

With the green grass and spring flowers, things are finally starting to feel like spring in Vermont. Cows are heading out to pasture and the air has the fresh aroma of manure, two of my favorite signs of spring.

There is still time to nominate a dairy farm for the Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year. Nomination forms can be found [here](#). The deadline for nominations is May 15.

If you have suggestions for future UVM Extension events, please reach out directly at whitney.hull@uvm.edu. You can stay up to date on all our events, as well as find past issues of our Dairy Update at our [website](#).

Dairy News and Updates

Updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

The USDA has announced as of April 29, 2024, that testing requirements must be met for all lactating dairy cows moving across state lines, which includes those going to shows or sales. Testing must be conducted within seven days of moving cattle, and a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) must accompany all lactating dairy cattle traveling across state lines. For animals moving direct to slaughter in states other than Oklahoma and Texas, the Owner Shipper Statement (OSS) may be completed and utilized in place of a CVI if the documented animals move to an out of state slaughter facility without interim stops or offloading after they cross state lines. Because this can be a confusing topic, I have included reference links below for additional resources on HPAI.

According to the FDA, 1 in 5 commercial milk samples tested across 38 states showed genetic fragments of the H5N1 virus. While pasteurization effectively inactivates the virus, the genetic material of the virus still remain in the milk. The FDA has confirmed that no live infectious virus was detected, confirming that the pasteurization process works and that the commercial milk supply remains safe.

Internationally, trading partners have responded cautiously to the H5N1 cases in cattle. Turkey, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia have imposed various restrictions on imports of live cattle. Colombia has also decided to restrict imports of U.S. beef from the nine states where H5N1 cases have been confirmed. To date, no beef cattle have tested positive for the virus.

With much uncertainty regarding how HPAI H5N1 is spread, implementing an enhanced biosecurity plan can help provide a greater level of protection against exposure to a variety of threats. Dairy farms should take precautions when handling symptomatic livestock and their milk, including PPE for workers. More details can be found regarding biosecurity recommendations at the UVM Extension blog post linked below.

[UVM Extension-Dairy Cattle Updates and Resources](#)

[UVM Extension-HPAI H5N1 In Dairy Cattle: Update and Federal Order Guidelines for Interstate Movement of Dairy Cattle](#)

[UVM Extension-Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in U.S. Dairy Herds](#)

[USDA APHIS-Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Detections in Livestock](#)

[National Milk Producers Federation-HPAI Resources](#)

[Vermont Agency of Ag-HPAI Guidance](#)

Dairy exports decrease in March despite another cheese run

U.S. dairy export performance in March could not keep pace with the strong markets of February, falling 7% compared to March 2023. In addition, total milk solids equivalent exports were down 3.1% in the first quarter of 2024 for a 10% decline in U.S. export value compared to the year prior at just over \$2 billion. Despite the decline in exports, cheese sales continued to climb. U.S. cheese shipments increased 20% in March to 50,222 metric tons of product, becoming the first time product export volume surpassed 50,000 metric tons in a single month. Mexico continues to be a strong importer of U.S. cheese, with shipments up 8%. According to the U.S. Dairy Export Council's monthly market update, Mexico has grown into the United States' most reliable cheese customer, as evidenced not only by recent-month sales gains but by the past few years.

Source: [Progressive Dairy](#)

Northeast Production Trends and Price Forecast

April 15, 2024

	COMPONENT PRICES PER POUND			BOSTON BLEND PRICE @3.5 bf	Class Price				Class III Futures	Class IV Futures	DMC Margin ¹	
	BUTTER		OTHER		BOSTON PPD/cwt.	I	II	III				IV
	FAT	PROTEIN	SOLIDS									
MAR-24	\$3.24	\$1.13	\$0.29	\$3.84	\$20.18	\$22.05	\$21.12	\$16.34	\$20.09	\$16.34	\$20.09	\$10.05
APR-24	\$3.32	\$0.82	\$0.24	\$4.65	\$20.09	\$22.43	\$21.17	\$15.43	\$20.14	\$18.00	\$20.46	\$9.93
MAY-24	\$3.34	\$1.19	\$0.21	\$3.61	\$20.04	\$21.75	\$20.92	\$16.42	\$20.22	\$18.25	\$20.57	\$9.86
JUN-24	\$3.36	\$1.29	\$0.20	\$3.48	\$20.28	\$22.28	\$21.01	\$16.78	\$20.39	\$18.60	\$20.87	\$10.03
JUL-24	\$3.40	\$1.44	\$0.21	\$3.23	\$20.64	\$22.55	\$21.22	\$17.40	\$20.69	\$18.77	\$21.12	\$10.29

Source: [Agri-Mark Weekly Update https://agrimark.coop/PDFs/AM_Weekly_Updates.pdf](https://agrimark.coop/PDFs/AM_Weekly_Updates.pdf)

Milk Cows and Production - Northeastern States and 24 Selected States: During March 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
New York	630	630	2,170	2,165	1,367	1,364	-0.2
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,870	1,870	871	870	-0.1
Vermont	118	116	1,860	1,845	219	214	-2.3
24-State Total	8,952	8,881	2,118	2,115	18,956	18,787	-0.9

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Prices Received for All Milk - Northeastern States and United States: February 2024 with Comparisons

[Before deduction for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies]

State	February 2023		January 2024		February 2024	
	Price	Fat test	Price	Fat test	Price	Fat test
	(dollars per cwt)	(percent)	(dollars per cwt)	(percent)	(dollars per cwt)	(percent)
New York	22.50	4.17	21.60	4.32	22.00	4.30
Pennsylvania	22.70	4.14	21.30	4.24	21.90	4.19
Vermont	23.00	4.21	22.00	4.37	22.40	4.36
United States	21.60	4.21	20.10	4.35	20.60	4.30

Source: [NASS Monthly Milk Production Report-Northeastern Region](#)

Vermont Dairy Cow Operations by County – 2024

County	Jan.	Feb	March	April	% change prior month
Addison	76	77	76	74	-2.63%
Bennington	8	8	8	7	-12.5%
Caledonia	40	40	40	38	-5.00%
Chittenden	24	24	24	24	0.00%
Essex	9	9	9	7	-22.2%
Franklin	93	93	93	94	1.07%
Grand Isle	8	8	8	8	0.00%
Lamoille	20	20	20	20	0.00%
Orange	44	45	45	44	-2.22%
Orleans	78	78	78	75	-3.85%
Rutland	32	31	30	32	6.67%
Washington	17	17	17	17	0.00%
Windham	18	18	18	19	5.55%
Windsor	19	18	18	18	0.00%
TOTAL	486	486	484	477	-1.45%

Ave. # dairy farms-2020 – 636, 2021 -583 & 2022 – 549, 2023 – 503

Dairy Cow Farms by Size – Milking cows

	LFO – over 700	MFO – 200 – 699	SFO –under 200	Total
2020	35	100	198 CSFO – 501	636
2021	35	95	216 CSFO - 453	583
2022	35	91	215 CSFO – 424	549
2023	35	84	208 CSFO – 376	495

CSFO as of January 31, 2018. Certified Small Farms have 50 - milking cows to 199 cows.

This table represents the number of locations producing milk, not the number of farm operations within a specific size classification as some operations produce milk at more than one location.

Vermont Dairy Data-10 year Summary

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1
Ave. Milk Price	\$23.63	\$16.49	\$15.25	\$16.78	\$15.44	\$17.46	\$16.45	\$17.23	\$24.49	\$20.07	\$19.08
Class III price	\$22.34	\$15.80	\$14.87	\$15.92	\$14.61	\$16.96	\$18.16	\$17.08	\$22.03	\$17.02	\$15.86
DMC Margin-FSA	\$0.00	MPP/MCP Margin level	\$8.01	\$9.68	\$7.53	\$9.60	\$9.65	\$6.92	\$10.80	\$6.70	\$9.19
# of VT Cow Dairy Farms	880	853	838	796	725	677	636	583	550	503	485
Milk Production USDA	2.672 b lbs.	2.666 b lbs.	2.724 b lbs.	2.728 b lbs.	2.680 b lbs.	2.695 b lbs.	2.602 b lbs.	2.566 b lbs.	2.553 b lbs.	2.55 b lbs.	625 mil. Lbs.
Ave. # of cows in VT USDA	132,000	132,000	130,000	128,667	126,833	125,583	122,167	119,667	117,667	117,000	116,000
Ave. # of cows/farm	150	155	155	162	175	185	192	205	216	234	239
Certified Organic Cow Dairy Farms	184	184	203	199	190	187	169	162	154	125	118
Off-Farm Dairy Processors	58	64	78	79	83	88	87	88	88	88	92
On-Farm Dairy Processors	62	71	67	68	63	66	67	70	70	70	72
Total Dairy Processors	120	135	145	147	146	154	154	158	158	158	164