

**DECEMBER 2011 CLASS PRICES**

December 2011 non-advanced Class Prices were calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from December 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2011. Component prices for the month are \$3.3404 per pound of protein, \$1.7443 per pound of butterfat, \$0.4683 per pound of other solids, and \$1.2398 per pound of nonfat solids.

December 2011 Class III and IV prices at 3.5% butterfat are \$18.77 and \$16.87 per hundredweight, respectively. The December Class III price compared to November is down \$0.30. The Class III price is \$4.94 higher than in December 2010.

Class II butterfat was announced at \$1.7513 per pound. Class I skim and butterfat and Class II skim prices for December 2011 were announced on November 18, 2011. The Class II price at 3.5% butterfat is \$18.08 for December 2011.

**FINAL: NASS COMMODITY PRICES**

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cheese*	\$1.8415	\$1.8070	-\$0.0345
Butter	\$1.7824	\$1.6119	-\$0.1705
Nonfat Dry Milk	\$1.4522	\$1.4201	-\$0.0321
Whey	\$0.6380	\$0.6538	\$0.0158

\* 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 a decrease for 500-pound barrels. The survey of 40-pound blocks showed a net decrease of 20.15 cents between the December 17 and the January 14 surveys, to \$1.5724 per pound. The survey of 500-pound barrels (**adjusted to 38% moisture**) showed a decrease of 10.18 cents to \$1.6081 per pound.

The NASS butter price showed a net decrease of 0.94 cents between the weeks ending December 17 and January 14 from \$1.5922 per pound to \$1.5828 per pound.

The NASS nonfat dry milk showed a net decrease of 2.67 cents since mid-December to \$1.4151 per pound. The average price for NASS whey showed an increase of 4.58 cents since mid-December to \$0.7020 per pound. ♦

**FEBRUARY'S CLASS I PRICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

On January 20, the February 2012 Class I price was announced at \$18.93 for the Pacific Northwest Order and \$19.38 for the Arizona Order. The Class I price was calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from the weeks of January 7 and 14.

The February Class III and IV advance skim prices are \$11.42 and \$11.12 per hundredweight, respectively. The butterfat portion of the Class I mover decreased 2.25 cents from \$1.7395 to \$1.7170 per pound.

The February 2012 Class II skim and nonfat solids prices were also announced on January 20. The skim price is \$11.82 per hundredweight, and the nonfat solids price is \$1.3133 pound for all Federal orders. ♦

**ADVANCED: NASS COMMODITY PRICES FOR CLASS I PRICE CALCULATIONS**

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cheese*	\$1.8102	\$1.6052	-\$0.2050
Butter	\$1.6079	\$1.5893	-\$0.0186
Nonfat Dry Milk	\$1.4419	\$1.4155	-\$0.0264
Whey	\$0.6549	\$0.6915	\$0.0366

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

**NASS TO REINSTATE SEVERAL AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES PROGRAMS**

NASS leadership recently concluded a deliberate review of all programs against mission- and user-based criteria, aimed at finding cost savings and forward-thinking business efficiencies so that timely, accurate and useful data remains available in service to agriculture. In 2011, NASS made several enhancements within its programs and operations to deliver improved results for the American people, including opening a new national operations center in St. Louis that will centralize data collection and service to people who provide and use NASS products and services. These efforts and more over the last year have allowed NASS leadership the flexibility within its budget to retain and reinstate several key reports.

Among the reinstated programs are the "Annual Reports on Farm Numbers, Land In Farms Reports and Farm Income" and the "July Cattle Report". The full list of reinstated programs is available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). ♦