



The Center Spotlight

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MAKE BIOSECURITY A PRIORITY IN THE NEW YEAR: SAVE THE DATE FOR JANUARY BIOSECURITY EVENTS

Editor's Note: This is part of a bi-monthly series of timely articles and information from the Center for Dairy Excellence, a non-profit organization focused on strengthening Pennsylvania's dairy industry.

HARRISBURG, PA — Make biosecurity a priority in the new year. Let's work together to protect our animals, protect our people, and protect Pennsylvania from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). While there have been no positive HPAI cases reported in PA, cases have been rapidly accelerating in other states like California. Establishing biosecurity protocols is essential for dairy and poultry producers to be proactive and mitigate any potential spread if the disease would come to our state. Consider attending one of these events or calls in the new year:

- **HPAI and Biosecurity Resource Center at Keystone Farm Show (January 7-9).** Drop in to the HPAI and Biosecurity Resource Center anytime from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day of the show (in the meeting room of Building 3). Staff from the Center for Dairy Excellence, PA Department of Agriculture and Penn State Extension will be available for walk-ins to distribute free signage and PPE equipment to producers who stop by. You can also work with staff to start creating your biosecurity plan, get questions answered, and more. Learn more about the Resource Center at centerfordairyexcellence.org/events.
- **PA Agriculture HPAI Monthly Conference Call (January 15 at 1 p.m.).** The Center for Dairy Excellence and Penn Ag Industries Association will host the next joint monthly PA Agriculture HPAI Conference Call for producers and stakeholders from all animal ag industries on January 15. Panelists from the Department of Agriculture and other state/federal organizations will share updates on the HPAI health situation, Pennsylvania's response efforts, and what it means for farms. Learn more and add the call to your calendar: www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/hpai-calls.
- **"Creating a Dairy Biosecurity Plan for HPAI" Workshops (January 27 and 30 in various locations).** Designed to aid PA dairy producers, these workshops focus on creating effective biosecurity plans that align with the PA Department of Agriculture's Guidelines to protect herds from Bovine Influenza A. During this open-house-style event, work with a Penn State Extension Dairy Educator in developing your biosecurity plan for your farm. They will guide you through the essential components and state requirements of a biosecurity plan. View dates and locations: www.extension.psu.edu/creating-a-dairy-biosecurity-plan-for-hpai.



JOIN US FOR 'PROTECTING YOUR PROFITS' WEBINAR ON JAN. 17

To kick off the new year, the "Protecting Your Profits" webinar on January 17 will feature guest speakers from Ever.Ag who will offer their forecasts for 2025 dairy markets. They will cover milk supply expectations, new cheese capacity, the importance of exports, risk management strategies, domestic demand, "headline" risks, and more. Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/events to join.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR PA DAIRY SUMMIT ON FEB. 5-6

Dairy producers, professionals, and young dairy leaders who are looking to start designing their tomorrow today won't want to miss the PA Dairy Summit. Registration is now open for the event on February 5-6 in State College! Grow your skillsets through engaging keynote and breakout sessions, network with individuals across the dairy industry, and learn tangible skills you can start applying today.

Thanks to grants and support from the Center for Dairy Excellence, Professional Dairy Managers of PA, and Summit sponsors, registration fees for dairy producers are set to be as affordable as possible. Dairy producers can attend the full, two-day Dairy Summit for a discounted rate of \$100, with one-day rates available for \$50.

Visit <https://www.padairysummit.org> to register today, view the full program, meet the speakers, and learn more about scholarships for Young Dairy Professionals to attend the Summit.



OCTOBER MARGINS AND DMC UPDATE HEADING INTO 2025

Pennsylvania Dairy Industry Performance Scorecard Summary	October 2023	October 2024	Change from Last Year	Target Range
Milk Cows	466,000 cows	465,000 cows	- 0.21%	
Total Monthly Milk Production	797 mil. lbs.	802 mil. lbs.	+ 0.63%	
Wholesale Milk Price	\$22.80 / cwt.	\$25.40 / cwt.	+ 11.40%	
PA Daily Feed Costs (cost of corn, soybean & hay at 100 lbs. milk)	\$7.63 / cwt.	\$7.18 / cwt.	- 5.90%	
Milk Margin (IOFC @ 100# of Milk)	\$17.10 / cwt.	\$19.05 / cwt.	+ 11.40%	
Rolling 12—mo. Herd Production Avg.	23,432 lbs.	23,662 lbs.	+ 0.98%	25,000 lbs.
Average Somatic Cell Count	208,120	213,390	+ 2.53%	< 150,000
% Herds less than 200,000 SCC	57.5%	55.3%	- 3.85%	
Average Days in Milk	180 Days	181 Days	+ 0.80%	165 days
Average Age at First Calving	25.1 months	24.9 months	- 0.80%	21-24 mo.
Average Days to First Service	87 Days	87 Days	- 0.24%	< 80 days
Average Pregnancy Rate	16.8%	15.9%	- 5.65%	> 20 %

HARRISBURG, PA. — The USDA announced October's Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) margin at \$15.17 per hundredweight (cwt), \$5.67 above the \$9.50 trigger. This will be the eighth consecutive month for program year 2024 with no indemnities triggered at any coverage level. Following September's peak margin at \$15.57 per cwt, we saw a 40-cent drop in October's margin. October's all-milk price came in at \$25.20 per cwt, a 30-cent decrease from September's \$25.50.

Updated Nov. 29, the Dairy Margin Coverage Decision Tool forecasts November and December margins at \$13.45 and \$12.36, respectively. However, even with the projected margins declining through the end of program year 2024, we are still not seeing any indication of DMC payments on the horizon. All milk price estimates trend down through the last two months, dropping to \$22.84 per cwt in December and closely mirroring all-milk prices in June and July. We could observe feed costs rising 45 cents from October's \$10.03 per cwt to Nov.'s \$10.48, then remaining constant through December. If the forecasts hold true, there could be an uptick in the SBM price to \$351.48 per ton in November with a small \$2.18 bump to \$353.66 in December. We could see corn price projections following a similar pattern, jumping 31 cents from October's \$3.99 per bushel to November's \$4.30, then a small increase to \$4.32 in December. Premium alfalfa hay forecasts see a slight increase into November, followed by a slight decrease into December.

Read more about dairy markets in our weekly Markets and Management update. Visit centerfordairyexcellence.org/markets.

Visit us at centerfordairyexcellence.org or call 717-346-0849. Sign up for our email list at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/newsletter