# Rebor **De Market Administrator's**

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# **Pacific Northwest & Arizona Marketing Areas**



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May 2010

#### MARKET SUMMARIES FOR **APRIL 2010**

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

#### **Pacific Northwest**

Producers delivered total 658.8 million pounds of milk to the market during April. Daily deliveries averaged 22.0 million pounds, down 3.6 percent from estimated 635 March. An producers delivered milk to the market during the Daily deliveries per producer averaged 34,583 pounds, down 3.6 percent from March.

Class I producer milk during April totaled 191.2 million pounds, 29.0 percent-of total producer receipts. Daily usage averaged 6.4 million pounds, up 2.5 percent from March.

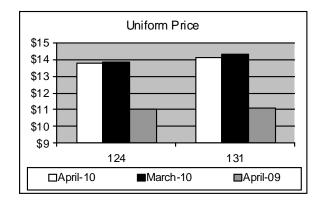
#### **Arizona**

Producers delivered а total 374.7 million pounds of milk to the market during April. Daily deliveries averaged 12.5 million pounds, up 1.7 percent from

N/A

milk to the market during the month. Daily deliveries per producer averaged 134,306 pounds, up 1.7 percent from March.

Class I producer milk during April totaled 123.5 million pounds, 33.0 percent of total producer receipts. Daily usage averaged 4.1 million pounds, up 3.3 percent from March.



March. An estimated 93 producers delivered										
Federal Order Producer Prices and Component Levels: April 2010										
Producer Prices	FO124	FO131	Component Levels (%)	FO124	FO131					
Uniform Price 1/*	13.79	14.14	Butterfat	3.738	3.415					
Butterfat 2/	1.5813	1.5756	Protein	3.147	N/A					
Protein 2/	2.1449	N/A	Other Solids	5.708	N/A					
Other Solids 2/	0.1702	N/A	Nonfat Solids	8.856	N/A					
PPD 1/*	0.87	N/A			_					

8.94 \* Subject to applicable location adjustments. 1/\$ per cwt. 2/\$ per pound.

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#### **APRIL 2010 CLASS PRICES**

April 2010 non-advanced Class Prices were calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from April 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2010. Component prices for the month are \$2.1449 per pound of protein, \$1.5813 per pound of butterfat, \$0.1702 per pound of other solids, and \$0.9435 per pound of nonfat solids.

April 2010 Class III and IV prices at 3.5% butterfat are \$12.92 and \$13.73 per hundredweight, respectively. The April Class III price compared to March is up \$0.14. The Class III price is \$2.14 higher than in April 2009.

Class II butterfat was announced at \$1.5883 per pound. Class I skim and butterfat and Class II skim prices for April 2010 were announced on March 19, 2010. The Class II price at 3.5% butterfat is \$13.78 for April 2010.

FINAL: NASS COMMODITY PRICES									
<u>March</u> <u>April</u> <u>Change</u>									
Cheese*	\$1.3632	\$1.3827	\$0.0195						
Butter	\$1.4388	\$1.4773	\$0.0385						
Nonfat Dry Milk	\$1.0454	\$1.1208	\$0.0754						
Whey	\$0.3761	\$0.3643	-\$0.0118						

<sup>\*</sup> The weighted average of barrels plus 3 cents and blocks.

Current Commodity Prices - The NASS survey of cheddar cheese prices showed a net decrease in price received for 40-pound blocks and 500-pound barrels. The survey of 40-pound blocks showed a net decrease of 0.19 cents between the April 17 and the May 15 surveys, to \$1.3898 per pound. The survey of 500-pound barrels (adjusted to 38% moisture) showed a net decrease of 3.28 cents to \$1.4004 per pound.

The NASS butter price showed a net increase of 9.39 cents between the weeks ending April 17 and May 15 from \$1.4957 per pound to \$1.5896 per pound.

The NASS nonfat dry milk showed an increase of 10.98 cents since mid-April to \$1.2530 per pound. The average price for NASS whey showed an increase of 0.06 cents since mid-April to \$0.3653 per pound. ◆

#### JUNE'S CLASS I PRICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On May 21, the June 2010 Class I price was announced at \$17.18 for the Pacific Northwest Order and \$17.63 for the Arizona Order. The Class I price was calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from the weeks of May 8 and 15.

The June Class III and IV advance skim prices are \$7.50 and \$9.61 per hundredweight, respectively. The butterfat portion of the Class I mover increased 12.35 cents from \$1.5920 to \$1.7155 per pound.

The June 2010 Class II skim and nonfat solids prices were also announced on May 21. The skim price is \$10.31 per hundredweight, and the nonfat solids price is \$1.1456 pound for all Federal orders.

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# ADVANCED: NASS COMMODITY PRICES FOR CLASS I PRICE CALCULATIONS May June Change

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cheese*	\$1.3900	\$1.4115	\$0.0215
Butter	\$1.4861	\$1.5881	\$0.1020
Nonfat Dry Milk	\$1.1250	\$1.2459	\$0.1209
Whey	\$0.3636	\$0.3631	-\$0.0005

<sup>\*</sup> The weighted average of barrels plus 3 cents and blocks.

#### **DAIRY PRODUCTS PRICES 2009 SUMMARY**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts surveys of dairy product prices for cheddar cheese, butter, nonfat dry milk, and whey. These survey prices are used as a foundation for calculating minimum prices for milk used in Class I, II, III and IV under Federal orders. For more information on how these survey prices relate to the minimum price of milk under Federal orders, see www.fmmaseattle.com/info.htm or call our office at (425) 487-6009.

In late-April 2010, NASS released the Dairy Products Prices Annual Summary for 2009. This annual summary contains revised weekly weighted average prices received and aggregated volumes of sales of cheddar cheese, butter, nonfat dry milk, and dry whey. The additional information is based on three data sources: Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) verification data performed by AMS auditors, resubmitted data to correct inaccuracies exposed by NASS during data analysis and/or discrepancy evaluation, and, lastly, resubmitted data inaccuracies discovered by the plant during internal review of program specifications to comply

with the mandatory reporting rules. The release of the new Dairy Products Prices Annual Summary will incorporate all verification data and any other resubmitted plant data previously not available during the four week revision period.

The Dairy Products Prices program consists of 20 plants reporting 40 pound cheddar blocks, 16 plants reporting 500 pound cheddar barrels, 23 plants reporting butter, 38 plants reporting nonfat dry milk, and 23 plants reporting dry whey. Price information included in the report was provided each week by manufacturers of these products for price information covering the previous week.

The annual summary lists the original and revised weekly prices and volumes for each product. Original data refers to the last NASS published weekly information. For this summary, "prices" refers to the NASS "revised" prices, when applicable. The graph below displays the 2009 weekly prices for 40 pound blocks and 500 pound barrels of cheddar, butter, nonfat dry milk, and dry whey

The differences between the original and revised prices were very small. The average change for each product is as follows: negative 0.04 cents for 40 pound cheddar blocks; negative 0.01 cents for 500 pound cheddar barrels and dry whey; and negative 0.02 cents for butter. The only product to show a positive average adjustment was nonfat dry milk at 0.02 cents per pound. Cheddar blocks and barrels showed the greatest range of adjustments, with negative 1.57 cents and positive 1.24 cents, respectively. The average change in pounds was within 150,000 pounds of originally announced levels.

Based on the revised prices and volume data, the survey prices for 40 pound cheddar blocks ranged from \$1.0885 to \$1.6917 in 2009.

The average volume reported per week was 11,507,011 with the highest volume occurring the week ending January 24, 2009. In comparison, the 40 pound cheddar blocks ranged from \$1.6528 to \$2.2152 in 2008, with an average volume of 11,061,692 pounds per week.

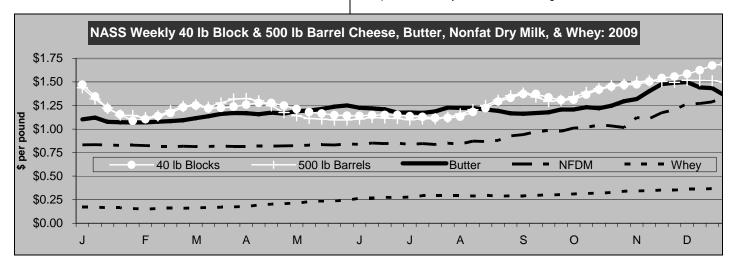
The weekly prices for 500 pound barrels, using revised data, ranged from a low of \$1.0970 in mid-May 2009 to a high of \$1.5168 in December. Weekly reported volumes followed an inverse pattern, where the lowest reported figures were reported in December and the highest were in May. Reported volumes ranged from 6.9 to 12.5 million pounds per week, with an annual average of 10.5 million pounds per week. In 2008, the weekly prices for barrels ranged from \$1.5911 to \$2.2218 per pound.

Butter prices ranged from \$1.0705 to \$1.4982 per pound. The range in reported volumes was significant, with a low of 1.3 million pounds reported the week ending July 11 and a high of 10.6 million pounds the week ending February 7. The 2009 prices were lower than last year, when they ranged from \$1.1490 to \$1.7202 per pound.

The 2009 nonfat dry milk prices hovered around the \$1 mark, but ranged from \$0.8143 to \$1.3327 per pound. Reported volumes were steady for the first six months of the year; however the remainder of the year showed many weekly variations. The weekly reported volume reached its peak at 43.6 million pounds the week ending August 1, then fell to a low of 8.3 million pounds by late November.

Dry whey prices showed little movement in 2009, ranging from \$0.1506 to \$0.3706 per pound with an average weekly reported volume of 10.7 million pounds. ◆

Source: *Dairy Products Prices*, 2009 Summary, Da 3-1 (10), Published April 29, 2010, by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.



# On April 29, 2010, USDA's National Agricultural

On April 29, 2010, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service published the annual summary of 2009 data for U.S. milk production, disposition, and income.

Milk production decreased 0.3 percent in 2009 to 189 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 20,576 pounds, was 181 pounds above 2008. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.20 million head, down 114,000 head from 2008.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2009 totaled \$24.3 billion, 30.1 percent lower than 2008. Producer returns averaged \$12.93 per hundredweight, 29.9 percent below 2008. Marketings totaled 188 billion pounds, 0.3 percent below 2008. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers. See table below for cash receipts from marketings for selected western states.

An estimated 1.01 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 5.1 percent less than 2008. Calves were fed 89 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

Note: this report no longer contains annual estimates for Puerto Rico milk production, disposition, and income. This information can be found in *Puerto Rico - Various Agricultural Statistics*. •

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS SELECTED STATES								
State	2008	2009	Change					
State	1,000	Dollars	Change					
Arizona	763,136	491,623	-35.58%					
California	6,924,121	4,537,171	-34.47%					
Colorado	533,968	358,912	-32.78%					
Idaho	2,100,564	1,430,514	-31.90%					
New Mexico	1,363,250	950,213	-30.30%					
Oregon	408,822	305,099	-25.37%					
Texas	1,568,743	1,172,129	-25.28%					
Utah	319,465	213,988	-33.02%					
Washington	1,000,032	681,912	-31.81%					
Selected								
Total	14,982,101	10,141,561	-32.31%					
US	34,849,113	24,342,440	-30.15%					

Source: *Milk Production, Disposition, and Income, 2009 Summary,* Da 1-2(10), Published April 29, 2010, by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

# USDA CONDUCTS FIRST-EVER ON-FARM ENERGY PRODUCTION SURVEY

USDA began conducting the first national On-Farm Energy Production Survey the first week of May. The most recent agriculture census counted more than 20,000 farms and ranches that were producing renewable energy via solar panels, wind turbines and methane digesters. This spring's survey will further explore how this energy is generated and used.

"This survey is a chance for farmers and ranchers to highlight the steps they are taking to produce renewable energy within their operations, which is helping to reduce our dependence on energy from foreign sources," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The survey results will provide agricultural producers, policymakers and the public with factual data about the economic and environmental implications of on-farm energy production."

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) mailed the survey forms to farm and ranch operators nationwide who indicated on the 2007 Census of Agriculture that they were generating renewable energy. Recipients were required to respond by May 24 and NASS will publish the survey results in February 2011.

The On-Farm Energy Production Survey is the first step in a comprehensive effort by NASS to collect and publish detailed data on the agriculture sector's production and use of renewable energy.

"This particular survey focuses on the use of wind turbines, solar panels and anaerobic digesters," said Hubert Hamer, chair of NASS's Agricultural Statistics Board. "But we will be expanding our data collection efforts in future years, looking at a full spectrum of issues related to the agriculture sector's production and use of renewable energy."

Survey respondents are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code) that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals. More information about the On-Farm Energy Production Survey is at www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

# DAIRY MARKET NEWS PORTAL: NEW FEATURES AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **New Features**

Several new features have been added to the Dairy Market News Portal as a part of a continuous effort to improve USDA's service to the portal users. These enhancements were made in response to users' feedback. Specifically, the new features increase custom report date range, allow users to schedule email delivery of reports, and subscribe to Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds.

The report date ranges have been increased for all custom reports within the Dairy Market News Portal. All daily reports can be run for up to five years. Also, all weekly, bi-weekly, monthly and yearly reports can be run for an unlimited time frame.

Registered users can now schedule email delivery of daily, weekly, and bi-weekly reports. Users must be logged into the portal to schedule reports. Once scheduled, daily reports will be delivered each day at approximately 3:00 pm EST and weekly reports will be delivered at approximately 3:00 pm EST each Friday.

RSS is an easy way to keep up with a personalized list of news and information and helps avoid running the same reports each day. The latest data from the custom reports can be delivered using an RSS "feed." The USDA Dairy Market News Portal has configured three "feeds" for CME cheese, nonfat dry milk, and butter cash trading.

For more detailed information, visit the Dairy Market News Portal at: www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/da.

#### Frequently Asked Questions

Another useful online resource available on the Portal is a selection of answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ). A few of the FAQ are listed here and additional FAQs are addressed online at www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/da/faq.

# Q: How is the data available in the Dairy Market News Portal gathered?

A: Market News reporters collect report information from the field according to region. Market News reporters call their contacts in the field, gather information, and estimate data values for inclusion in their reports. Dairy Market News publishes commodity reports that mainly list price

information. Some reports, however, publish volume and truckload information.

# Q: What format are the reports on the Dairy Market News Portal available in?

A: Any custom report available in the Dairy Market News Portal is available in html, text, PDF, XML, and Excel formats. Links to a custom report can also be saved and sent.

# Q: Do I have to register and create a profile on the Dairy Market News Portal?

A: Access to the Dairy Market News Portal and information is free to the public. You are not required to register, although it is suggested you do so if you are interested in taking advantage of extended site features including:

- Add bookmarks to your homepage to easily access current information on subsequent returns to the site
- Email reports or bookmarks to yourself or someone else
- Email yourself or someone else reports
- Save query information in My Custom Reports so that individually created reports can be re-run or modified.
- And much more!

Register on the Dairy Market News Portal website, www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/da, by clicking on the "Login/Create Account" text in the left column. The Create Account portion is a two step process and both steps need to be completed successfully. Registration and Login utilize the USDA's eAuthentication process and this allows the users to access other USDA sites as well without having to login there again.

# Q: I already have a profile on the FV and LG Market News Portals, can my profile automatically replicate to the Dairy Market News Portal?

A: Yes, you can use any existing eAuthentication account with the Dairy Market News Portal. You will, however, have to set your preferences for the Dairy Market News Portal as you do for other portals.

# Q: Can I save my custom queries and reports?

A: Yes, once you have created a user profile and completed the eAuthentication process, you will be able to save custom queries and reports under your Dairy Market News profile. ◆

**Market Administrator's Report** 

## MONTHLY SELECTED STATISTICS

		PACIFIC NORTHWEST				ARIZONA			
Minimum Class Prices (3.5% B.F.)	Apr 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	Mar 2009	
Class I Milk (\$/cwt.)	\$15.12	\$16.24	\$12.26	\$11.33	\$15.57	\$16.69	\$12.71	\$11.78	
Class II Milk (\$/cwt.)	13.78	14.46	10.49	10.36	13.78	14.46	10.49	10.36	
Class III Milk (\$/cwt.)	12.92	12.78	10.78	10.44	12.92	12.78	10.78	10.44	
Class IV Milk (\$/cwt.)	13.73	12.92	9.82	9.64	13.73	12.92	9.82	9.64	
Producer Prices									
Producer Price Differential (\$/cwt.)	\$ 0.87	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.04	+	+	+	+	
Butterfat (\$/pound)	1.5813	1.5347	1.2049	1.1594	+	+	+	+	
Protein (\$/pound)	2.1449	2.1311	2.2009	2.1973	+	+	+	+	
Other Solids (\$/pound)	0.1702	0.1823	(0.0043)	(0.0339)	+	+	+	+	
Uniform Skim Price (\$/cwt.)	+	+	+	+	8.94	9.27	7.11	6.83	
Uniform Butterfat Price (\$/pound)	+	+	+	+	1.5756	1.5263	1.2007	1.1532	
Statistical Uniform Price (\$/cwt.)	\$13.79	\$13.86	\$11.01	\$10.48	\$14.14	\$14.29	\$11.06	\$10.63	
Producer Data								ļ	
Number of Producers	635 *	635	535	651	93 *	93	101	100	
Avg. Daily Production (lbs.)	34,583 *	35,887	35,056	30,492	134,306 *	132,067	123,389	124,745	
Producer Milk Ratios								ļ	
Class I	29.02%	27.28%	33.08%	31.07%	32.95%	32.44%	32.28%	32.00%	
Class II	6.14%	6.54%	6.90%	7.20%	7.16%	7.69%	7.13%	7.87%	
Class III	40.99%	39.50%	31.33%	36.26%	29.88%	25.63%	24.19%	26.98%	
Class IV	23.85%	26.68%	28.69%	25.47%	30.01%	34.24%	36.40%	33.15%	
				_	•				

+ Not Applicable. \* Preliminary.

#### MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTAL STATISTICS

						-			
Number of Handlers		Mar 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Mar 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2009	Feb 2009
Pool Handlers .		28	28	27	28	7	7	7	7
Distributing Plants		15	15	15	15	5	5	5	5
Supply Plants 1/		8	8	7	8	1	1	1	1
Cooperatives		5	5	5	5	1	1	1	1
Producer-Handlers .		6	5	6	6	0	0	0	0
Other Plants w/ Class I Use		23	23	21	21	26	25	25	25
Class I Route Disposition In	Area								
By Pool Plants .		172,345,660	157,695,934	172,339,360	160,011,583	97,848,860	89,090,125	99,265,118	92,432,022
By Producer-Handlers		10,196,289	6,427,816	7,398,374	6,234,484	0	0	0	0
By Other Plants		8,056,287 *	6,701,084	6,919,462	6,497,953	6,284,846 *	5,088,644	5,279,465	4,251,608
Total	_	190,598,236	170,824,834	186,657,196	172,744,020	104,133,706	94,178,769	104,544,583	96,683,630
Producer-Handler Data									
% Class I Use		78.65%	82.07%	77.63%	78.80%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
% of Total In-Area Route Disp	oositions	5.35%	3.76%	3.96%	3.61%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

\* Preliminary. 1/ Includes Cooperative Pool Manufacturing Plants

## **MONTHLY STATISTICAL SUMMARY**

(Product pounds based upon reports of handlers)

RECEIPTS, UTIL	IZATION AND		PACIFIC NO	RTHWEST			ARIZO	NA	
CLASSIFICATI	ON OF MILK	Apr 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	Mar 2009	Apr 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2009	Mar 2009
TOTAL PRODUC	ER MILK	658,803,011	706,443,808	562,644,722	615,364,582	374,713,553	380,750,552	373,867,836	386,710,92
RECEIPTS FROM O	THER SOURCES	14,194,717	13,444,417	44,286,398	38,004,028	4,502,402	2,159,082	7,207,343	5,992,38
OPENING INVENTO	RY	34,880,768	40,181,876	27,632,694	28,273,456	20,293,466	25,879,696	20,379,139	22,787,95
TOTAL TO BE A	ACCOUNTED FOR	707,878,496	760,070,101	634,563,814	681,642,066	399,509,421	408,789,330	401,454,318	415,491,26
	=								
UTILIZATION OF RE	CEIPTS								
Whole milk	-	31,003,495	31,223,275	31,903,647	32,808,271	24,233,607	24,435,966	23,918,215	25,044,12
Flavored milk & mi		13.967.722	13,738,886	13,566,109	13,240,473	6,990,489	6,350,070	6,634,760	6,271,9
2% milk		68,430,258	69,681,059	67,548,006	69,708,653	35,460,126	36,418,572	37,086,758	38,579,51
1% milk		27,886,632	27,530,553	27,236,736	26,853,001	16,362,760	16,342,768	14,686,984	14,606,83
Skim milk		28,343,305	28,706,767	27,872,126	28,346,946	13,265,245	13,832,890	13,370,225	14,248,18
Buttermilk		1,422,734	1,465,120	1,338,410	1,382,016	402,432	468,594	474,639	514,54
	DISP. IN AREA	171,054,146	172,345,660	169,465,034	172,339,360	96,714,659	97,848,860	96,171,581	99,265,1
Class I dispositions	out of area	16,553,235	17,387,764	17,757,859	18,860,625	23,731,432	25,365,263	21,680,467	23,945,0
Other Class I usag		19,799,645	17,114,639	17,269,145	16,938,999	13,620,352	10,859,930	13,300,037	10,365,18
TOTAL CLASS I USE		207,407,026	206,848,063	204,492,038	208,138,984	134,066,443	134,074,053	131,152,085	133,575,35
TOTAL CLASS II	USE	52,264,644	56,251,597	46,017,604	52,765,728	27,981,226	29,880,316	27,457,943	31,475,66
TOTAL CLASS II	IUSE	271,963,519	281,600,294	187,851,471	235,151,354	113,512,877	98,109,589	90,485,234	104,331,34
TOTAL CLASS IV	/ USE	176,243,307	215,370,147	196,202,701	185,586,000	123,948,875	146,725,372	152,359,056	146,108,89
TOTAL ACCOU	NTED FOR	707,878,496	760,070,101	634,563,814	681,642,066	399,509,421	408,789,330	401,454,318	415,491,26
	=								
CLASSIFICATION O									
Producer milk:	Class I	191,170,889	192,697,194	186,140,294	191,219,656	123,457,192	123,509,719	120,667,532	123,730,63
	Class II .	40,436,626	46,204,112	38,827,545	44,330,171	26,839,595	29,261,112	26,666,552	30,418,14
	Class III .	270,056,019	279,022,850	176,275,672	223,102,106	111,952,151	97,591,787	90,430,472	104,331,3
	Class IV .	157,139,477	188,519,652	161,401,211	156,712,649	112,464,615	130,387,934	136,103,280	128,230,8
Other receipts:	Class I .	16,236,137	14,150,869	18,351,744	16,919,328	10,609,251	10,564,334	27,586,482	28,780,3
	Class II .	11,828,018	10,047,485	7,190,059	8,435,557	2/	2/	1/	
	Class III .	1,907,500	2,577,444	11,575,799	12,049,248	2/	2/	1/	
	Class IV .	19,103,830	26,850,495	34,801,490	28,873,351	14,186,617	17,474,444	1/	
Avg. daily producer re	•	21,960,100	22,788,510	18,754,824	19,850,470	12,490,452	12,282,276	12,462,261	12,474,5
Change From P		17.09%	14.80%	-12.87%	21.69%	0.23%	-1.54%	0.31%	1.51
Avg. daily Class I use		6,913,568	6,672,518	6,816,401	6,714,161	4,468,881	4,324,969	4,371,736	4,308,88
Change From P	revious Year	1.43%	-0.62%	-0.60%	-0.62%	2.22%	0.37%	1.70%	3.069

<sup>1/</sup> Restricted - Included with Class I.

<sup>2/</sup> Restricted - Included with Class IV.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE:**

- Market Summaries for April 2010
- April 2010 Class Prices
- Class I Price for June 2010
- Dairy Products Prices 2009 Summary
- Milk Production, Disposition, and Income, 2009 Summary
- USDA Conducts On-Farm Energy Production Survey
- Dairy Market News Portal: New Features and Frequently Asked Questions
- USDA Open Government Plan

#### **USDA OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN**

USDA has released its Open Government Plan, formalizing plans to integrate openness, transparency, participation and collaboration into the Department's everyday operations.

To efficiently meet the Open Government requirements, USDA established a unique governance structure comprised of three levels of leadership and direction that came together to form working groups, an Advisory Council, and Steering Committee. Representatives from every level of USDA [will be involved], including IT partners, data owners, public affairs and senior leaders.

The plan formalizes goals, opportunities and outcomes for each of the open government principles. Additionally, the plan includes initiatives across the Department to illustrate how USDA is breaking down barriers between government and the public leading to a more efficient and effective government.

More details are available online at www.usda.gov/open. ♦