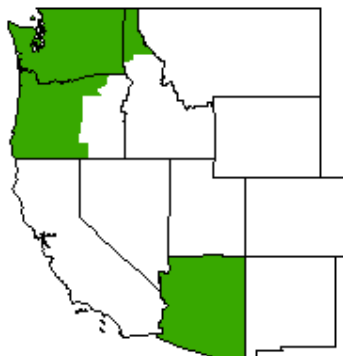


Pacific Northwest & Arizona Marketing Areas



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James R. Daugherty
 Market Administrator

April 2009

MARKET SUMMARIES FOR MARCH 2009

Comparisons to a year ago can be found in the tables on pages 6 and 7.

Pacific Northwest

Producers delivered a total of 615.4 million pounds of milk to the market during March. Daily deliveries averaged 19.9 million pounds, down 11.3 percent from February. An estimated 662 producers delivered milk to the market during the month. Daily deliveries per producer averaged 29,986 pounds, down 10.8 percent from February.

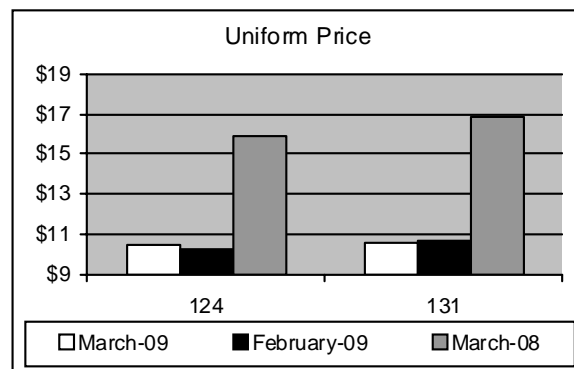
Class I producer milk during March totaled 191.2 million pounds, 31.1 percent of total producer receipts. Daily usage averaged 6.2 million pounds, down 3.5 percent from February.

Arizona

Producers delivered a total of 386.7 million pounds of milk to the market during March. Daily deliveries averaged 12.5 million pounds, up 1.2 percent from

February. An estimated 100 producers delivered milk to the market during the month. Daily deliveries per producer averaged 124,745 pounds, up 1.2 percent from February.

Class I producer milk during March totaled 123.7 million pounds, 32.0 percent of total producer receipts. Daily usage averaged 4.0 million pounds, down 2.5 percent from February. ♦



Federal Order Producer Prices and Component Levels: March 2009

Producer Prices	FO124	FO131	Component Levels (%)	FO124	FO131
Uniform Price 1/*	10.48	10.63	Butterfat	3.744	3.450
Butterfat 2/	1.1594	1.1532	Protein	3.113	N/A
Protein 2/	2.1973	N/A	Other Solids	5.697	N/A
Other Solids 2/	(0.0339)	N/A	Nonfat Solids	8.809	N/A
PPD 1/*	0.04	N/A			
Skim 1/	N/A	6.83			

N/A = not applicable. * Subject to applicable location adjustments. 1/ \$ per cwt. 2/ \$ per pound.

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MARCH 2009 CLASS PRICES

March 2009 non-advanced Class Prices were calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from February 28, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2009. Component prices for the month are \$2.1973 per pound of protein, \$1.1594 per pound of butterfat, *negative* \$0.0339 per pound of other solids, and \$0.6423 per pound of nonfat solids.

March 2009 Class III and IV prices at 3.5% butterfat are \$10.44 and \$9.64 per hundredweight, respectively. The March Class III price compared to February is up \$1.13. The Class III price is \$7.56 lower than in March 2008.

Class II butterfat was announced at \$1.1664 per pound. Class I skim and butterfat and Class II skim prices for March 2009 were announced on February 20, 2009. The Class II price at 3.5% butterfat is \$10.36 for March 2009.

FINAL: NASS COMMODITY PRICES

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cheese*	\$1.1518	\$1.2611	\$0.1093
Butter	\$1.0750	\$1.1289	\$0.0539
Nonfat Dry Milk	\$0.8215	\$0.8166	(\$0.0049)
Whey	\$0.1567	\$0.1662	\$0.0095

* The weighted average of barrels plus 3 cents and blocks.

Current Commodity Prices -- The NASS survey of cheddar cheese prices showed a net increase in price received for 40-pound blocks and for 500-pound barrels. The survey of 40-pound blocks showed a net increase of 5.28 cents between the March 14 and the April 11 surveys, to \$1.2761 per pound. The survey of 500-pound barrels (**adjusted to 38% moisture**) showed a net increase of 6.80 cents to \$1.2988 per pound.

The NASS butter price showed an increase of 2.08 cents between the weeks ending March 14 and April 11 from \$1.1367 per pound to \$1.1575 per pound.

The NASS nonfat dry milk showed a net increase of 0.47 cents since mid-March to \$0.8203 per pound. The average price for NASS whey showed an increase of 2.71 cents since mid-March to \$0.1931 per pound. ♦

MAY'S CLASS I PRICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On April 17, the May 2009 Class I price was announced at \$12.87 for the Pacific Northwest Order and \$13.32 for the Arizona Order. The Class I price was calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from the weeks of April 4 and 11.

The May Class III and IV advance skim prices are \$7.01 and \$5.79 per hundredweight, respectively. The butterfat portion of the Class I mover increased 5.19 cents from \$1.1500 to \$1.2019 per pound.

The May 2009 Class II skim and nonfat solids prices were also announced on April 17. The skim price is \$6.49 per hundredweight, and the nonfat solids price is \$0.7211 pound for all Federal orders.

♦

ADVANCED: NASS COMMODITY PRICES FOR CLASS I PRICE CALCULATIONS

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cheese*	\$1.2545	\$1.3030	\$0.0485
Butter	\$1.1211	\$1.1640	\$0.0429
Nonfat Dry Milk	\$0.8152	\$0.8181	\$0.0029
Whey	\$0.1632	\$0.1852	\$0.0220

* The weighted average of barrels plus 3 cents and blocks.

DETERMINATION REGARDING WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY FEDERATION'S PETITION

The below is an excerpt from a letter mailed to all interested persons which is posted on the Market Administrator's web site at <http://www.fmmaseattle.com/currentnews.htm>.

SUMMARY: In a letter to Handlers and Interested Parties dated January 27, 2009, the Market Administrator invited written comments on a requested investigation of current pooling and performance standards relating to milk under the Pacific Northwest marketing order.

The proposed investigation was requested by means of a letter sent to northwest dairy farmers and interested parties by the Washington State Dairy Federation (WSDF), a voluntary membership organization representing the state's dairy farmers. The letter was accompanied by a petition. The petition requested that the Market Administrator investigate the need for tightening pool and performance standards under the Pacific Northwest

Order. This office received 167 signatures associated with the petition along with a number of comments from various interested parties. In a letter dated February 6, 2009, the Market Administrator received a request from WSDF to extend the comment period for an additional 30 days. In a letter to Handlers and Interested Parties dated February 9, 2009, the Market Administrator granted the 30-day extension request. Comments were to be received by the Market Administrator no later than March 19, 2009. On March 17, 2009, WSDF forwarded a letter to this office requesting that an additional 180-day extension be added to the deadline of March 19, 2009.

Copies of the original letter and petition; the letter requesting a 30-day extension to the comment period; and the letter requesting an additional 180-day extension are posted on the Market Administrator's website at <http://www.fmmaseattle.com/currentnews.html>.

Determination: Due to the request of Washington State Dairy Federation to further extend the comment period for 180 days, it has been determined that it is in the best interests of those involved that the petition and investigation be cancelled. By cancelling the action, the comment period will end, and no action will be taken at this time. This cancellation does not preclude any issues raised in the WSDF letter or petition from being considered in the future. If the industry wishes to consider an action in the future, and a request is made, the issue can be taken up again.

◆

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES PLAN TO BENEFIT NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND DAIRY FARMERS

On March 26, 2009, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced that approximately 200 million pounds of nonfat dry milk will be transferred from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service for use in domestic feeding programs. The goal is to help support both low-income families struggling to put nutritious food on their tables and dairy farmers who have been challenged by high feed costs and low dairy prices.

"President Obama understands that providing food to those in need will help many weather these

tough economic times," said Secretary Vilsack. "At the same time, USDA's disposal plan will benefit dairy farmers, who have seen markets disappear and prices plummet in recent months, by increasing consumption of milk and other dairy products."

USDA has a long history of delivering nutritional assistance through domestic and international feeding programs and administers 15 domestic nutrition programs that touch the lives of one in every five people in America each day.

The nonfat dry milk (NDM) was acquired by the CCC under the Dairy Product Price Support Program. Under this program, CCC purchases NDM, butter and cheddar cheese at statutorily mandated prices. These purchases support the prices of NDM, butter, and cheese and the price farmers receive for milk.

USDA will make available about 200 million pounds of NDM for further processing or barter. The acquired products are expected to include items such as instantized NDM, ultra high temperature milk, cheese, and soups for domestic feeding programs. This includes:

- 40 million pounds of NDM will be fortified and instantized, placed into consumer-sized packages, and made available for use in the National School Lunch Program, TEFAP, CSFP, and FDPIR;
- 30 million pounds of NDM will be donated to States for further processing to acquire fortified fat-free fluid milk and macaroni and cheese, for use in the National School Lunch Program;
- 60 million pounds of NDM will be bartered for 1% ultra high temperature milk, for use in TEFAP;
- 20 million pounds of NDM will be bartered for ready-to-eat, milk-based soups (Creamy Tomato, Cheese), for use in TEFAP; and
- 50 million pounds of NDM will be bartered for reduced fat and lite cheeses, for use in the National School Lunch Program and TEFAP.

In addition to the 200 million pounds above, USDA also plans to make NDM available as follows:

- at least 1 million pounds on a competitive basis, for the production of casein;
- about 500,000 pounds for use in the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program; and
- about 1 million pounds for use by the U.S. Agency for International Development, based on anticipated requests from the State Department.

Products should be moving through the supply chain starting in this spring and continuing through 2009.

For more information about the Dairy Product Price Support Program please visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. ♦

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE SHOWS GROWING DIVERSITY IN U.S. FARMING

On February 4, 2009, USDA announced that the number of farms in the United States has grown 4 percent and the operators of those farms have become more diverse in the past five years, according to results of the 2007 Census of Agriculture released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"The Census of Agriculture is a valuable tool that provides the general public with an accurate and comprehensive view of American agriculture. It's also a set of benchmarks against which this Department must measure and demonstrate its performance to agriculture and the taxpayer," said Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"In the spirit of President Obama's call to make government more transparent, inclusive, and collaborative, I will be directing my team at USDA to review the findings of the 2007 Census and propose ambitious, measureable goals to make sure that the People's Department is hard at work for all the people – our diverse customers and the full diversity of agriculture."

The 2007 Census counted 2,204,792 farms in the United States, a net increase of 75,810 farms. Nearly 300,000 new farms have begun operation since the last census in 2002. Compared to all farms nationwide, these new farms tend to have more diversified production, fewer acres, lower sales and younger operators who also work off-farm.

In the past five years, U.S. farm operators have become more demographically diverse. The 2007 Census counted nearly 30 percent more women as principal farm operators. The count of Hispanic operators grew by 10 percent, and the counts of American Indian, Asian and Black farm operators increased as well.

The latest census figures show a continuation in the trend towards more small and very large farms and fewer mid-sized operations. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of farms with sales of

less than \$2,500 increased by 74,000. The number of farms with sales of more than \$500,000 grew by 46,000 during the same period.

Census results show that the majority of U.S. farms are smaller operations. More than 36 percent are classified as residential/lifestyle farms, with sales of less than \$250,000 and operators with a primary occupation other than farming. Another 21 percent are retirement farms, which have sales of less than \$250,000 and operators who reported they are retired.

In addition to looking at farm numbers, operator demographics and economic aspects of farming, the Census of Agriculture delves into numerous other areas, including organic, value-added, and specialty production, all of which are on the rise.

The 2007 Census found that 57 percent of all farmers have internet access, up from 50 percent in 2002. For the first time in 2007, the census also looked at high-speed Internet access. Of those producers accessing the Internet, 58 percent reported having a high-speed connection.

Other "firsts" in the 2007 Census include questions about on-farm energy generation, community-supported agriculture arrangements and historic barns.

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. Census results are available online at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>. ♦

AMBER WAVES: GRAIN PRICES IMPACT ENTIRE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION CYCLE

The following article is excerpted from the March 2009 edition of Amber Waves, the USDA publication on the economics of food, farming, natural resources and rural America. The entire article can be found at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March09/Features/GrainPrices.htm>.

Manufacturers make decisions on the amount and timing of production based on input costs and the expected product price. Manufacturers may react to a significant increase in the price of a variable input, such as energy, by reducing production. As energy prices decline, manufacturers may respond in the short run by boosting output.

Biology, however, prevents livestock producers from instantly responding to price changes. The timeline for meat production—from farm to retail—ranges from two months for poultry meat to two years for beef. From the time a female is bred, it takes about 9 to 10 months to expand milk production, 30 months to produce a steak, 10 months for a pork roast, and 10 weeks for a chicken breast from when incentives to do so appear.

Livestock production's varying timeframes make it difficult to change the direction of output quickly. Producers make decisions to expand or contract production before feed and product prices are known. Biological lags mean that animal products consumed today are based on production decisions made up to two years ago.

Record-high grain, oilseed, and energy prices between 2006 and 2008 increased the costs of producing and marketing meat and dairy products. Expecting feed and energy costs to remain high, livestock producers began to cut back on animal and dairy production. But just as producers were making their livestock-production decisions for 2009, feed prices began to decline. The dollar strengthened, which lowered exports, and worldwide economic growth began to slow.

As a result of decisions made before the end of 2008, livestock production will likely grow more slowly in 2009 and could begin to decline. Because of this, consumers can expect to pay higher prices for meat and dairy products through 2009, even as the costs of feeding and raising livestock decline. ♦

ERS LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY OUTLOOK: CATTLE

High Dairy Cow Slaughter and Record Dressed Weights Boost Beef Production

Based on USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service weekly *Actual Slaughter Under Federal Inspection* reports through February 2009, cow slaughter continues at a high rate compared with the same period in 2008 and represents a slightly larger share of the January 1 cow inventory than last year's slaughter. The high slaughter rates are due primarily to increased dairy cow slaughter, a result of low milk prices as well as an extended multiyear period of below-normal precipitation in California and the Southern Plains since late fall 2008. Projected cumulative 2009 dairy cow

slaughter through February was 16 percent higher than for the same period in 2008. Projected cumulative 2009 beef cow slaughter through February, while about even with year-earlier levels, is still about 5 percent above same-period 2007 levels, which were based on a 2 percent larger January 1 cow inventory.

More information on this ERS Outlook Report can be found at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ldp/2009/03Mar/ldpm177.pdf>.

The most current Outlook Report for Dairy can be found at:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ldp/2009/04Apr/ldpm178.pdf>. ♦

Continued from Page 8

The hearing is open to the public. To participate and testify at the hearing, a person must be physically present and be available for cross-examination by other parties. Interested parties who wish to introduce exhibits should provide the Administrative Law Judge at the hearing with four copies of such exhibits for the official record. Additional copies should be made available for use by other hearing participants. Proponents that submitted a proposal included in the Notice of Hearing, are required to make their testimony and any other exhibits available to USDA officials prior to the start of the hearing on the day of their appearance. Individual dairy farmers are not subject to this requirement.

Requests to USDA, including Market Administrator personnel, for data to be used or presented at the hearing must be received by April 24, 2009.

The Notice of Hearing, published in the April 9 Federal Register, and all proposals received and additional information pertinent to this proceeding are available on Dairy Programs website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy>. A copy of the hearing notice may be obtained by contacting a Market Administrator listed in the news release or Dairy programs. ♦

MONTHLY SELECTED STATISTICS

Minimum Class Prices (3.5% B.F.)	PACIFIC NORTHWEST				ARIZONA			
	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	Feb 2008
Class I Milk (\$/cwt.)	\$11.33	\$12.62	\$18.60	\$21.58	\$11.78	\$13.07	\$19.05	\$22.03
Class II Milk (\$/cwt.)	10.36	10.25	15.63	18.46	10.36	10.25	15.63	18.46
Class III Milk (\$/cwt.)	10.44	9.31	18.00	17.03	10.44	9.31	18.00	17.03
Class IV Milk (\$/cwt.)	9.64	9.45	14.17	14.67	9.64	9.45	14.17	14.67
Producer Prices								
Producer Price Differential (\$/cwt.)	\$ 0.04	\$ 1.00	\$(2.06)	\$ 0.44	+	+	+	+
Butterfat (\$/pound)	1.1594	1.0941	1.3604	1.3010	+	+	+	+
Protein (\$/pound)	2.1973	1.9139	4.3331	4.0180	+	+	+	+
Other Solids (\$/pound)	(0.0339)	(0.0437)	0.0493	0.0803	+	+	+	+
Uniform Skim Price (\$/cwt.)	+	+	+	+	6.83	7.08	12.55	13.87
Uniform Butterfat Price (\$/pound)	+	+	+	+	1.1532	1.1031	1.3575	1.3178
Statistical Uniform Price (\$/cwt.) . .	\$10.48	\$10.31	\$15.94	\$17.47	\$10.63	\$10.69	\$16.86	\$18.00
Producer Data								
Number of Producers	662 *	666	528	678	100 *	100	96	96
Avg. Daily Production (lbs.)	29,986 *	33,618	30,895	30,866	124,745 *	123,301	128,016	121,280
Number of Handlers								
Pool Handlers	27	28	26	28	7	7	7	7
Producer-Handlers	6 *	6	6	6	1 *	1	1	1
Other Plants w/ Class I Use	20 *	20	23	22	23 *	23	22	21
Producer Milk Ratios								
Class I	31.07%	28.55%	37.67%	29.94%	32.00%	33.22%	31.24%	33.74%
Class II	7.20%	6.03%	7.97%	6.35%	7.87%	7.41%	5.38%	5.97%
Class III	36.26%	41.02%	7.54%	29.17%	26.98%	26.98%	27.87%	27.42%
Class IV	25.47%	24.40%	46.82%	34.54%	33.15%	32.39%	35.51%	32.87%

+ Not Applicable. * Preliminary.

MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTAL STATISTICS

Producer-Handler Data	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	Jan 2008
Production	26,857,302	28,817,273	25,651,824	27,104,732	R	R	R	R
Class I Use	21,162,454	22,061,053	20,270,061	20,857,518	R	R	R	R
% Class I Use	78.80%	76.55%	79.02%	76.95%	R	R	R	R
Class I Route Disposition In Area								
By Pool Plants	160,011,583	177,713,773	161,277,838	175,786,782	92,432,022	97,438,011	94,485,391	99,735,481
By Producer-Handlers	6,234,484	7,058,887	5,386,170	5,876,917	1/	1/	1/	1/
By Other Plants	6,479,274 *	6,275,428	6,411,821	6,016,276	4,243,545 *	4,357,155	4,499,994	5,242,473
Total	172,725,341	191,048,088	173,075,829	187,679,975	96,675,567	101,795,166	98,985,385	104,977,954

* Preliminary. R = Restricted. Not included. 1/ Restricted. Included with other plants.

MONTHLY STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(Product pounds based upon reports of handlers)

RECEIPTS, UTILIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MILK	PACIFIC NORTHWEST				ARIZONA				
	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	
TOTAL PRODUCER MILK	615,364,582	626,914,856	505,682,550	606,881,480	386,710,929	345,243,673	380,976,503	337,643,593	
RECEIPTS FROM OTHER SOURCES	38,004,028	25,668,979	32,674,438	31,681,582	5,992,382	3,027,335	20,601,719	10,353,745	
OPENING INVENTORY	28,273,456	29,175,833	32,097,301	34,680,361	22,787,950	19,144,346	18,229,887	20,682,355	
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR	681,642,066	681,759,668	570,454,289	673,243,423	415,491,261	367,415,354	419,808,109	368,679,693	
UTILIZATION OF RECEIPTS									
Whole milk	32,808,271	29,836,349	31,099,736	29,404,473	25,044,123	23,391,417	25,198,757	24,515,062	
Flavored milk & milk drinks	13,240,473	12,917,632	13,006,513	12,290,729	6,271,912	6,360,501	5,638,396	6,444,707	
2% milk	69,708,653	64,316,746	69,335,727	64,555,169	38,579,515	35,447,801	37,001,054	35,860,718	
1% milk	26,853,001	25,294,295	27,879,483	26,745,956	14,606,833	13,617,680	13,628,564	13,591,209	
Skim milk	28,346,946	26,420,322	28,702,919	26,960,301	14,248,186	13,163,383	13,607,591	13,601,073	
Buttermilk	1,382,016	1,226,239	1,589,394	1,321,210	514,549	451,240	526,918	472,622	
CLASS I ROUTE DISP. IN AREA . .	172,339,360	160,011,583	171,613,772	161,277,838	99,265,118	92,432,022	95,601,280	94,485,391	
Class I dispositions out of area . . .	18,860,625	16,588,708	19,047,934	18,241,171	23,945,058	21,032,144	22,929,010	20,909,318	
Other Class I usage	16,938,999	17,028,221	18,768,473	20,292,521	10,365,180	9,667,435	11,078,047	10,699,013	
TOTAL CLASS I USE	208,138,984	193,628,512	209,430,179	199,811,530	133,575,356	123,131,601	129,608,337	126,093,722	
TOTAL CLASS II USE	52,765,728	45,307,043	46,695,689	45,516,271	31,475,667	26,276,862	21,409,346	20,977,490	
TOTAL CLASS III USE	235,151,354	264,227,584	38,139,887	182,779,267	104,331,344	93,957,394	106,433,263	92,571,021	
TOTAL CLASS IV USE	185,586,000	178,596,529	276,188,534	245,136,355	146,108,894	124,049,497	162,357,163	129,037,460	
TOTAL ACCOUNTED FOR	681,642,066	681,759,668	570,454,289	673,243,423	415,491,261	367,415,354	419,808,109	368,679,693	
CLASSIFICATION OF RECEIPTS									
Producer milk:	Class I . .	191,219,656	178,946,316	190,456,153	181,665,646	123,730,634	114,653,357	119,021,409	113,960,978
	Class II . .	44,330,171	37,817,702	40,323,140	38,557,903	30,418,140	25,596,843	20,486,965	20,142,442
	Class III . .	223,102,106	257,182,711	38,139,887	177,043,146	104,331,344	93,154,812	106,173,983	92,571,021
	Class IV . .	156,712,649	152,968,127	236,763,370	209,614,785	128,230,811	111,838,661	135,294,146	110,969,152
Other receipts:	Class I . .	16,919,328	14,682,196	18,974,026	18,145,884	28,780,332	22,171,681	38,831,606	31,036,100
	Class II . .	8,435,557	7,489,341	6,372,549	6,958,368	1/	1/	1/	1/
	Class III . .	12,049,248	7,044,873	0	5,736,121	1/	1/	1/	1/
	Class IV . .	28,873,351	25,628,402	39,425,164	35,521,570	1/	1/	1/	1/
Avg. daily producer receipts		19,850,470	22,389,816	16,312,340	20,926,948	12,474,546	12,330,131	12,289,565	11,642,883
Change From Previous Year		21.69%	6.99%	-16.89%	0.54%	1.51%	5.90%	8.97%	8.42%
Avg. daily Class I use		6,714,161	6,915,304	6,755,812	6,890,053	4,308,882	4,397,557	4,180,914	4,348,059
Change From Previous Year		-0.62%	0.37%	-0.01%	1.37%	3.06%	1.14%	-2.20%	-0.65%

1/ Restricted - Included with Class I.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE:

- Market Summaries for March 2009
- March 2009 Class Prices
- Class I Price for May 2009
- Determination Regarding Washington State Dairy Federation's Petition
- Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Plan To Benefit Nutrition Programs And Dairy Farmers
- Census Of Agriculture Shows Growing Diversity In U.S. Farming
- Amber Waves: Grain Prices Impact Entire Livestock Production Cycle
- ERS Livestock, Dairy, And Poultry Outlook: Cattle
- **USDA to Hold A Public Hearing To Discuss Proposed Amendments To The Producer-Handler And Exempt Plant Provisions In All Federal Milk Marketing Orders**

USDA TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PRODUCER-HANDLER AND EXEMPT PLANT PROVISIONS IN ALL FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDERS

A national public hearing is being held to consider and take evidence on proposals seeking to amend or remove the producer-handler provisions and revise the exempt plant provisions applicable to all Federal milk marketing orders. Additionally, a proposal seeking to amend the orders to include provisions related to individual handler pools will be considered as an alternative to the producer-handler provisions. The news release announcing the hearing is enclosed for your reference.

The hearing will begin at 1:00 p.m. on May 4, 2009. The hearing will be held at The Westin-Cincinnati, 21 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, phone (513) 621-7700.

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