



Cheese - Central U.S.

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Dairy Market News

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Cheesemakers say milk availability is similar to previous weeks, even as the holiday weekend approaches. Milk handlers have become used to plant downtime, and the upcoming holiday weekend will provide some plant workers with an extra day (or two) of time off. All said, though, reported spot milk prices, at report time, have not reached the same lows of last week. The current reported range is \$.2- to \$.50-under Class III. Cheese demand remains robust. Cheesemakers are viewing the markets, which have taken a bit of a bearish turn, with some agita. They expect the potentiality of an ordering downturn, but none have reported slower orders as of yet. The oft-mentioned CME block and barrel price gap is another indication of market inconclusiveness. As of Wednesday's CME cash call close, the barrel price is \$.19 above the block price. Aptly, some barrel makers in the region have reported processing other types of seasonal varieties, namely curds.

Information for the period May 20 - 24, 2024, issued weekly

Secondary Sourced Information:

This week, a cooperative export assistance program accepted requests for export assistance on contracts to sell 86,000 pounds (40 metric tons) of American-type cheese and 190,000 pounds (85 metric tons) of cream 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 4.1 million pounds of cream cheese in export markets.

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