

THE MARKET ADMINISTRATOR'S

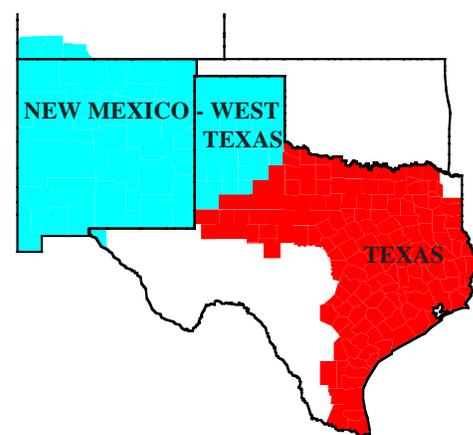
REPORT



TEXAS MARKETING AREA

NEW MEXICO - WEST TEXAS MARKETING AREA

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MARKET SUMMARIES FOR APRIL

The April Class III price decreased \$1.05 from the previous month to \$11.44. The Class II price for April of \$12.76 per hundredweight increased 52 cents from \$12.24 in March. April's Class III-A price decreased 68 cents from March's level to \$12.10.

Texas: Producers who delivered milk to handlers located in Zones 1 and 2 of the Texas Milk Market Order received \$13.61 per hundredweight for deliveries of milk containing 3.5% butterfat. The April price was down 5 cents from March.

Producers delivered a total of 650,840,042 pounds of milk during April. On a daily basis this represents an increase of 5.49 percent from the producer receipts level in March but it represents a decrease of 1.60 percent when compared to the producer receipts level of April 1996.

Producer milk classified as Class I during March amounted to 42.95 percent of total producer receipts. This figure is unchanged from March's 42.94 percent but it is up from 40.42 percent in April 1996. The average butterfat test of producer milk pooled during April 1997 was 3.510 percent.

New Mexico - West Texas: Producers who delivered milk to handlers located in Zone 1 of the New Mexico - West Texas Milk Market Order received \$12.70 per hundredweight for deliveries of milk containing 3.5% butterfat. The April price was down 37 cents from its March level.

Producers delivered a total of 169,943,372 pounds of milk during April. On a daily basis this represents a decrease of 12.86 percent from the producer receipts level in March but it represents an increase of 36.55 percent when compared to the producer receipts level of April 1996.

Producer milk classified as Class I during April

amounted to 31.22 percent of total producer receipts. This figure is up from 26.76 percent in March but it is down from 48.03 percent in April 1996. The average butterfat test of producer milk pooled during April 1997 was 3.525 percent.

NEW CHEESE PRICE SERIES TO REPLACE NCE PRICE

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has announced that a new cheese price series will be used under the federal milk marketing order program to calculate the Basic Formula Price (BFP) beginning June 5. Cheese prices reported on the National Cheese Exchange (NCE) had been used in the calculation of the BFP. The new cheese price series, developed by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is based on a weekly survey of cheese manufacturing plants throughout the country.

NASS began collecting data in early March from cheddar cheese manufacturing plants around the country, covering approximately 80-85 percent of all bulk cheddar cheese sales. NASS intends to publish the new price series on a weekly basis. All bulk sales of 40-lb block cheddar cheese during a week are included in the survey price, thus providing more information than the NCE, in which trades only took place each Friday.

The BFP serves as the basis for establishing minimum prices for milk under the federal milk marketing order program. Because of concerns raised about use of the NCE price in calculating the BFP, USDA sought public comments on whether the NCE price should continue to be used or what alternative prices could replace it. USDA received nearly 800 comments during the comment period, which closed March 31.

With the April 25 closing of the NCE, it became imperative that a replacement cheese price be found. A new cheese price was needed to calculate the BFP for May, which will be announced June 5, and for milk marketing orders that use cheese prices to derive a protein price under component pricing plans.

BFP COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY REPORT SUMMARY

The 1996 Farm Bill mandates that the current 32 Federal milk marketing orders be consolidated into 10 to 14 orders. As part of this consolidation process, the Department is actively reviewing all aspects of Federal orders and is considering possible options for improving the current system. Although not mandated, the Department is considering alternatives to the Basic Formula Price (BFP), which is used to determine Federal order prices for milk used in manufactured products and, with the addition of differentials, to determine Class I and II prices for milk pooled under the Federal orders.

Copies of the *A Preliminary Report on Alternatives to the Basic Formula Price* can be obtained from the Dairy Division, AMS/USDA, Room 2968, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 720-4392. These reports can also be obtained from any Market Administrator office or via the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/ams/dairy.htm> under the "Federal Milk Order Reform" heading.

These reports were drafted by the Agricultural Marketing Service's Dairy Division. The reports contain suggestions, ideas, and initial findings to provide a focal point for developing proposed rules to implement the order consolidation required by the 1996 Farm Bill. Industry and public input on the reports and the submission of ideas or suggestions on any aspect of the regulatory program are requested. We request that all ideas or suggestions be mailed to the Dairy Division at the above address or E-mailed to Milk_Order_Reform@usda.gov by June 1, 1997, although they will be accepted throughout the entire process.

The basic formula price (BFP) is used to determine Federal order prices for milk used in manufactured products and, with the addition of differentials, to determine minimum Class I and II prices for milk pooled under the Federal orders. The current BFP is based on a survey of prices paid for manufacturing grade (Grade B) milk by plants in Minnesota and Wisconsin, updated by month-to-month changes in commodity prices (especially cheese). The continuing decline in the volume of Grade B milk produced in the upper Midwest and nationally is an indication

that, in the near future, the M-W price series may not be statistically reliable as an indicator of the value of milk used in manufactured products.

The BFP Committee has received input provided during a public BFP Forum held in Madison, Wisconsin, and from over 200 written public comments, and conducted a survey of transaction prices for manufactured dairy products. The Committee also has sponsored analysis by a group of university researchers, and conducted extensive study and analysis of its own. The BFP Committee evaluated alternatives to the BFP against the criteria of stability, predictability, simplicity, uniformity, transparency, sound economics and reduced regulation. Options identified by the Committee were grouped into the following categories:

- Economic formulas
- Product price and component formulas
- Futures markets
- California pricing
- Cost of production
- Informal rulemaking
- Competitive pay price
- Pooling differentials only

At this time, the Committee has identified four options for further discussion and debate:

- ◆ A four-class, multiple component pricing plan to price butterfat, protein and lactose used in cheese (Class III), and butterfat and nonfat solids used in butter/powder (Class IV).
- ◆ A three-class, multiple component pricing plan to price protein used in cheese, butterfat used in butter and other nonfat solids used in powder (Class III - one manufacturing use).
- ◆ A product price formula computed from the butter, powder and cheese shares of U.S. production, using seasonal product yields and a California cost-based make-allowance; and
- ◆ A competitive pay price series using a national weighted average price paid for Grade A milk used in manufactured products, updated by a product price formula. The price series would contain an adjuster to attempt to remove the effect of current regulation and to reduce it to a level more comparable to the current BFP.

As a basis for Class I prices, the BFP could be made more stable by using an economic formula or using a moving average of a manufacturing price. Class II prices could be based on components or continue to include a differential from the manufacturing price level.

The BFP Committee is continuing to study and analyze alternatives in response to public comments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Revised Preliminary Report on Order Consolidation

The Revised Preliminary Report on Order Consolidation incorporates information contained in comments received in response to the Preliminary Report on Order Consolidation; and analysis of updated information in response to questions raised about the suggested marketing areas, and where marketing changes had occurred.

The ten marketing areas suggested in the initial preliminary consolidation report, released in early December 1996, have increased to eleven and been modified to some extent (indicated by *):

Northeast - current marketing areas of the New England, New York-New Jersey, and Middle Atlantic Federal milk orders, *plus: contiguous unregulated areas of New Hampshire, Vermont and New York; the western portion of Massachusetts, the Western New York State order area, and Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) Areas 2 and 3 in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Appalachian - current marketing areas of the Carolina and Tennessee Valley Federal milk orders, *plus: the Louisville-Lexington-Evansville (L-L-E) Federal order area (except one county) and 26 currently-unregulated counties in Indiana and Kentucky.

Florida - current marketing areas of the Upper Florida, Tampa Bay, and Southeastern Florida Federal milk orders.

Southeast - current marketing area of the Southeast Federal milk order, plus 1 county from the L-L-E Federal order area, plus 15 currently-unregulated Kentucky counties, *minus 2 currently-unregulated counties in northeast Texas.

Midwest - current marketing areas of the Ohio Valley, Eastern Ohio-Western Pennsylvania, Southern Michigan, and Indiana Federal milk orders, plus Zone 2 of the Michigan Upper Peninsula Federal milk order, and currently-unregulated counties in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio *plus: PMMB Area 6 (in western/central Pennsylvania) and 2 currently-unregulated counties in New York, and *minus the L-L-E order area, 12 counties in Illinois, and unregulated counties in Indiana and Kentucky (suggested for inclusion in the Appalachian area).

Upper-Midwest - current marketing areas of the Chicago Regional, Upper Midwest, Zones I and I(a) of the Michigan Upper Peninsula Federal milk orders, and unregulated portions of Wisconsin, *plus: the Iowa, Eastern South Dakota, and most of the Nebraska-Western Iowa Federal order areas, plus currently-unregulated counties in Iowa and Nebraska.

Central - current marketing areas of the Southern Illinois-Eastern Missouri, Central Illinois, Greater Kansas City, Southwest Plains, and Eastern Colorado Federal milk orders, 10 counties currently in the Nebraska-Western Iowa Federal order area, plus 55 currently-unregulated counties in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Nebraska and Colorado, *plus the 12 counties in the current Southern Illinois-Eastern Missouri area, *minus the Eastern South Dakota, Iowa and most of the Nebraska-Western Iowa Federal order marketing areas.

Southwest - current marketing areas of Texas and New Mexico-West Texas Federal milk orders, *plus: two northeast Texas counties (initially suggested in the Southeast area), and 47 currently-unregulated counties in southwest Texas, and *minus the Central Arizona marketing area.

Arizona-Las Vegas - *an eleventh marketing area composed of the current Central Arizona Federal order area and the Clark County, Nevada, portion of the current Great Basin marketing area, plus eight currently-unregulated Arizona counties.

Western - current marketing areas of the Western Colorado, Southwestern Idaho-Eastern Oregon, and Great Basin Federal milk orders, *minus Clark County, Nevada.

Pacific Northwest - current marketing area of the Pacific Northwest Federal milk order plus 1 currently-unregulated county in Oregon.

The revised preliminary report provides interested persons an opportunity to respond to modifications of the initial Preliminary report prior to the issuance of a proposed rule in late 1997. Responses to the revised report, and any other public input, are requested to be submitted by June 15, 1997.

Copies of the *Revised Preliminary Report on Order Consolidation* can be obtained from the Dairy Division, AMS/USDA, Room 2968, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, (202) 720-4392. These reports can also be obtained from any Market Administrator office or via the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/ams/dairy.htm> under the "Federal Milk Order Reform" heading.

TOP TEN TEXAS COUNTIES a/ – APRIL 1997

County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1996*	County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1996*
1. Erath	171	128,758,241	-3.33	7. Wood	78	17,618,736	-5.81
2. Hopkins	326	68,362,190	-9.72	8. Hamilton	34	16,488,129	-8.71
3. Comanche	60	37,417,242	-2.71	9. Cherokee	42	14,834,346	-10.90
4. Archer	64	21,011,659	+1.50	10. Van Zandt	32	11,498,013	-7.40
5. El Paso	9	20,951,987	+3.09	Ten County Total	869	356,376,860	-5.52 b/
6. Johnson	53	19,436,317	-15.39	Other Counties Total	684	182,882,043	-7.91
				Texas Total	1,553	539,258,903	-6.35

a/ Includes all known Grade "A" milk produced on farms located in Texas.
 b/ Compared to top ten counties for the month in the previous year.
 * February figures are based upon average daily production.

Minimum Prices at 3.5%, for Federal Orders 126 and 138 (Zone 1) Formula Prices (3.5%) and Price Quotations

Month	Class I a/					Class			Uniform a/		B F Diff.	Grade A	Block	Spray
	126	138	Class II	Class III	III-A	126	138		Butter	Cheese		Powder		
	----- Dollars Per Hundred Wt. -----										¢/Point	-----Cents Per Pound-----		
March 1996	15.89	15.08	13.03	12.70	10.32	13.75	12.80	5.4	65.00	138.74	110.08			
April	15.75	14.94	12.89	13.09	10.52	14.06	12.99	5.9	69.57	143.25	110.32			
May	15.86	15.05	13.00	13.77	11.90	14.43	13.82	8.4	89.16	149.25	116.00			
June	16.25	15.44	13.39	13.92	15.12	15.03	14.56	14.1	130.63	149.33	129.75			
July	16.93	16.12	14.07	14.49	16.01	15.78	15.07	15.9	144.87	156.23	132.57			
August	17.08	16.27	14.22	14.94	15.82	16.12	15.37	15.8	145.00	163.58	130.91			
September	17.65	16.84	14.79	15.37	15.85	16.65	15.84	15.6	145.00	169.42	131.90			
October	18.10	17.29	15.24	14.13	14.94	16.79	15.14	13.1	124.45	157.93	131.55			
November	18.53	17.72	15.67	11.61	12.18	16.37	13.43	6.5	71.47	132.45	126.59			
December	17.29	16.48	14.43	11.34	11.75	14.89	12.80	6.8	73.02	123.73	120.55			
Averages 1996 b/	16.79	15.98	13.93	13.39	13.00	15.20	14.03	10.0	99.82	146.63	122.16			
January 1997	14.77	13.96	11.91	11.94	11.50	13.50	12.55	7.8	81.74	127.05	113.94			
February	14.50	13.69	11.64	12.46	12.36	13.42	12.79	10.0	98.46	131.24	114.91			
March	15.10	14.29	12.24	12.49	12.78	13.66	13.07	11.0	105.81	132.34	115.78			
April	15.62	14.81	12.76	11.44	12.10	13.61	12.70	9.4	91.90	123.78	114.40			
May	15.65	14.84	12.79											
June	14.60	13.79	11.74											

a/ Subject to zone and location adjustments. b/ Simple averages

TOP NEW MEXICO COUNTIES a/ – APRIL 1997

County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1996*	County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1996*
1. Chaves	42	124,479,060	+4.52	7. Valencia	13	11,548,677	+5.67
2. Dona Ana	24	68,298,675	+9.11	8. Bernalillo	8	9,569,429	+8.07
3. Roosevelt	31	43,429,096	+8.49	9. Socorro	7	6,647,117	+1.08
4. Curry	8	27,471,896	-6.54				
5. Lea	13	20,889,013	+19.16	Nine County Total	151	329,315,610	+5.49
6. Eddy	5	16,982,647	-1.16	Other Counties Total	6	8,628,087	-2.42
				New Mexico Total	157	337,943,697	+5.27

a/ All known Grade "A" milk produced on farms located in New Mexico.
 b/ Compared to top counties for the month in the previous year.
 * February figures are based upon average daily production.

**POUNDS OF GRADE A MILK MARKETED BY
PRODUCERS LOCATED IN TEXAS BY MONTHS:
JANUARY 1995 THROUGH APRIL 1997, WITH PERCENTAGE COMPARISONS ****

MONTH	1995 POUNDS	Number of Producers	1996 POUNDS	Number of Producers	1997 POUNDS	Number of Producers	PERCENT CHANGE 1996/95*	1997/96
January	544,665,125	1,918	549,914,311	1,786	540,921,813	1,610	+0.96	-1.64
February	519,646,630	1,911	536,326,949	1,773	503,177,566	1,591	-0.35	-2.83
March	579,936,046	1,902	590,936,348	1,745	560,823,025	1,566	+1.90	-5.10
April	560,828,983	1,886	575,799,475	1,738	539,258,903	1,553	+2.67	-6.35
May	552,635,192	1,884	567,120,914	1,714			+2.62	
June	505,013,242	1,864	490,380,980	1,683			-2.90	
July	479,245,070	1,866	454,376,230	1,670			-5.19	
August	448,110,385	1,858	448,420,253	1,652			+0.07	
September	437,779,650	1,844	427,623,846	1,639			-2.32	
October	481,136,358	1,837	466,085,603	1,637			-3.13	
November	480,929,263	1,826	474,250,855	1,636			-1.39	
December	<u>524,145,612</u>	1,800	<u>516,304,359</u>	1,620			<u>-1.50</u>	
Years Total	6,114,071,556		6,098,233,434				-0.26	

*Revised figures

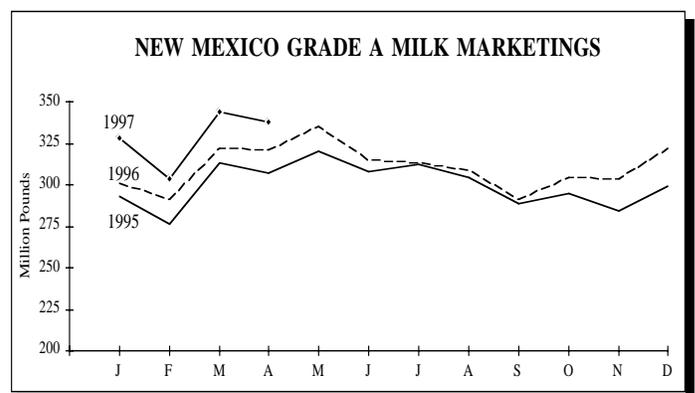
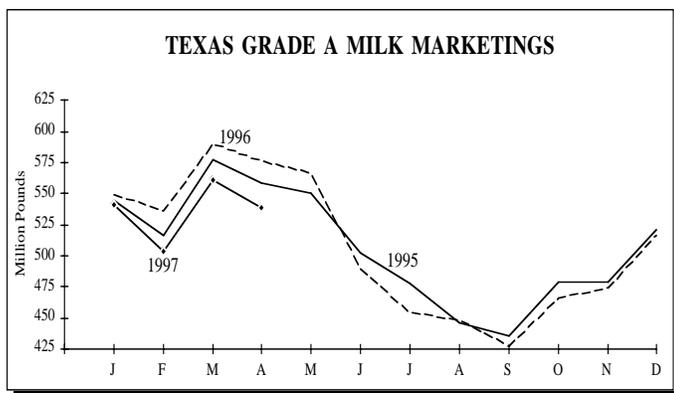
**February figures are based upon average daily production.

**POUNDS OF GRADE A MILK MARKETED BY
PRODUCERS LOCATED IN NEW MEXICO BY MONTHS:
JANUARY 1995 THROUGH APRIL 1997, WITH PERCENTAGE COMPARISONS ****

MONTH	1995 POUNDS	Number of Producers	1996 POUNDS	Number of Producers	1997 POUNDS	Number of Producers	PERCENT CHANGE 1996/95*	1997/96
January	293,542,014	156	301,646,087	153	328,059,604	156	+2.76	+8.76
February	276,638,548	155	291,741,013	154	303,972,265	156	+1.82	+7.91
March	313,161,171	152	321,854,914	154	343,866,862	157	+2.78	+6.84
April	307,337,393	152	321,032,089	153	337,943,697	157	+4.46	+5.27
May	320,781,400	154	335,537,514	153			+4.60	
June	309,224,349	153	314,856,503	153			+1.82	
July	312,630,262	153	313,553,863	154			+0.30	
August	304,582,850	153	309,399,050	155			+1.58	
September	288,872,854	156	293,390,938	157			+1.56*	
October	294,564,685	154	307,608,027	156			+4.43*	
November	284,775,780	155	303,433,595	157			+6.55	
December	<u>299,367,034</u>	153	<u>322,470,035</u>	157			<u>+7.72</u>	
Years Total	3,605,478,340		3,736,523,628				+3.63	

*Revised figures

**February figures are based upon average daily production.



TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO MARKET COMPONENT TEST

Month	Butterfat		Protein		Lactose		S-N-F		SCC*	
	TX	NM	TX	NM	TX	NM	TX	NM	TX	NM
April 1996	3.57	3.57	3.17	3.11	4.82	4.83	8.68	8.65	287	205
May	3.47	3.46	3.11	3.06	4.81	4.82	8.63	8.58	288	203
June	3.41	3.40	3.07	3.03	4.79	4.81	8.57	8.55	343	224
July	3.43	3.40	3.12	3.04	4.75	4.78	8.58	8.52	429	259
August	3.50	3.44	3.20	3.10	4.71	4.75	8.59	8.55	446	272
September	3.60	3.54	3.24	3.17	4.70	4.76	8.64	8.65	455	271
October	3.65	3.58	3.29	3.23	4.72	4.77	8.72	8.70	377	238
November	3.67	3.60	3.29	3.28	4.75	4.78	8.75	8.78	378	224
December	3.66	3.58	3.27	3.25	4.77	4.80	8.75	8.77	378	223
Average 1996	3.58	3.55	3.19	3.14	4.77	4.80	8.67	8.65	358	234
January 1997	3.67	3.62	3.25	3.23	4.79	4.80	8.75	8.74	373	257
February	3.64	3.59	3.24	3.21	4.79	4.81	8.73	8.73	397	280
March	3.57	3.54	3.20	3.16	4.79	4.81	8.70	8.68	400	271
April	3.52	3.50	3.21	3.15	4.79	4.82	8.71	8.69	378	251

* In thousands.

NEW MEXICO - WEST TEXAS MILK MARKET AT A GLANCE

	REPORTED APR. 1997	REPORTED MAR. 1997	REPORTED APR. 1996
TOTAL UTILIZATION			
CLASS I	54,541,227	55,660,088	60,480,828
CLASS II	6,631,857	6,600,208	10,433,696
CLASS III/III-A	149,249,730	167,122,186	93,123,947
CLOSING INVENTORY (CLASS I, II AND III)	11,886,050	11,065,207	9,837,179
TOTAL UTILIZATION	222,308,864	240,447,689	173,875,650
DAILY CLASS I UTILIZATION	1,818,041	1,795,487	2,016,028
APR. -DAILY CLASS I COMPARED TO:		+1.26%	-9.82%
CLASS I YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	222,883	168,342	238,273
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	-6.46%	-5.32%	+1.87%
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	53,056,327	53,925,742	59,777,913
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS II	5,467,523	5,729,528	8,449,026
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS III/III-A	111,419,522	141,866,591	56,224,929
TOTAL PRODUCER RECEIPTS	169,943,372	201,521,861	124,451,868
OTHER SOURCE A/	41,351,004	32,213,494	35,180,721
OPENING INVENTORY	11,014,147	6,712,334	14,242,141
OVERAGE	341		920
TOTAL RECEIPTS	222,308,864	240,447,689	173,875,650
DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS	5,664,779	6,500,705	4,148,396
APR. -DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS COMPARED TO:		-12.86%	+36.55%
PRODUCER RECEIPTS YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	809,165	639,221	640,352
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	+26.36%	+23.90%	-2.17%
AVERAGE BUTTERFAT TEST OF PRODUCER RECEIPTS	3.525%	3.548%	3.589%
% PRODUCER MILK CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	31.22%	26.76%	48.03%
NUMBER OF PRODUCERS	159	174	269
AVERAGE DAILY DELIVERY PER PRODUCER	35,628	37,360	15,422
NUMBER OF POOL HANDLERS	17	16	14

A/ INCLUDES MILK, SKIM MILK, CREAM AND SKIM EQUIVALENT OF CONCENTRATED SKIM MILK PRODUCTS

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TEXAS MILK MARKET AT A GLANCE

	REPORTED <u>APR. 1997</u>	REPORTED <u>MAR. 1997</u>	REPORTED <u>APR. 1996</u>
TOTAL UTILIZATION			
CLASS I	282,419,617	275,679,322	267,966,034
CLASS II	112,627,479	110,413,342	107,129,949
CLASS III/III-A	283,499,807	257,320,190	308,647,562
CLOSING INVENTORY (CLASS I, II AND III)	30,085,090	38,361,374	31,175,805
TOTAL UTILIZATION	708,631,993	681,774,228	714,919,350
DAILY CLASS I UTILIZATION	9,413,987	8,892,881	8,932,201
APR. -DAILY CLASS I COMPARED TO:		+5.86%	+5.39%
CLASS I YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	1,126,735	844,316	1,076,548
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	+4.66%	+4.42%	+1.04%
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	279,543,929	273,749,107	267,376,505
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS II	99,786,368	100,884,486	96,558,381
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS III/III-A	271,509,745	262,921,286	297,493,111
TOTAL PRODUCER RECEIPTS	650,840,042	637,554,879	661,427,997
OTHER SOURCE A/	19,424,837	18,025,865	20,370,173
OPENING INVENTORY	38,361,374	26,192,823	33,116,547
OVERAGE	5,740	661	4,633
TOTAL RECEIPTS	708,631,993	681,774,228	714,919,350
DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS	21,694,668	20,566,286	22,047,600
APR. -DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS COMPARED TO:		+5.49%	-1.60%
PRODUCER RECEIPTS YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	2,354,425	1,703,585	2,499,985
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	-5.82%	-7.34%	+10.34%
AVERAGE BUTTERFAT TEST OF PRODUCER RECEIPTS	3.510%	3.566%	3.566%
% PRODUCER MILK CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	42.95%	42.94%	40.42%
NUMBER OF PRODUCERS	1,819	1,805	1,775
AVERAGE DAILY DELIVERY PER PRODUCER	11,927	11,394	12,421
NUMBER OF POOL HANDLERS	32	32	32

A/ INCLUDES MILK, SKIM MILK, CREAM AND SKIM EQUIVALENT OF CONCENTRATED SKIM MILK PRODUCTS.