</b>
Add:	Location Adjustment to Producers				19,251,936.50
	One-half Unobligated Balance - Producer Settlement Fund				1,074,119.17
Less:	Producer Settlement Fund - Reserve				(1,057,488.12)
<b>Total Pool Milk &amp; PPD Value</b>					<b>\$50,619,417.79</b>
	<b>Producer Price Differential</b>		<b>\$2.37</b>		
	<b>Statistical Uniform Price</b>		<b>\$17.31</b>		