



Cheese - Central U.S.

Agricultural Marketing Service
Dairy Market News

Report 20

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There were multiple processing plants on either scheduled or unexpected downtime this week in the Midwest. At report time, the top of the spot milk price range is holding firm with \$.50-over Class III, while the bottom of the price range decreased to as low as \$4-under Class due to the aforementioned plant downtime. Cheese plant managers, those who are able to run full schedules, say production is busy. Some are adding a weekend day to the schedule. Demand tones have shifted since mid-April. Cheddar and Italian style cheesemakers say they are turning down new orders. Curd producers say food service and retail customers are adding to their summer inventories. Barrel cheesemakers say when occasional loads are available on the spot market, customers are eager to alleviate them of that situation. Cheese market tones are clearly finding some bullish tailwinds. That said, the growing split on the CME between blocks and barrels (\$.1325 in favor of barrels at report time) tends to create a less-than-assured overtone.

Information for the period May 13 - 17, 2024, issued weekly

Secondary Sourced Information:

This week, a cooperative export assistance program accepted requests for export assistance on contracts to sell 2.9 million pounds (1,300 metric tons) of American-type cheese. So far this year, the program has assisted member cooperatives who have contracts to sell 41.2 million pounds of American-type cheeses and 3.9 million pounds of cream cheese in export markets.

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