

THE MARKET ADMINISTRATOR'S

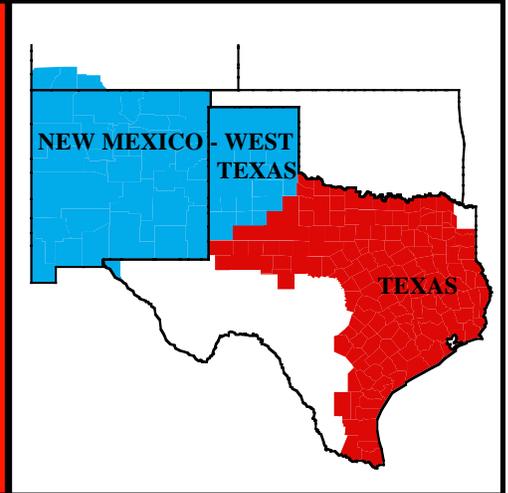
REPORT



TEXAS MARKETING AREA

NEW MEXICO - WEST TEXAS MARKETING AREA

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MARKET SUMMARIES FOR MARCH

The March Class III price decreased 51 cents from the previous month to \$12.81. The Class II price for March of \$13.55 per hundredweight decreased 4 cents from \$13.59 in February. March's Class III-A price decreased 22 cents from February's level to \$12.67.

Texas: Producers who delivered milk to handlers located in Zones 1 and 2 of the Texas Milk Market Order received \$14.62 per hundredweight for deliveries of milk containing 3.5% butterfat. The March price was down 38 cents from February.

Producers delivered a total of 622,740,338 pounds of milk during March. On a daily basis this represents an increase of 13.19 percent from the producer receipts level in February but it represents a decrease of 2.32 percent when compared to the producer receipts level of March 1997.

Producer milk classified as Class I during March amounted to 43.50 percent of total producer receipts. This figure is down from February's 50.42 percent but it is up from 42.94 percent in March 1997. The average butterfat test of producer milk pooled during March 1998 was 3.626 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 \$13.67 per hundredweight for deliveries of milk containing 3.5% butterfat. The March price was down 21 cents from its February level.

Producers delivered a total of 198,805,637 pounds of milk during March. On a daily basis this represents a decrease of 13.48 percent from the producer receipts level in February and it represents a decrease of 1.35 percent when compared to the producer receipts level of March 1997.

Producer milk classified as Class I during March

amounted to 28.36 percent of total producer receipts. This figure is up from 24.05 percent in February and it is up from 26.76 percent in March 1997. The average butterfat test of producer milk pooled during March 1998 was 3.622 percent.

TOP 20 US COUNTIES - NUMBER OF COWS

Rank	County	Milk Cows No.	Milk Production Mil. lbs.
1	Tulare, CA	276,600	5,315
2	San Bernardino, CA	155,700	3,275
3	Merced, CA	154,600	3,216
4	Stanislaus, CA	132,400	2,804
5	Riverside, CA	111,100	2,337
6	Maricopa, AZ	107,000	2,149
7	Kings, CA	99,100	2,074
8	Lancaster, PA	96,000	1,786
9	Erath, TX	93,300	1,466
10	San Joaquin, CA	81,900	1,716
11	Fresno, CA	70,800	1,471
12	Chaves, NM	70,000	1,365
13	Whatcom, WA	67,000	1,340
14	Yakima, WA	66,000	1,320
15	Stearns, MN	64,300	1,045
16	Marathon, WI	62,000	961
17	Clark, WI	62,000	955
18	Gooding, ID	60,500	1,119
19	Jerome, ID	58,000	1,073
20	Grant, WI	56,000	857

Source: NASS, USDA, 1997

FEDERAL ORDER MAILBOX MILK PRICES ANNUAL AVERAGES 1995-1997, WITH COMPARISONS <u>1/</u>					
Federal Milk Order <u>2/</u>	Annual Averages <u>3/</u>			1997 Compared to:	
	1995	1996	1997	1996	1995
	Dollars per cwt.				
New England <u>4/</u>	12.05	14.22	13.20	-1.02	1.15
New York-New Jersey	12.16	14.18	12.75	-1.43	0.59
Middle Atlantic	12.25	14.37	12.94	-1.43	0.69
Northeast Average <u>3/</u>	12.16	14.24	12.91	-1.33	0.75
Carolina	12.85	15.92	14.34	-1.58	1.49
Tennessee Valley <u>5/</u>	12.50	15.25	---	---	---
Southeast	12.65	15.05	13.56	-1.49	0.91
Florida	14.13	17.26	15.89	-1.37	1.76
Southeast Average <u>3/</u>	13.12	15.78	14.37	-1.41	1.25
Southern Michigan	12.09	14.20	12.93	-1.27	0.84
E. Ohio - Western Pa.	12.27	14.39	12.92	-1.47	0.65
Ohio Valley	12.18	14.52	12.99	-1.53	0.81
Indiana	12.10	14.37	13.08	-1.29	0.98
Chicago Regional	12.37	14.36	13.21	-1.15	0.84
S. Illinois-E. Missouri	11.70	13.99	12.71	-1.28	1.01
Louis.-Lex.-Evans.	12.25	14.71	13.29	-1.42	1.04
Upper Midwest	12.18	14.19	12.92	-1.27	0.74
Nebraska-W. Iowa	11.85	13.94	12.73	-1.21	0.88
Iowa	12.22	14.20	12.95	-1.25	0.73
Midwest Average <u>3/</u>	12.20	14.29	13.04	-1.25	0.84
Texas	11.98	14.03	12.82	-1.21	0.84
Southwest Plains	11.50	13.63	12.28	-1.35	0.78
Eastern Colorado	12.07	13.96	12.23	-1.73	0.16
S.W. Idaho- E. Oregon	11.52	13.32	11.64	-1.68	0.12
Great Basin	11.40	13.30	11.68	-1.62	0.28
New Mexico-W. Texas	10.63	12.98	12.01	-0.97	1.38
Pacific Northwest	11.37	13.54	12.36	-1.18	0.99
West Average <u>3/</u>	11.56	13.61	12.29	-1.32	0.73
All Market Average <u>3/</u>	12.13	14.28	12.99	-1.29	0.86

1/ Net pay price received by dairy farmers marketing milk to handlers regulated under the Federal milk orders. Includes all payments received for milk sold and all costs associated with marketing the milk. Price is reported at the market average butterfat test. 2/ Federal milk orders for which information could be released. 3/ All averages are weighted using the proportion of monthly producer deliveries marketed under the respective order or group of orders for which the price is reported. 4/ Includes Northeast Dairy Compact Over Order Producer Price. 5/ This order was terminated 10/1/97.

TOP TEN TEXAS COUNTIES a/ – MARCH 1998

County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1997	County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1997
1. Erath	153	129,939,299	-1.63	7. Johnson	45	18,911,198	-4.77
2. Hopkins	270	61,659,094	-12.37	8. Hamilton	30	17,405,017	-3.14
3. Comanche	49	39,155,190	-.18	9. Cherokee	31	13,863,247	-13.09
4. El Paso	9	23,538,116	+7.29	10. Van Zandt	26	11,938,140	-.63
5. Archer	62	21,671,362	-1.27	Ten County Total	750	357,707,564	-3.09 b/
6. Wood	75	19,626,901	+4.22	Other Counties Total	587	172,907,849	-9.81
				Texas Total	1,337	530,615,413	-5.39

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.

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

Month	Dollars Per Hundred Wt. -----					B F Diff.	Cents Per Pound-----				
	Class I a/ 126	138	Class II	Class III	Class III-A		Uniform a/ 126	138	Grade A Butter	Block Cheese	Spray Powder
February 1997	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	10.70	11.56	13.32	12.48	9.0	87.40	116.64	109.83
June	14.60	13.79	11.74	10.74	12.22	12.89	11.90	11.4	105.00	115.83	107.88
July	13.86	13.05	11.00	10.86	12.06	12.73	11.72	11.0	101.84	117.67	107.65
August	13.90	13.09	11.04	12.07	11.88	13.03	12.42	10.6	101.32	130.24	107.18
September	14.02	13.21	11.16	12.79	11.87	13.18	12.95	10.6	103.37	137.82	107.11
October	15.23	14.42	12.37	12.83	13.50	14.21	13.56	15.3	137.35	138.35	106.91
November	15.95	15.14	13.09	12.96	14.01	14.70	13.73	16.7	148.42	138.52	107.13
December	15.99	15.18	13.13	13.29	12.46	14.80	13.81	12.2	116.97	141.63	107.40
Averages 1997	14.93	14.12	12.07	12.05	12.36	13.59	12.81	11.3	106.63	129.26	110.01
January 1998	16.12	15.31	13.26	13.25	12.04	14.97	13.68	11.4	110.61	141.65	105.93
February	16.45	15.64	13.59	13.32	12.89	15.00	13.88	14.0	129.63	141.63	105.21
March	16.41	15.60	13.55	12.81	12.67	14.62	13.67	13.5	125.05	137.93	104.67
April	16.48	15.67	13.62								
May	15.97	15.16	13.11								

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

TOP NEW MEXICO COUNTIES a/ – MARCH 1998

County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1997	County	Number of Producers	Pounds	% Change From 1997
1. Chaves	44	127,725,260	+1.52	7. Valencia	12	11,305,114	-4.25
2. Dona Ana	23	67,815,775	-3.24	8. Bernalillo	8	9,649,944	-.62
3. Roosevelt	28	43,642,198	-1.82	9. Socorro	7	7,376,557	+4.35
4. Curry	11	40,725,482	+45.26				
5. Lea	13	27,072,372	+30.97	Nine County Total	152	358,045,652	+6.89
6. Eddy	6	22,732,950	+31.33	Other Counties Total	5	8,611,127	-3.36
				New Mexico Total	157	366,656,779	+6.63

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.

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
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
May	3.48	3.38	3.19	3.11	4.79	4.82	8.69	8.63	387	250
June	3.46	3.33	3.16	3.08	4.77	4.81	8.64	8.60	436	264
July	3.44	3.33	3.14	3.06	4.74	4.80	8.59	8.57	460	277
August	3.42	3.37	3.17	3.07	4.70	4.78	8.58	8.56	484	301
September	3.50	3.41	3.21	3.13	4.74	4.80	8.65	8.64	443	291
October	3.62	3.53	3.28	3.23	4.75	4.81	8.75	8.75	410	256
November	3.78	3.67	3.32	3.27	4.74	4.78	8.76	8.76	366	238
December	3.80	3.74	3.30	3.28	4.80	4.81	8.80	8.81	378	290
Average 1997	3.58	3.50	3.22	3.17	4.77	4.80	8.70	8.68	409	269
January 1998	3.74	3.75	3.25	3.24	4.80	4.80	8.76	8.76	409	408
February	3.66	3.63	3.22	3.21	4.81	4.82	8.74	8.75	379	325
March	3.64	3.60	3.24	3.20	4.82	4.82	8.75	8.74	372	305

* In thousands.

NEW MEXICO - WEST TEXAS MILK MARKET AT A GLANCE

	REPORTED MAR. 1998	REPORTED FEB. 1998	REPORTED MAR. 1997
TOTAL UTILIZATION			
CLASS I	57,961,003	51,298,906	55,660,088
CLASS II	7,659,725	5,762,928	6,600,208
CLASS III/III-A	169,398,175	157,824,567	167,122,186
CLOSING INVENTORY (CLASS I, II AND III)	11,442,199	11,631,529	11,065,207
TOTAL UTILIZATION	246,461,102	226,517,930	240,447,689
DAILY CLASS I UTILIZATION	1,869,710	1,832,104	1,795,487
MAR. -DAILY CLASS I COMPARED TO:		+ 2.05%	+ 4.13%
CLASS I YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	166,344	108,383	168,342
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	- 1.19%	- 3.82%	- 5.32%
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	56,383,187	49,906,308	53,925,742
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS II	6,533,455	4,817,754	5,729,528
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS III/III-A	135,888,995	152,823,376	141,866,591
TOTAL PRODUCER RECEIPTS	198,805,637	207,547,438	201,521,861
OTHER SOURCE A/	36,025,436	8,261,842	32,213,494
OPENING INVENTORY	11,630,029	10,516,497	6,712,334
OVERAGE		192,153	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	246,461,102	226,517,930	240,447,689
DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS	6,413,085	7,412,409	6,500,705
MAR. -DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS COMPARED TO:		- 13.48%	- 1.35%
PRODUCER RECEIPTS YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	616,987	418,182	639,221
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	- 3.48%	- 4.46%	+ 23.90%
AVERAGE BUTTERFAT TEST OF PRODUCER RECEIPTS	3.622%	3.640%	3.548%
% PRODUCER MILK CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	28.36%	24.05%	26.76%
NUMBER OF PRODUCERS	181	135	174
AVERAGE DAILY DELIVERY PER PRODUCER	35,431	54,907	37,360
NUMBER OF POOL HANDLERS	14	17	16

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

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REPORT

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NEW MEXICO - WEST TEXAS MARKETING AREA
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TEXAS MILK MARKET AT A GLANCE

	<u>REPORTED</u> <u>MAR. 1998</u>	<u>REPORTED</u> <u>FEB. 1998</u>	<u>REPORTED</u> <u>MAR. 1997</u>
TOTAL UTILIZATION			
CLASS I	270,955,712	251,513,691	275,679,322
CLASS II	123,178,281	100,066,762	110,413,342
CLASS III/III-A	246,321,202	164,764,965	257,320,190
CLOSING INVENTORY (CLASS I, II AND III)	31,995,717	28,166,454	38,361,374
TOTAL UTILIZATION	672,450,912	544,511,872	681,774,228
DAILY CLASS I UTILIZATION	8,740,507	8,982,632	8,892,881
MAR.-DAILY CLASS I COMPARED TO:		- 2.70%	- 1.71%
CLASS I YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	807,171	536,216	844,316
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	- 4.40%	- 5.70%	+ 4.42%
TOTAL RECEIPTS			
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	270,866,859	250,561,831	273,749,107
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS II	115,869,120	91,440,871	100,884,486
PRODUCER RECEIPTS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS III/III-A	236,004,359	154,937,837	262,921,286
TOTAL PRODUCER RECEIPTS	622,740,338	496,940,539	637,554,879
OTHER SOURCE A/	21,534,475	18,875,614	18,025,865
OPENING INVENTORY	28,176,098	28,695,719	26,192,823
OVERAGE	1		661
TOTAL RECEIPTS	672,450,912	544,511,872	681,774,228
DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS	20,088,398	17,747,876	20,566,286
MAR.-DAILY PRODUCER RECEIPTS COMPARED TO:		+ 13.19%	- 2.32%
PRODUCER RECEIPTS YEAR TO DATE (IN THOUSANDS)	1,610,638	987,898	1,703,585
% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	- 5.46%	- 7.33%	- 7.34%
AVERAGE BUTTERFAT TEST OF PRODUCER RECEIPTS	3.626%	3.650%	3.566%
% PRODUCER MILK CLASSIFIED AS CLASS I	43.50%	50.42%	42.94%
NUMBER OF PRODUCERS	1,496	1,512	1,805
AVERAGE DAILY DELIVERY PER PRODUCER	13,428	11,738	11,394
NUMBER OF POOL HANDLERS	32	33	32

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