

April Milk Prices

Wisconsin farmers received an average price of \$17.70 per hundredweight (cwt.) for their milk in April 2015. This was up 10 cents per cwt. from March and is the first month-to-month price increase since last September.

The U.S. milk price for April was \$16.50 per cwt, \$1.20 lower than Wisconsin's price and 10 cents lower than the March U.S. price. Fourteen of the 23 major milk producing states had a price decrease from March to April, 6 states had an increase, and 3 states, Colorado, Michigan and Utah, were unchanged. California had the greatest decrease, down 40 cents to \$14.52 per cwt, the lowest price in the nation.

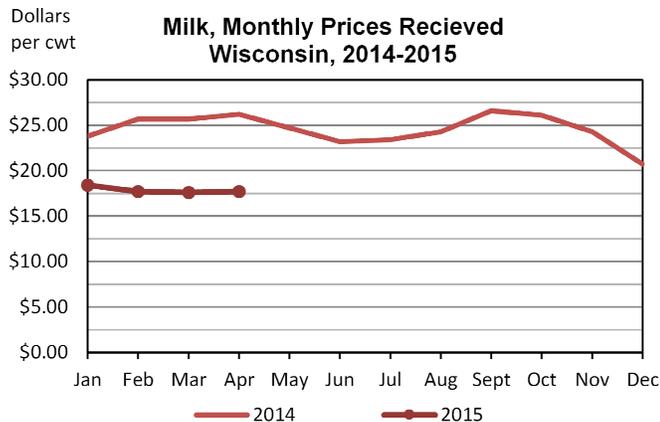
The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) 40-pound block cheese price closed at \$1.6800 per pound on May 28, while barrels were \$1.6500 per pound. The CME butter price was \$1.9025 per pound.

For the week ending May 23, 2015, the Agricultural Marketing Service U.S. weekly 40-pound block cheese price averaged \$1.6354 per pound, and 500 pound barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.6713 per pound. The U.S. butter price was \$1.9672 per pound.

Milk Prices¹

Selected states	April 2014		March 2015		April 2015	
	Price per cwt.	Fat test	Price per cwt.	Fat test	Price per cwt.	Fat test
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Milk for all uses						
CA	23.41	3.66	14.92	3.70	14.52	3.66
ID	24.50	3.74	16.40	3.81	16.50	3.76
MI	25.40	3.69	16.20	3.78	16.20	3.65
MN	26.60	3.88	17.10	3.89	17.40	3.83
NM	23.40	3.50	15.70	3.62	15.50	3.52
NY	26.60	3.77	17.60	3.87	17.50	3.78
PA	26.90	3.73	17.70	3.80	17.60	3.71
TX	26.20	3.79	17.20	3.93	16.90	3.82
WI	26.20	3.76	17.60	3.81	17.70	3.76
US	25.30	3.71	16.60	3.78	16.50	3.72

1/ Before deduction for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.



June 4, 2015 - Vol. 15, No. 11

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This Farm Reporter contains the results from the following surveys. Thanks for your help!

Farm Labor Survey
Prices Received Report
Monthly Dairy Products
Layer & Egg Report

Dairy Products, Production by Selected States and U. S.

Item and area	April 2014	March 2015	April 2015	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
CHEESE				
American Cheddar	380,371	390,309	388,982	+2.3
California	35,183	29,777	30,625	-13.0
Idaho	34,536	39,725	38,991	+12.9
Minnesota	47,712	44,897	44,008	-7.8
Wisconsin	47,851	53,323	52,600	+9.9
United States	285,763	281,825	280,539	-1.8
Blue & Gorgonzola	8,328	8,075	7,790	-6.5
Brick & Muenster	13,698	14,535	14,889	+8.7
Cream & Neufchatel	71,431	66,074	64,660	-9.5
Feta	9,681	9,839	11,503	+18.8
Gouda	2,576	6,475	5,034	+95.4
Hispanic	19,713	22,816	20,836	+5.7
Mozzarella				
California	123,215	122,372	119,865	-2.7
Wisconsin	83,482	88,244	87,300	+4.6
United States	332,063	339,697	336,221	+1.3
Parmesan	24,830	30,695	30,021	+20.9
Provolone	30,528	31,324	32,003	+4.8
Ricotta	19,807	23,456	17,578	-11.3
Romano	3,822	3,913	4,780	+25.1
Other Italian types	6,175	7,547	7,075	+14.6
Total Italian				
California	132,518	134,229	131,516	-0.8
Wisconsin	123,503	129,610	126,870	+2.7
United States	417,225	436,632	427,678	+2.5
Swiss	25,549	26,623	26,174	+2.4
All other cheese	12,530	14,809	11,577	-7.6
Total cheese				
California	206,406	211,593	204,008	-1.2
Idaho	69,821	82,206	77,743	+11.3
New Mexico	64,143	65,938	64,537	+0.6
New York	64,361	68,764	60,680	-5.7
Wisconsin	246,378	258,989	255,866	+3.9
United States	961,102	996,187	979,123	+1.9

Chickens & Eggs

Wisconsin Egg production during April 2015 was 120 million eggs, down 7 percent from last month, but up 2 percent from last year. The average number of **all layers on hand during April 2015** was 5.15 million, down 4 percent from the March, but up 3 percent from last year. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of April were 2,328, down 3 percent from March, and down 1 percent from last year.

In April, avian influenza affected a number of Wisconsin flocks. Losses resulting from the disease are reflected in these estimates. The June 22nd *Chicken and Egg* report will reflect average inventory for the month of May. Additional information about the current avian influenza situation in the United States is available at www.usda.gov/avian_influenza.html.

United States egg production totaled 8.21 billion during April 2015, up slightly from last year. Production included 7.11 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 87 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2015 averaged 358 million, down 1 percent from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,291 eggs, up 1 percent from April 2014.

All layers in the United States on May 1, 2015 totaled 354 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 354 million layers consisted of 296 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.38 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2015, averaged 75.8 eggs per 100 layers, unchanged from May 1, 2014.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2015 totaled 49.6 million, up 9 percent from April 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 48.0 million on May 1, 2015, up 1 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 219 thousand during April 2015, down 10 percent from April 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2015 totaled 773 million, up 3 percent from April 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 654 million on May 1, 2015, up 2 percent from a year ago. Leading breeders placed 7.09 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2015, up 6 percent from April 2014.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During April 2014 and 2015

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 & above		All layers on hand		Eggs per 100 layers		Total egg production		Table egg production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)		(eggs)		million eggs		million eggs)	
Alabama	1,470	1,415	9,434	9,551	1,855	1,864	175	178	36	34
Arkansas	3,613	3,719	11,962	13,083	2,006	2,048	240	268	88	95
California	16,335	12,733	16,764	13,226	2,309	2,351	387	311	(D)	(D)
Colorado	4,410	4,172	4,783	4,621	2,530	2,316	121	107	(D)	(D)
Connecticut ¹	2,296	(NA)	2,390	(NA)	2,343	(NA)	56	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Florida	8,106	8,688	8,488	9,052	2,344	2,254	199	204	194	200
Georgia	9,655	9,785	18,474	18,860	2,127	2,089	393	394	231	225
Illinois	4,414	4,403	4,882	4,862	2,417	2,283	118	111	113	107
Indiana	26,300	25,204	27,258	26,119	2,374	2,324	647	607	630	590
Iowa	58,019	54,876	59,206	56,105	2,297	2,319	1,360	1,301	1,343	1,282
Maine ¹	3,476	(NA)	3,531	(NA)	2,351	(NA)	83	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Maryland	2,658	2,278	2,829	2,441	2,298	2,376	65	58	64	57
Michigan	12,885	12,457	13,123	12,710	2,484	2,478	326	315	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	10,258	11,175	10,696	11,629	2,291	2,408	245	280	240	274
Mississippi	1,530	1,516	5,805	5,738	1,964	2,022	114	116	36	37
Missouri	6,414	6,630	8,681	8,850	2,292	2,316	199	205	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	9,351	9,353	9,459	9,461	2,442	2,473	231	234	231	234
New York	4,655	4,528	5,014	4,889	2,413	2,454	121	120	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	5,744	6,417	13,289	14,162	2,032	2,125	270	301	139	162
Ohio	29,851	30,826	30,717	31,687	2,315	2,345	711	743	(D)	(D)
Oregon	2,178	2,199	2,317	2,338	2,546	2,524	59	59	59	59
Pennsylvania	23,240	23,559	25,114	25,567	2,429	2,542	610	650	583	620
South Carolina	2,993	3,089	4,254	4,417	2,163	2,151	92	95	71	72
South Dakota	2,550	2,518	2,692	2,660	2,192	2,444	59	65	59	65
Texas	14,658	14,845	18,750	18,892	2,229	2,213	418	418	(D)	(D)
Utah	3,944	4,111	3,982	4,149	2,310	2,314	92	96	92	96
Virginia	1,250	1,269	3,048	3,123	2,100	1,921	64	60	32	28
Washington	6,802	6,881	6,967	7,046	2,297	2,455	160	173	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	4,254	4,375	5,027	5,154	2,347	2,328	118	120	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	12,944	18,928	21,890	28,063	2,156	2,220	472	623	342	488
United States ³	296,253	291,949	360,826	358,455	2,274	2,291	8,205	8,212	7,160	7,114

(NA) Not available. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. 1 Included in Other States in 2015. 2 Includes data for states not published in this table. 3 Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals.]

Farm Labor

There were 47,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of April 12-18, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.43 per hour, up \$0.20 from April 2014. This marks the second highest wage rate for the April reference week, \$0.25 below the 2012 rate, since estimates began in 1989. The number of hours worked averaged 37.1 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.9 hours in April 2014.

During the reference week of January 11-17, 2015, there were 36,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.) Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.87 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, up \$0.35 from January 2014. This marks the second highest wage rate for the January reference week, \$0.12 below the 2012 rate, since estimates began in 1989. The number of hours worked averaged 36.5 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.1 hours in January 2014.

There were 687,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2015, down less than 1 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 549,000 during the week of January 11-17, 2015, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.27 per hour during the April 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.34 per hour, an increase of 3 percent. Livestock workers earned \$11.58 per hour, up 2 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.42 per hour, was up 3 percent from the 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.9 hours during the April 2015 reference week, compared with 40.1 hours worked during the April 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.53 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.40 per hour, up 3 percent,

while livestock workers earned \$11.69 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.52 per hour, was up 3 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.2 hours during the January 2015 reference week, compared with 38.9 hours worked during the January 2014 reference week.

For the April 2015 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The Mountain III region saw the largest increase, with 38 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in Florida, Hawaii, and the Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) region. Florida saw the biggest decline, with workers down 22 percent from the 2014 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. January Reference Week

For the January 2015 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the January 2014 reference week occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The Cornbelt II region saw the largest increase, with 62 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in Hawaii, and the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. The Delta region saw the biggest decline, employing 23 percent less workers during the 2015 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II, and Delta regions.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region and United States: 2014-2015

		Lake Region ¹			United States		
		April 2014	January 2015	April 2015	April 2014	January 2015	April 2015
Hired Workers on Farms	1,000 workers	53	36	47	690	549	687
Hours worked by Hired Workers	hrs/wk	36.9	36.5	37.1	40.1	39.2	39.9
Wage Rate by Work Type ²							
Field	\$/hr	11.42	12.50	11.24	11.02	11.40	11.34
Livestock	\$/hr	11.57	11.86	12.03	11.35	11.69	11.58
Field & Livestock	\$/hr	11.50	12.00	11.68	11.12	11.52	11.42
All Hired Workers	\$/hr	12.23	12.87	12.43	12.01	12.53	12.27

1 The Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. 2 Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Prices Received by Farmers

The April 2015 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Wisconsin was \$3.73 per bushel. This was up \$0.01 from the March price but \$0.82 less than April 2014.

The April **soybean** price, at \$9.64 per bushel, was down \$0.08 from March and down \$4.36 from the previous April.

The April **oat** price was \$2.99 per bushel, down \$0.30 from the March price and \$1.73 below April 2014.

All hay prices in Wisconsin averaged \$113.00 per ton in April, down \$3.00 from March, and \$42.00 less than April 2014. The **alfalfa hay** price averaged \$124.00 per ton in April, \$1.00 down from March and down \$46.00 from the previous April. The **other hay** price averaged \$79.00, \$9.00 down from March and a decrease of \$29.00 from last year.

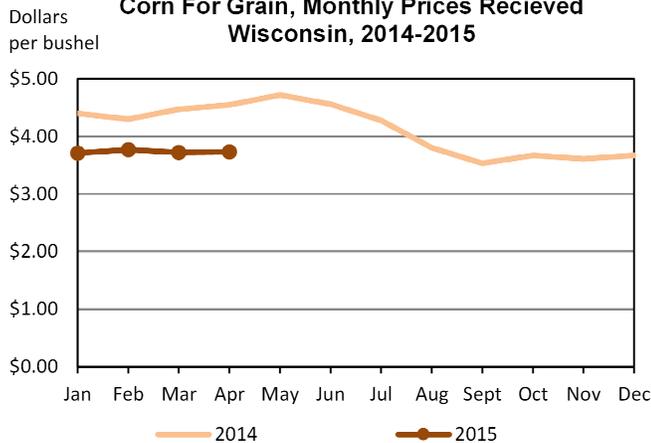
The April average price was \$17.70 per cwt for **milk**, up \$0.10 from March but down \$8.50 from a year ago.

Prices Received by Farmers

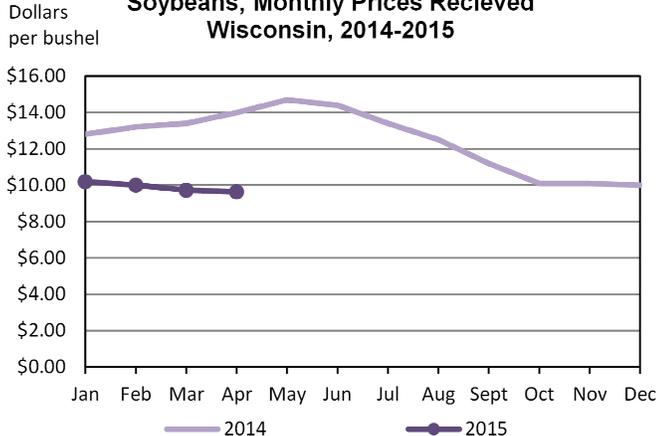
<u>WISCONSIN</u>		April 2014	March 2015	April 2015
Dollars				
Corn	bu	4.55	3.72	3.73
Hay, all baled	ton	155.00	116.00	113.00
Alfalfa	ton	170.00	125.00	124.00
Other	ton	108.00	88.00	79.00
Oats	bu	4.72	3.29	2.99
Potatoes, all ¹	cwt	10.20	10.80	11.60
Fresh ²	cwt	11.00	9.90	10.60
Processing	cwt	9.10	8.90	9.55
Soybeans	bu	14.00	9.72	9.64
Milk, all	cwt	26.20	17.60	17.70
<u>UNITED STATES</u>		April 2014	March 2015	April 2015
Dollars				
Corn	bu	4.71	3.81	3.75
Hay, all baled	ton	188.00	160.00	173.00
Alfalfa	ton	207.00	172.00	184.00
Other	ton	156.00	136.00	142.00
Oats	bu	3.96	2.91	2.81
Potatoes, all ¹	cwt	9.92	9.21	9.82
Fresh ²	cwt	12.02	8.72	9.51
Processing	cwt	8.64	8.59	8.67
Soybeans	bu	14.30	9.84	9.70
Milk, all	cwt	25.30	16.60	16.50
Calves	cwt	222.00	290.00	288.00
Cattle, all beef	cwt	148.00	160.00	162.00
Cows ³	cwt	103.00	114.00	113.00
Steers & Heifers	cwt	150.00	162.00	164.00
Hogs, all	cwt	88.80	50.30	49.00
Barrows & Gilts	cwt	88.40	50.70	49.40
Sows	cwt	98.00	38.20	38.50
Eggs (market)	doz	1.09	1.41	0.872

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. 1/ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed, and livestock feed. 2/ Fresh market prices only. Includes table stock prices. 3/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

Corn For Grain, Monthly Prices Received Wisconsin, 2014-2015



Soybeans, Monthly Prices Received Wisconsin, 2014-2015



Oats, Monthly Prices Received, Wisconsin, 2014-2015

