

Idaho Dairy Focus

Idaho Dairymen's
Association - Fall 2026





Protecting Idaho's dairy industry through environmental, legal, and legislative efforts since 1924

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Federal Policy Update

Charlie Garrison | Idaho Dairywomen's Association

The calendar says fall is here and it's a calendar year number divisible by two so all eyes in Washington, D.C. are focused squarely on the midterm elections coming up on November 3rd. The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mike Johnson (R-LA), decided the better course of action was to send his members home to campaign starting in mid-September. The U.S. Senate plans to be in session perhaps into the first week of October.

New Farm Bill

The U.S. Senate passed its version of a new Farm Bill on September 16th on a party line vote of 12 – 11. The vote had been delayed since early August with the committee unable to report the bill due to the absence of two Republican members for the final vote. Former Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) remained away from the Senate for several months while recovering from a fall he suffered last spring. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) was away from the Senate as he campaigns for Governor of Alabama.

Senate Democrats remain united in opposition to the Farm Bill as they try to force the Republicans to go along with a two-year delay in implementing requirements for states to reduce error rates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that were signed into law in different legislation in July

of 2025. SNAP is a farm bill program that provides money for states to distribute. Several states have error rates, meaning participants are either given assistance they don't qualify for or denied benefits they should get, in the double digits. Republicans included a provision in the "One Big Beautiful Bill" last year requiring states with high error rates to cover a certain percentage of their SNAP costs until their performance improves.

Next steps for the bill would be floor action with amendments offered, debated and voted on. But that is up in the air at this point as unified Democratic opposition would prevent the bill from getting the 60 votes needed to overcome the inevitable filibuster. IDA will continue working with Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch to try to get this bill across the finish line.

Labeling

IDA recently joined more than six dozen organizations on a letter to leadership of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in opposition to a bill that would require harmful product labeling that could deter people from purchasing dairy foods. The bill is the "Childhood Diabetes Reduction Act of 2026" and it recently passed the Senate Help, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on a narrow vote.

The letter is unique in that it drew the support of both producers and processors in opposition to a bill that could have unintended consequences for consumers trying to eat healthy, farmers already struggling with high input costs and low commodity prices, processors, retailers and everyone else in the nation's food supply chains. While we all support the stated goal of reducing the incidence of childhood diabetes, the labeling requirements in the legislation are too broad. The definition of "ultra processed foods" included in the bill, and the front-of-package requirement for labeling any product with ingredients that meet the description, would rope in many dairy products including flavored and unflavored whole milk, all cheese and ice cream and most yogurts and other cultured dairy products. Only plain, nonfat or low-fat milk or some plain, lowfat yogurts would be exempt.

With this level of opposition from the dairy industry, and so little time left on the session schedule for this Congress, the bill may not advance farther this fall. IDA will continue to watch this issue and work with our federal delegation to help refine future legislation on this and other aspects of product labeling.

International Trade

With exports now approaching 18% of annual U.S. dairy production, international trade agreements and disputes with some of our key trading partners are very much on the minds of Idaho dairy producers. Every day seems to bring new headlines about tariffs the U.S. has placed on imports from this country or that and counter tariffs placed by other countries on our goods, including dairy products in some cases.

The U.S., Mexico and Canada were scheduled to conduct a review of the agreement between the three North American countries this past July. The U.S. and Mexico seem to have a good handle on some modifications to the trilateral agreement signed in 2018, but the U.S. and Canada have not been able to find a path forward. It's important to note that the U.S. didn't fully withdraw from the USMCA. The agreement will continue but the Trump Administration insisted on annual reviews going forward.

The dispute getting all the press these days is the one with Canada. The U.S. has placed 50% tariffs on Canadian whey products, milk proteins, lactose, casein and milk powders effective August 19th. Canada then placed tariffs of 50% on a similar list of U.S. dairy products and 25% on U.S. cheese. The biggest U.S. dairy export to Canada is butter – a

notable omission from their tariff list.

Following Canada's response to the 50% U.S. tariffs on some of their dairy products, the White House published an "exclusion list" of several whey products that may no longer be imported into the U.S. from Canada effective on September 29th.

Ag Labor

The "Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act" (SAWA) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier in the summer. Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson was one of the first original cosponsors to join House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA) in support of his bill. But that's not new for Mike Simpson. He has been a leader on trying to solve the Ag Labor crisis for years and we thank him for all of his efforts on that issue. To date, SAWA has more than 60 bipartisan cosponsors in the House. IDA continues to work with other farm groups in Idaho and across the country to try to advance the bill.

IDA has also been working with Senator Mike Crapo on a companion bill to SAWA. The Senator has been working with his colleagues to try to identify other Senators who might want to cosponsor a bill similar to what was introduced in the House. That's a tough order given the partisan divides in Washington, D.C. right now and we thank Senator Crapo for his work on the most important issue challenging Idaho agriculture.

As discussed in a previous IDA newsletter, SAWA would expand the H-2A program to include eligibility for employers with non-seasonal jobs like those on Idaho's dairies to apply for a temporary foreign worker when no local worker is available or interested in the job. SAWA would also allow for visas up to three years in length, allow work periods up to 350 days per year instead of the current 10 months, streamline the application process, modernize the wage structure and update the housing requirement. Most important for Idaho dairies, it would allow current workers the opportunity to become H-2A and make the transition without leaving the country. That last point is critical as the work on Idaho dairies must go on as the country moves toward a stable, legal farm workforce.■

Charlie Garrison

cgarrison@thegarrisongroupllc.com

General Election Endorsements

Jamie Neill & David Claiborne | Idaho Dairy Industry PAC

As we get into the general election, the Idaho Dairy Industry PAC met to make the final 2026 endorsements. Most of the endorsements were made for the May primary election which largely carry over into the general election this coming November.

It is important to note that history, polling, and expert analysis show that the general election in Idaho was already decided in the May primary and only 3-4 legislative districts (out of 35) are deemed to be competitive. The competitive legislative races will take place in districts 6 (Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce), 15 (Boise proper), 26 (Blaine, Jerome, and Lincoln), and 29 (Pocatello proper).

The Idaho Dairy Industry PAC made endorsements based off the candidates positions on key issues to the dairy industry including but not limited to – support for the foreign-born workforce, common-sense environmental policies, and certainty for business. The IDI PAC analyzed incumbents based

on key votes, prospects of winning, and met with candidates to ask about their views on the dairy industry.

Perhaps the most consequential race to the dairy industry in November will be Representative Mike Pohanka. He has been a consistent supporter of dairy producers through his votes and consistent interest in learning more about the industry. Living in Jerome, he cares about the community he represents.

You can see all of IDI PAC's endorsements on the next page. ■

Jamie Neill

Jamie@idahodairymens.org

David Claiborne

david@sawtoothlaw.com





IDI PAC Endorsements

(Current as of October 2026)

Statewide Officials

Brad Little | R | Governor
Scott Bedke | R | Lieutenant Governor
Phil McGrane | R | Secretary of State
Debbie Critchfield | R | Superintendent of Public Instruction
Brandon Woolf | R | State Controller

District 7

Charlie Shepherd | R | Representative

District 8

Brian Beckley | R | Representative*

District 9

John Shirts | R | Representative
Judy Boyle | R | Representative

District 10

Mike Moyle | R | Representative

District 11

Camille Blaylock | R | Senator
Debbie Geyer | R | Representative*

District 12

Ben Adams | R | Senator
Jeff Cornilles | R | Representative

District 14

Scott Grow | R | Senator

District 15

Desi Burbank | R | Senator

District 16

Sonia Galaviz | D | Senator
Anne Henderson Haws | D | Representative

District 17

Carrie Semmelroth | D | Senator
John Gannon | D | Representative
Megan Egbert | D | Representative

District 18

Janie Ward-Engelking | D | Senator
Illana Rubel | D | Representative
Brooke Green | D | Representative

District 19

Melissa Wintrow | D | Senator
Monica Church | D | Representative
Chris Mathias | D | Representative

District 20

Joe Palmer | R | Representative
James Holtzclar | R | Representative

District 21

Treg A. Bernt | R | Senator
James Petzke | R | Representative
Jeff Ehlers | R | Representative

District 22

Lori Den Hartog | R | Senator
Kelly Walton | R | Representative*
Jason Monks | R | Representative

District 23

Todd Lakey | R | Senator
Shawn R. Dygert | R | Representative

District 24

Brent Reinke | R | Senator*
Kevin Moxley | I | Representative*
Chance Requa | R | Representative*

District 25

Casey Swensen | R | Senator*
Grayson Stone | R | Representative*
Cherie Vollmer | R | Representative*

District 26

Ron Taylor | D | Senator
Mike Pohanka | R | Representative
Kevin Marsh | D | Representative*

District 27

Kelly Anthon | R | Senator
Douglas T. Pickett | R | Representative
Clay Handy | R | Representative

District 28

Jim Guthrie | R | Senator
Richard Cheatum | R | Representative
Dan Garner | R | Representative

District 29

James Ruchti | D | Senator
Dustin W. Manwaring | R | Representative

District 30

Julie VanOrden | R | Senator
David Cannon | R | Representative
Ben G. Fuhrman | R | Representative

District 31

Van T. Burtenshaw | R | Senator
Jerald Raymond | R | Representative
Rod Furniss | R | Representative

District 32

Kevin J. Cook | R | Senator
Stephanie Mickelsen | R | Representative
Erin Bingham | R | Representative

District 33

Dave Lent | R | Senator
Marco Erickson | R | Representative

District 34

Jon O. Weber | R | Representative
Britt Raybould | R | Representative

District 35

Mark Harris | R | Senator
Mike Veile | R | Representative
Joshua Wheeler | R | Representative

* Indicates a new candidate rather than an incumbent



2026 Joint Annual Meeting

Riley Barney | Idaho Dairymen's Association

The 2026 Dairy West and Idaho Dairymen's Association Joint Annual Meeting is quickly approaching! This year's Annual Meeting will take place November 10–12 at the Boise Centre. The event will feature engaging speakers, informative discussions, and opportunities to connect with fellow dairy producers and industry partners from across Idaho. For more information, including registration details and the full agenda, please visit the 2026 Annual Meeting website at https://dairywest.swoogo.com/2026/11396374?reg_type_id=1134811.

Dairy producers who register by October 16 will qualify for the Grand Champion full registration reimbursement. Producers who register between October 17 and October 30 will qualify for the Reserve Champion reimbursement of \$150.

New this year, the Annual Meeting will kick off Tuesday evening with an Opening Night Reception featuring a dairy product showcase and live entertainment from country music band Little Texas! The showcase will highlight the versatility of dairy products, the many ways dairy is enjoyed by consumers, and some of Dairy West's promotional efforts throughout the year. Attendees will have the opportunity to sample a variety of dairy products

while connecting with fellow producers and industry partners before enjoying the concert.

Throughout the conference, attendees will hear from a variety of speakers and panelists covering topics important to today's dairy industry. Sessions will explore state and national election results, water issues, and more. Featured keynote speakers include Rob Sharkey (SharkFarmer) and Stephen Cain of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF).

Attendees will also hear updates from IDA and Dairy West during their respective business meetings. Additional conference activities include Family Fun Night, opportunities to visit with industry partners, and the annual awards luncheons and banquet recognizing individuals for their contributions to the dairy industry.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Riley Barney with IDA for assistance with registration or additional information. We look forward to seeing you in Boise! ■

Riley Barney
riley@idahodairymens.org

Big Shoes to Fill, a Legacy to Carry On

Jamie Neill | Idaho Dairywomen's Association

As the “New Bob” I have extremely big shoes to fill. Both physically and professionally. But the truth is, I am not replacing Bob Naerebout. No one can, and no one will.

Bob has been a mentor to me and so many others in the dairy industry, government affairs sector, and beyond. His legacy advocating for Idaho dairy can be seen in Idaho statutes, the national immigration debate, and the elected officials who make Idaho, Idaho. The number of lives he has touched and improved are countless. Whether you are a US Senator or starting your first shift in the milking parlor – Bob treats every human the same. The exact same.

What I appreciate the most about Bob, is his courage. No issue is too political or too controversial to take on. If the issue needs to be solved to benefit dairy producers, or if the cause is just simply the right thing to do, Bob will make that his mission to accomplish. And nothing will stand in his way.

I was fortunate enough to observe Bob when I was a staffer for Congressman Mike Simpson. And it won't come as a shock to you that he was constantly lobbying on immigration reform, so I saw him a lot. Every political instinct would indicate that immigration reform is untouchable. Especially in a bright red state like Idaho. But Bob didn't care. Passing immigration reform is necessary and the right thing to do.

Despite the mountain to climb, men of integrity like Bob and Congressman Simpson agreed it was worth pursuing.

Fast forward a few years and many bottles of wine later, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act passed through the House of Representatives. Twice. I can tell you with 100 percent certainty that without Bob and IDA being involved, common sense immigration reform does not advance.

We haven't declared victory yet on immigration reform, but we are closer than we have ever been before. But if Bob Naerebout didn't exist, we would

still be stuck in neutral trying to get out of our driveway.

I am going to miss working with Bob on a regular basis. I know he is a phone call away – and rest assured I will use that often. But Idaho politics won't be the same without Bob Naerebout in the halls of the statehouse or twisting arms in Washington, DC. But rest assured that his work will live on from those of us he has inspired.

On behalf of Charlie Garrison, David Claiborne, Rick Naerebout, Riley Barney, Megan Satterwhite and so many others - thank you, Bob. You have made us all better today and into the future. ■

Jamie Neill

Jamie@idahodairymens.org



Idaho Dairy Farm Field Day

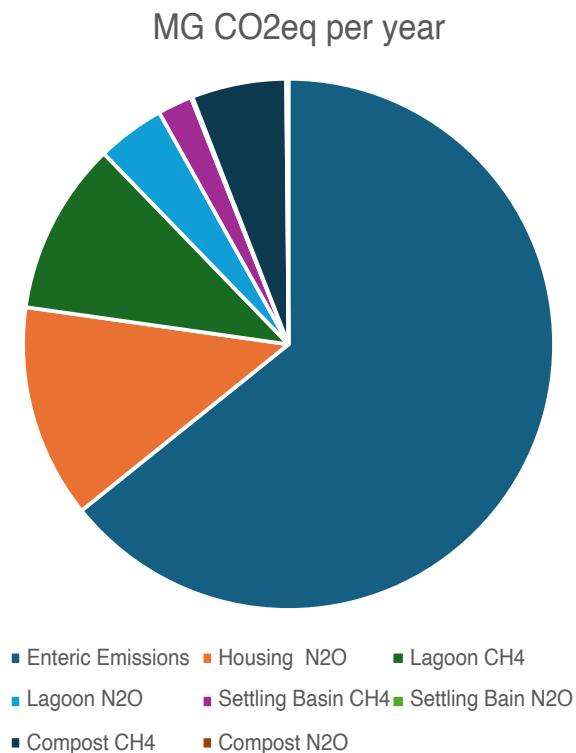
Megan Satterwhite & April Leytum | Idaho Dairymen's Association

The Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA) partnered with Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) and other funding partners to launch the Idaho Dairy Scale for Good (DS4G) pilot project, aimed at demonstrating how dairy farms can economically achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and reduce their overall environmental footprint. Idaho is one of four states participating in this initiative, which implements and evaluates the latest practices and technologies to assess their GHG and environmental impact. To ensure that the project accurately reflects Western dairy management styles and climate conditions, IDA insisted on including an average-sized Idaho open-lot dairy as part of the DS4G project. With this objective, IDA partnered with a 1,700-head open-lot facility in the Magic Valley to trial a variety of management practices and technologies. In addition, a team of research scientists from USDA-ARS in Kimberly and the University of Idaho is leading an evaluation of the environmental impact of these mitigation strategies.

When asked why they decided to participate in this initiative, the Lund family responded, "As a progressive dairy operation committed to long-term sustainability and environmental stewardship, we chose to participate in the DS4G pilot project because it gives us the opportunity to test cutting-edge manure management, feed additives, and nutrient application technologies right here on our farm under real Western open-lot conditions. We see this as a chance to meaningfully reduce our GHG footprint while improving soil health, water efficiency, and overall farm economics. If we are not moving forward, we're moving backward."

The project first evaluated the farm's baseline footprint. We collected data on the farm's cattle management practices, housing, manure management, feeding, and forage production. Beginning in August 2024, we installed specialized equipment to continuously monitor emissions of ammonia, methane, and nitrous oxide from the open lots, settling basin, compost yard, and lagoon. Additionally, we monitored nitrous oxide emissions from two farm fields weekly starting in spring 2025. We also collected baseline information on forage production practices, soil nutrient status, and on-farm management practices. This comprehensive data collection enabled us to calculate the farm's

average baseline emissions footprint, shown in Figure 1.



After identifying the areas of the farm that contributed most to the baseline footprint, the next step was to select mitigation strategies that would yield significant environmental and economic benefits. We worked closely with the Lund family to align mitigation practices with their operational goals, financial considerations, and long-term sustainability. As a result, we selected practices to improve overall nutrient management on the farm and reduce GHG emissions. The selected practices and technologies include advanced manure separation (utilizing a screw press followed by a centrifuge), acidification of the settling basin to reduce methane emissions, improved manure composting techniques, manure blending technology to enable precision application of liquid manure to crops, expansion of liquid manure distribution to a larger land base, alternative crop rotations to optimize water use and maintain forage production during drought years, and interseeding alfalfa to improve water efficiency and increase first-year yields. Feed additives that may reduce enteric



emissions, the largest contributor to on-farm GHG, may also be evaluated next year, depending on product availability.

Implementation of most practices and technologies commenced this spring. Emissions monitoring, as well as evaluation of overall nutrient cycling and budgets, crop yield, and quality, will continue over the next two years to assess the effectiveness of these management strategies.

These practices and technologies not only have the potential to reduce the farm's carbon footprint but also to offer additional benefits, including improved water quality and quantity, increased on-farm efficiency, and enhanced soil health. This demonstration project provides producers with the opportunity to observe these technologies in operation and gather firsthand information about their performance in a commercial setting. Furthermore, data collected from this farm will contribute to improved inventory methodologies and models and provide valuable insights for carbon markets. IDA CEO, Rick Naerebout, commented, "IDA has partnered on this project because we believe any practice or technology expected of Idaho dairymen must be demonstrated in real-world situations before

implementation. This ensures effectiveness not only in environmental benefits, but—most importantly—in financial and operational feasibility. The DS4G project offers us this opportunity by engaging major players across the dairy supply chain, whose dairy ingredient purchases impact numerous Idaho processors and cooperatives."

IDA, together with our partners, recently hosted a field day to highlight innovative practices and technologies. Although it was too early to share research findings, the event offered an excellent opportunity to show neighboring dairy farmers and their trusted advisors how research can be scaled up and applied at a commercial level to ground-truth. Later this fall, once the research team has finished disseminating the data, we will provide our membership with a summary of the findings. In the meantime, please get in touch with us if you would like more information. ■

Megan Satterwhite
megan@idahodairymens.org

April Leytum
april.leytem@gmail.com

Dairy West Announces Enhanced High School Athletics Partnerships for 2026–2027

Jaclyn St. John | Dairy West

Following a comprehensive evaluation of current activations and negotiations with our state high school association partners, the Dairy West Board has approved an updated high school athletics strategy for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year.

Dairy Becomes the “Official Fuel”

As part of this new approach, dairy will become the “Official Fuel of “ each of our four state high school associations. The term “fuel “ was intentional, representing the entire dairy category rather than a single product.

Expanded Replenish with Chocolate Milk Program

Dairy West will expand the Replenish with Chocolate Milk Program — which provides chocolate milk to high school athletes as an effective post-workout recovery beverage — by supplying a pallet of shelf-stable TruMoo whole chocolate milk (2,856 8-oz. units) to participating Idaho high schools.

This expansion reflects a strategic shift away from tournament-based milk distributions to year-round athlete engagement, allowing Dairy West to provide more milk to more student-athletes across all four states.

Sports Nutrition Education & Resources

All high school athletic programs in the region will have access to:

- Free 15-minute virtual team talks with a sports dietitian
- Greatness Guide athlete booklets
- Sports Nutrition Toolkits
- Posters, banners and more

State Tournament Events

Tournament passes will continue to be available to Idaho dairy farm families and their employees. Additional details on the digital pass process and the permit number required for use is being mailed to each permit holder.

Note - Idaho state tournament athletes will continue to receive sweatshirts funded by dairy farmers.

Unbottled brand and marketing elements have been discontinued. Dairy West and new performance nutrition marketing will be visible at all championship events throughout the region, increasing dairy’s visibility and connection to fans and student-athletes.

Looking Ahead

The goal is to have all communications, marketing assets, program details, and educational resources finalized for an October 2026 launch. Questions? Please contact Jaclyn St. John, Director – Nutrition Partnerships for Dairy West at jstjohn@dairywest.com or 208-244-8976. ■

Jaclyn St. John

jstjohn@dairywest.com

Understanding and Improving Dairy Cattle Hoof Health in the Pacific Northwest

Drew Swartz | Utah State University

My name is Drew Swartz, and I am the Dairy Cattle Extension Specialist at Utah State University. My primary role is to work with dairy producers and industry professionals to address challenges facing the dairy industry through Extension education and applied research. My background includes dairy management, precision technologies, and dairy cattle lameness and hoof health.

A major goal of my Extension program is to make sure the questions I work on reflect the needs and priorities of producers. I want producer experiences and challenges to help shape the questions we investigate, with the resulting information coming back to producers in a practical form that supports on-farm decision-making. This includes working with dairy producers, veterinarians, hoof trimmers, nutritionists, and other industry professionals.



Why Hoof Health Is a Priority

One area of my Extension program that I am particularly interested in is dairy cattle lameness and hoof health. Farms differ in their facilities, management practices, hoof-trimming programs, and the hoof health challenges they encounter. Understanding these differences is important for identifying practical approaches to improving hoof health on commercial dairy farms.

Learning From Producers and Hoof Trimmers

One of my current projects is focused on better understanding hoof-trimming practices and hoof health needs within the dairy industry. As part of this work, I am conducting a survey to learn how hoof trimming is currently being managed, the challenges producers and hoof trimmers encounter, and what resources or information could be most useful.

Producer input is especially important. Rather than developing research and Extension programs based solely on what we think producers need, I want to hear directly from the people managing these challenges every day. Your experiences can help identify common concerns, differences in management approaches, and areas where additional research, education, or industry collaboration may be valuable.

The information collected through this survey will help guide future research and Extension programming related to lameness and hoof health. My goal is to use producer and industry input to develop practical educational resources and focus future efforts on the issues that matter most to dairy producers.

I Want to Hear From You

If you are a dairy producer and are willing to share your experiences with hoof trimming and hoof health management, I would greatly appreciate your participation. Your input will help shape future research and Extension efforts and ensure that this work reflects the needs of the dairy industry.

Scan the QR code below to participate in the survey.

If you have any question, please don't hesitate to reach out. ■

Drew Swartz

drew.swartz@usu.edu



Extension
UtahStateUniversity



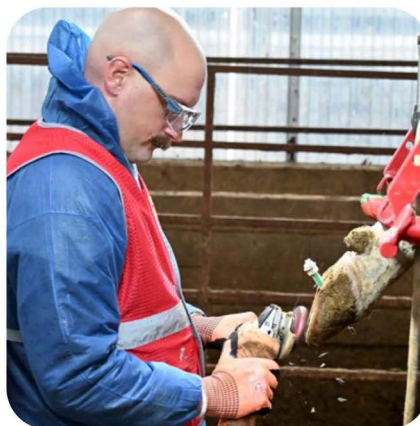
DAIRY HOOF TRIMMING PRACTICES SURVEY

Help improve dairy management research across the United States



<https://tinyurl.com/28esl44s>

**Take the
survey today!**



This project was reviewed by the Utah State University IRB and determined not to qualify as human subjects research under 45 CFR 46.102. Protocol #16007.

Tariffs, Tariffs, and More Tariffs

Dustin Winston | StoneX

It seems that U.S. tariff law has more sections than a professional sports stadium. Toward the end of July the Trump administration announced new Section 301 tariffs which effectively replace the Section 122 tariffs, which had temporarily replaced the IEEPA tariffs which were struck down by the Supreme Court. In addition to the new Section 301 tariffs, the administration also put new Section 338 tariffs on a variety of goods coming from Canada. Fun fact, the Section 338 tariffs come from the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 which was made famous by....anyone?....anyone?....Ben Stein in Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

The Section 301 tariffs are probably the most straightforward and least impactful for the dairy markets. The administration is putting either flat 10% or 12.5% tariffs (depending on the country) on top of existing tariffs for 60 countries with the justification that these countries are not policing the use of forced labor well enough. There are 5 countries where the 10/12.5% rates aren't added on top of existing tariffs, but if the existing tariffs are below the 10/12.5% rate, then those items will be charged a total of 10% or 12.5%.

The Section 338 tariffs are likely more meaningful for dairy. The U.S. government has determined that Canada is discriminating against the imports of U.S. dairy, alcohol and vehicles with their import policies and announced in July, an additional 50% tariff on the imports of a wide variety of products from Canada including a number of dairy products. The tariffs went into effect on August 22, 2026. Following the initiation of these tariffs Canada announced retaliatory tariffs that went into place on September 8th.

The U.S. imports a decent amount of WPC, yogurt, liquid milk and cheese from Canada, but out of that list, WPC is the only one being hit with the additional tariff. With the price of WPC80 near \$13.00/lb. (\$28,600/MT), a 50% tariff is really going to hurt. At that price level it wouldn't be a surprise if we see some buyers look to other opportunities, like Europe for example. We won't see data on the impact of tariffs for several weeks and with how tight the WPC market is it could take a couple of months to fully shift. In the short-term I believe that it is unlikely we will see any major

change, and who knows how long these tariffs could be in place for.

When the U.S. has placed tariffs on Canada in the past, Canada has had a tendency to retaliate by putting additional tariffs on U.S. products (including dairy). Canada is a top 5 destination for most U.S. dairy products, so if they put additional tariffs on U.S. products it could have a negative impact on U.S. dairy prices until U.S. exporters could find other homes for the dairy products.

The dairy markets have had no discernable reaction to the news of either tariff announcement. In my opinion, if the administration had made these announcements at the start of 2025 there likely would have been some significant movements in dairy futures prices but the market feels like it has become numb to tariff news over the past year. If you are interested in further information about this topic or any other factors impacting the dairy industry here in the U.S. – we can help, please reach out. ■

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Dustin Winston
dustin.winston@stonex.com

FARM Evaluator Conference Brings Practical Tools, Industry Insight to Boise

FARM Program Staff | National Milk Producers Federation

The National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program convened its evaluator network Aug. 18-19 in Boise, ID, for the 2026 Evaluator Conference, bringing together representatives from 36 organizations across 22 states for two days of industry insight, program-area learning and peer connection.

The conference opened with Corey Geiger, lead dairy economist at CoBank, with his keynote session, “State of the Dairy Industry.” Geiger’s presentation outlined current trends and future opportunities in U.S. dairy, including production, consumption, exports, genetics and broader market dynamics.

Day one focused on topics such as calf health and colostrum management, using on-farm data to improve on-farm system models, and how artificial intelligence can support continuous monitoring of animal health and welfare. Preparedness rounded out the first day with a session on preparing for New World screwworm, and on-farm biosecurity scenarios.

Attendees also visited Boise State University’s Food and Dairy Innovation Center, where they learned about ongoing research projects involving dairy byproduct upcycling and vitamin degradation.

Day two brought panel discussions on managing customer expectations and strategies for FARM Environmental Stewardship implementation, along with sessions on workforce development, and transportation and culling decisions.

Since launching in 2016, the Evaluator Conference has connected FARM Program evaluators with industry experts, current science and best management practices across the program’s five pillars. Evaluators are trained and certified to conduct second-party evaluations on behalf of FARM cooperative and processor participants, collaborating with dairy producers to identify strengths and outline opportunities for continuous

improvement.

The FARM Program thanks the sponsors whose support made this year’s event possible. To learn more about the 2026 Evaluator Conference and its sponsors, visit the conference webpage at <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/2026-evaluator-conference/>. ■

FARM Program Staff
nationaldairyfarm.com



The Last Time Cheese Prices Were This Flat, Pluto Was Still a Planet

Colin Kadis | EA Risk

For anyone in the business of managing milk price volatility, this year has been one of the quietest in decades. It would be natural to expect that cheese prices would be moving around a whole lot right now: The US is in conflict with Iran, gas prices are trading about 33% higher since this last time year, and the US dairy herd is at 9.71 million milk cows, up almost 200,000 head from this time last year. That’s not even mentioning a potential trade war brewing with Canada.

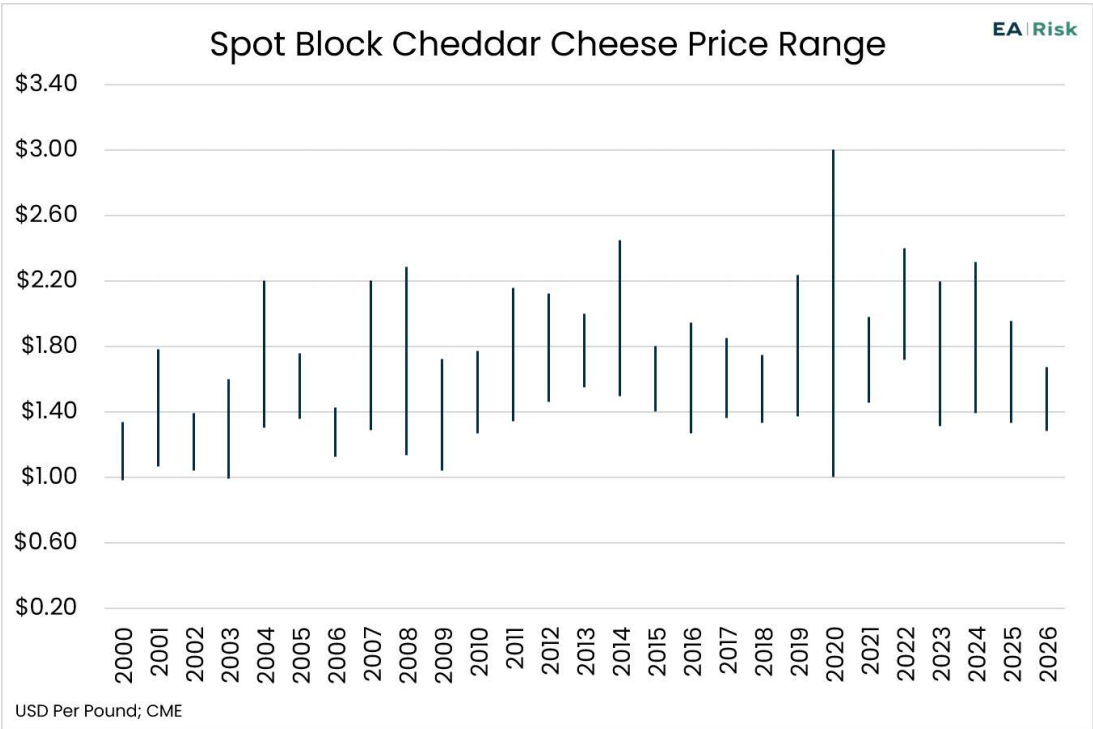
Reality has been quite different. Thus far 2026 had brought the least volatility we’ve seen in the last two decades. This year’s highest trading price for spot block cheese was \$1.6725 per pound; the lowest price was \$1.2825. That \$0.39-per-pound range is the smallest in block cheese since 2006. Simply put, the price of cheese hasn’t been moving all that much.

From a risk management perspective, this has made for a lot of difficult choices for dairymen. When

prices are the most flat they’ve been in twenty years, the need to manage volatility often feels less pressing. Likewise, most price offerings available to hedgers have been at or near dairy breakevens, making decisions on risk management more difficult.

So, why have cheese (and Class III) prices been so flat this year? What should producers expect for the rest of 2026?

I shared this question with one of my favorite dairy economists, Matt Gould, and he revealed that dairy markets with a lot of product in inventory tend to see reduced price movement. Matt reminded me that a lack of volatility means the market is searching for a price that brings in an additional buyer or seller. When the overall volume of product traded increases dramatically, we often don’t have to go very far to find a new seller, which keeps prices stable.





In our case, cheese inventories haven't grown dramatically this year, but there are few market participants surprised by how much cheese production we have after many consecutive months of milk output growth and new cheese plant startups. Block cheese processors have largely been ready, willing and able to sell cheese into the marketplace, keeping spot prices below \$1.70 per pound and within a \$0.40 range.

What will it take for us to see cheese prices move higher from here? In a market that is experiencing dramatic increases in cheese production, there are three paths to higher prices: Less cheese production, more international demand and better domestic demand.

At this time, it seems extremely unlikely that we will see less cheese production. Plants are already online and operational, the dairy herd expanded and is producing, and beef calves are still worth enough money to incentivize producers to milk marginal cows. So, it seems unlikely that a lack of milk or cheese supply will bring us higher cheese prices. That puts all the focus on international or domestic demand to improve prices.

Domestically, we are already seeing the impacts of higher fuel prices translating into fewer consumers eating out instead of cooking at home. This is a

problem because Americans tend to eat more cheese when they dine out. Additionally, GLP-1 weight loss drugs have been shown to reduce grocery spending on foods like cheese and butter. It also leads to fewer fast food restaurant visits. Internationally, there is an appetite for US mozzarella cheese, but American exporters have faced significant competition from New Zealand and other countries as they look to export cheddar and clear markets. Initial worries about European milk production softening due to extreme heat and poor crops have quieted significantly.

All in all, if nothing major changes in our cheese markets, 2026 looks like it may end the way it began – with the smallest range in spot block cheese prices in twenty years. ■

The risk of loss trading commodity futures and options can be substantial. Investors should carefully consider the inherent risks in light of their financial condition. The information contained herein has been obtained from sources to be reliable, however, no independent verification has been made. The information contained herein is strictly the opinion of its author and not necessarily of EA Risk and is intended to be a solicitation. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Colin Kadis
clk@ever.ag

Idaho's Beef Industry Accounts for 3 Percent of State's Total Economic Output

Idaho Beef Council

In an effort to more fully quantify the direct impact of the Idaho cattle industry on the state's economy, the Idaho Beef Council funded a University of Idaho research project analyzing USDA National Statistical Service data.

The Idaho beef industry contributes significant economic value to the state and supports the agricultural base and rural economy, according to a recent University of Idaho study.

"In total the Idaho beef value chain contributes over \$7.2 billion in economic output, supports nearly 22,000 jobs, and accounts for approximately \$2.6 billion in gross state product, or roughly 3 percent of Idaho's total economic output," says Phillip Watson, University of Idaho Professor in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

Watson conducted the research using U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service and other source data. His complete findings can be found in a paper titled "Economic Contribution of Idaho's Cattle and Beef Industry."

The project was funded by the Idaho Beef Council in an effort to enhance understanding of the economic significance of the beef industry within the state.

"It is essential to examine these economic variables, as this knowledge will enable the IBC to allocate research funding more effectively," says J.W. Wood, chairman of the IBC. "This strategic investment not only supports Idaho producers but also leads to valuable research outcomes that ultimately empower producers to continue delivering high-quality protein for consumers."

The Numbers Tell The Story

Breaking the numbers down highlights that direct sales of cattle and processed beef products outside the state totaled \$3.4 billion in new dollars generated, 7,600 direct jobs and \$870 million in direct value added (gross state product) in 2024. An additional \$3.8 billion in indirect and induced output, 14,600 jobs, and \$1.7 billion in additional value added came through supply-chain and household spending.

Table 1 - Summary of the 2024 economic base contributions of the beef value chain in Idaho. Source: IMPLAN data and author calculations.

Economic Activity Measure	Direct Effect	Indirect and Induced Effect	Economic Base Contribution
Output	\$3.4 billion	\$3.8 billion	\$7.2 billion
Employment	7,600 jobs	14,600 jobs	22,000 jobs
Gross State Product	\$870 million	\$1.7 billion	\$2.6 billion

Multiple Sectors Make Up Beef Industry

The beef industry spans the sectors of cow-calf, backgrounding, feedlots and processors. In addition, the industry is supported by input suppliers, transportation companies and marketing firms, which provide an extensive network to support the beef industry. All these sectors work together to create value for the state's economy.

reports. "These results suggest that additional processing capacity could generate larger in-state economic effects, provided facilities can operate competitively."

Cattle Supply Effects

In the paper, Watson states as of Jan. 1, 2026, Idaho maintained approximately 2.5 million head

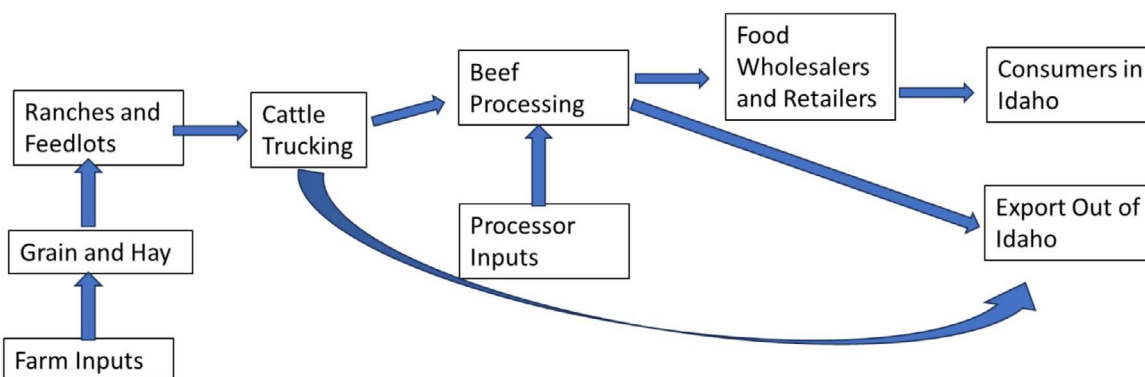


Figure 3 -Visualization of the beef industry value chain.

The Value of a Beef Dollar

"The output multiplier for the total beef industry is 2.14, meaning that for every dollar of new output generated by the beef value chain, an additional \$1.14 in economic activity is generated elsewhere in the state through supply-chain purchases and household spending," Watson reports. Watson also evaluated employment and value added multipliers which lead to direct policy relevance.

"While cattle ranching is the foundation of Idaho's beef economy and carries strong output and employment linkages of its own, beef processing is the sector where each unit of activity generates the deepest economic returns within the state," Watson

of cattle and calves, including roughly 435,000 beef cows and 355,000 cattle on feed, according to USDA NASS data. These numbers represent a slight increase from 2025 and stability in the state's herd size compared to national cow herd numbers. The U.S. cow herd peaked again in 2019 after several decades of decline, only to continue to decrease due to drought across the country, high input costs and producer liquidation decisions.

Tight cattle supplies have resulted in higher prices for cow-calf producers, which helps operations offset inflation in labor, fuel, veterinary services and machinery expenses. However, high prices create complex incentives to herd rebuilding as producers

Multipliers	Cattle	Beef Processing	Overall Beef Industry
Output	2.17	2.10	2.14
Employment	2.52	3.71	2.92
Value-Added	2.40	4.58	2.97

have to make decisions to give up short-term revenue or retain replacement heifers for future production. These decisions require confidence in forage availability and financing conditions, Watson summarizes.

Beef on Dairy or Dairy-Origin Cattle Contribute to Beef Industry

The contribution of dairy-origin cattle to the beef supply chain is particularly important in Idaho due to the state's large and highly productive dairy sector, Watson says. Idaho consistently remains one of the top five states in milk production and has a herd size that exceeds its beef cow inventory. Because of that, dairy-origin animals (both cull cows and beef-on-dairy calves) represent a meaningful share of the cattle entering Idaho feedlots and beef processing facilities.

Compared to Other Industries

Idaho's beef industry ranks among the largest sectors in the state's economy by any measure, according to Watson's report.

At \$7.2 billion in total economic output and \$2.6 billion in gross state product, beef contributes more than wood and paper products, mining, and tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. It is similar to Idaho's semiconductor and technology sector that comes in at \$9 billion and 3.6% of the state's output.

State government, healthcare and food processing (of which beef is a part of), are the largest employment sectors in the state.

Conclusion

According to the research, Watson concludes the Idaho beef industry remains a pillar of state's economic base, generating substantial output, employment, and value added dollars with a broad and interconnected supply chain.

"Overall, the Idaho beef industry functions as a major economic base sector, bringing external revenue into the state and generating substantial multiplier effects throughout the economy," Watson summarizes. "In the context of tight national cattle supplies, elevated price levels, and evolving supply-chain dynamics, the sector's scale, interconnectedness, and export orientation position it as both a stabilizing force in Idaho agriculture and a critical contributor to statewide economic performance."

For the full report, scan the QR code below ■



Producing Resilient Forage

Tanya Hibler | HD Forage

Working within agriculture, it seems, is just a socially accepted way to gamble. External variables are highly unpredictable and constantly shifting. Meanwhile our businesses must survive by building in resilience, allowing family operations to weather the storms and capitalize on easy wins when we have them.

Dairying is a dynamic system that relies on many inputs, one of them being feed. Putting up your own high-quality feed can be a challenge during a good year. Further complicating is potential water shortfalls, high diesel prices, and fertilizer costs that only go up and feel like they never come down. Control what you can and confront what you can't. Part of confronting what we can't control is to have strategies ready for when the situation does arise.

When we analyze what we control, it is important to know what the end goal is. Are you just concerned about producing tonnage? Can the tonnage produced be maximized by increasing the quality? Is the goal to produce the most crop per drop of water? What factors of forage quality matter to you and why? These questions aren't mutually exclusive, and all should play into the decision-making process when deciding how to allocate resources.

Factors within our control start with the inputs into the cropping system. The easiest place to start is with the seed. Whether it is corn, small grains, alfalfa, or an alternative crop; the variety matters and can have dramatic impact on the amount and quality of feed in the bunk. Ask your seed dealer the hard questions and talk through some ideas with your agronomist.

Shorter day corn varieties have come a long way, and the tonnage is more comparable to the longer day varieties. Picking a shorter day variety on a low water year allows the kernels to fill, capturing the starch and quality before water runs out.

Small grain forages produced on farm can be utilized more tactically when we assess varieties for fiber digestibility and quality. Crude Protein (CP) in small grain forages can be heavily influenced by increasing the seeding rate and applied nitrogen. Selecting small grain forage varieties with a high non-detergent fiber digested in the first 30 hours in the rumen (NDFD-30hr on a quality sample) and a higher

Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) value can make a difference when considering small grain forages for use in a lactating ration. Most double cropped triticale in Idaho is fed to youngstock or dry cows due to the low fiber digestibility and available nutrients. However, different species and varieties exist that can produce highly digestible feed and can displace some corn or alfalfa forage in the lactating rations, commonly seen in dryer states.

Barley and hybrid rye are the two small grains that are the most salt and drought. Barley is more susceptible to winter kill but is a great spring grain option. Hybrid rye is a fall planted grain that performed considerably well in Utah's record-breaking drought this spring. In the fall of 2025, many fields without irrigation water were dormant planted with hybrid rye in November and December. The crop matured in mid-May with high digestibility and quality, making it a strong choice for drought years.

When it comes to existing alfalfa stands, the best management practice during low irrigation periods is to water like normal until water runs out. The alfalfa can then go dormant for the rest of the summer. Stretching irrigation across each cutting at a reduced rate is more stressful for the plants and will lead to thinner stands.

Commercial fertilizer costs and availability are going to present challenges moving forward. Pushing manure applications to the furthest reaches of your farm, to the fields that often get skipped due to distance, could make economic sense when comparing it to commercial N, or P. Finding ways to get the most out of the manure resources available will help reduce any commercial input costs.

As the world continues down the path we are on, it becomes obvious that out of the box thinking will be required to produce the same amount of feed on less water, fewer commercial inputs, and less trips across the field. Consider what the true goals of the feed produced are and meet with the trusted members on your team to design your strategies. ■

Tanya Hibler
tanya.unitedsoil@gmail.com

Idaho Dairymen's Association 2026 Associate Members

The Idaho Dairymen's Association offers associate memberships for organizations who are interested in a unique way to reach and support Idaho's dairymen. The organizations listed below comprise this year's cohort.



Margin Management Topics for Idaho Dairy Producers

Jacob DeKruyf | Commodity & Ingredient Hedging

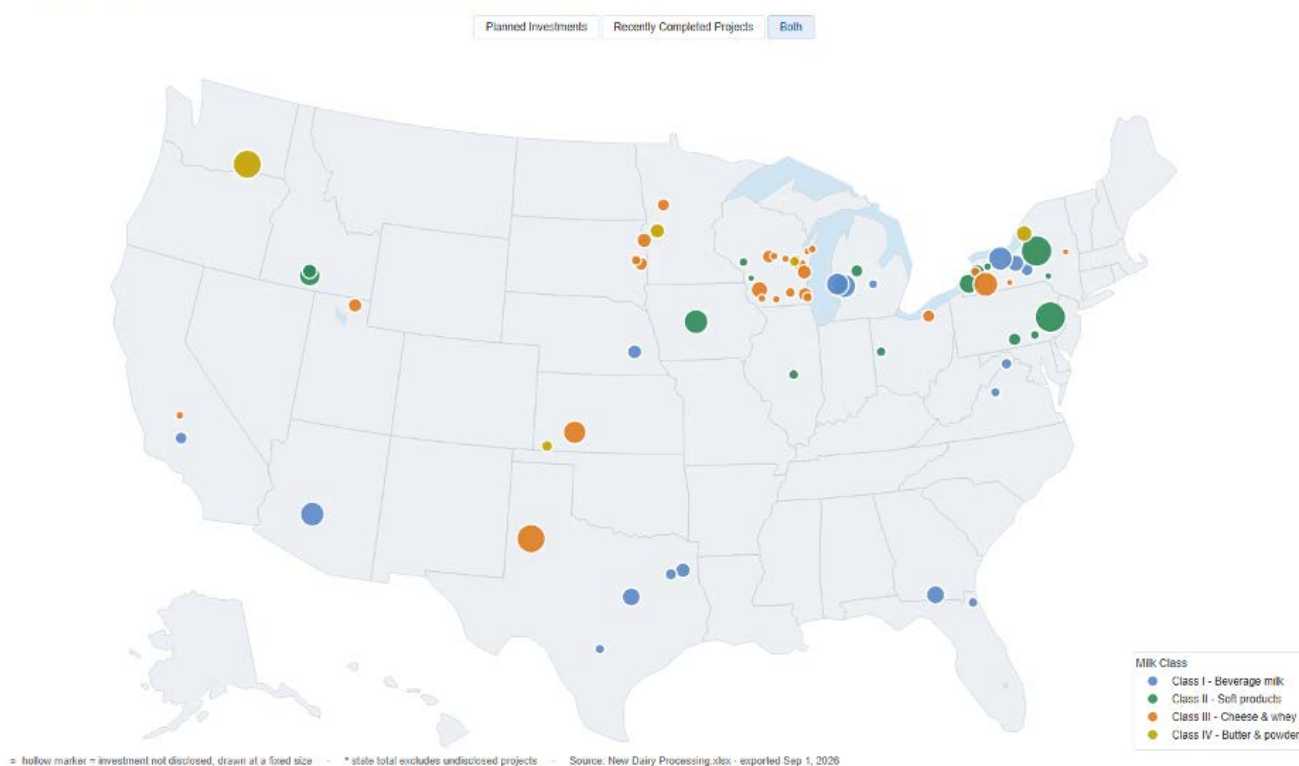
Dairy producers have seen profit margins contract over the past few months with pressure from both the input and revenue sides of the ledger. A sharp rise in projected feed costs tied to lower yield and production outlooks for both corn and soybeans have combined with declining milk and cattle prices to pressure margins and reduce profitability in dairy operations. CME Class 3 Milk futures have slowly leaked lower since earlier this spring as big year-over-year increases in U.S. milk production led by an increasing dairy cow herd have put more pounds of milk on the market that need to be cleared. This coupled with the fact that the milk being produced also has increased components with higher butterfat and protein content has led to a surge in dairy product production.

On the feed side, while corn yield projections have been declining in the last two USDA WASDE reports, declining EU production tied to widespread drought across the continent along with shipping

disruptions out of the Black Sea due to the war between Russia and Ukraine have crimped supply availability allowing the U.S. to become more competitive in the export market. In addition, strong ethanol production margins have encouraged a robust domestic corn grind while California's recent decision to approve E15 and movement towards national, year-round E15 approval gains traction in Washington D.C.

With total U.S. milk production running 2.74% ahead of 2025 through July, cheese production is up 2.13% from last year which was already record-high a year ago as more cheese processing plants begin to come online and absorb the increased milk production. The following chart illustrates the growth in dairy processing capacity across the U.S. in a map showing where each of these new plants are located, and what specific dairy products they are dedicated to. (Figure 1).

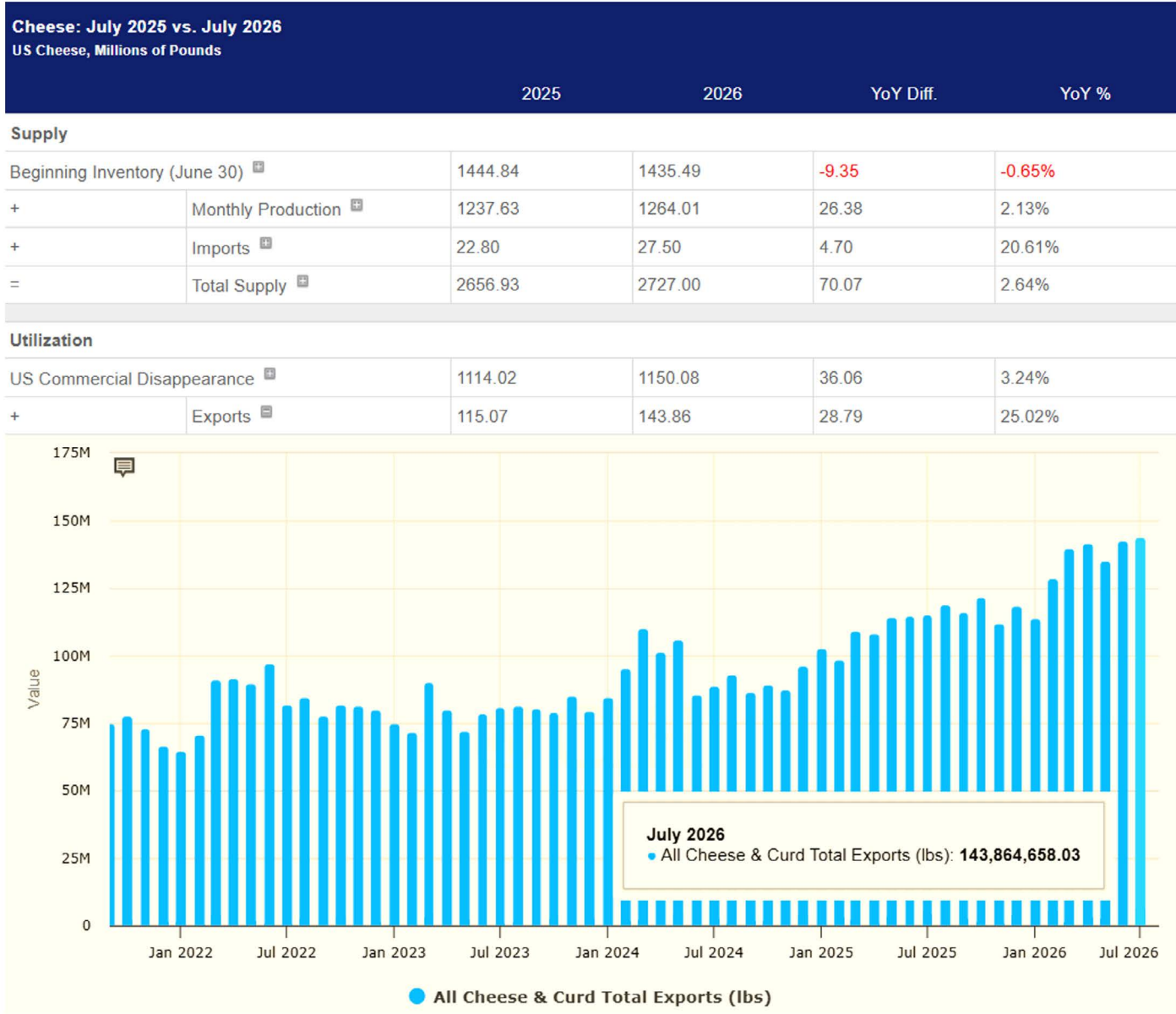
Planned & Completed U.S. Dairy Processing Investments

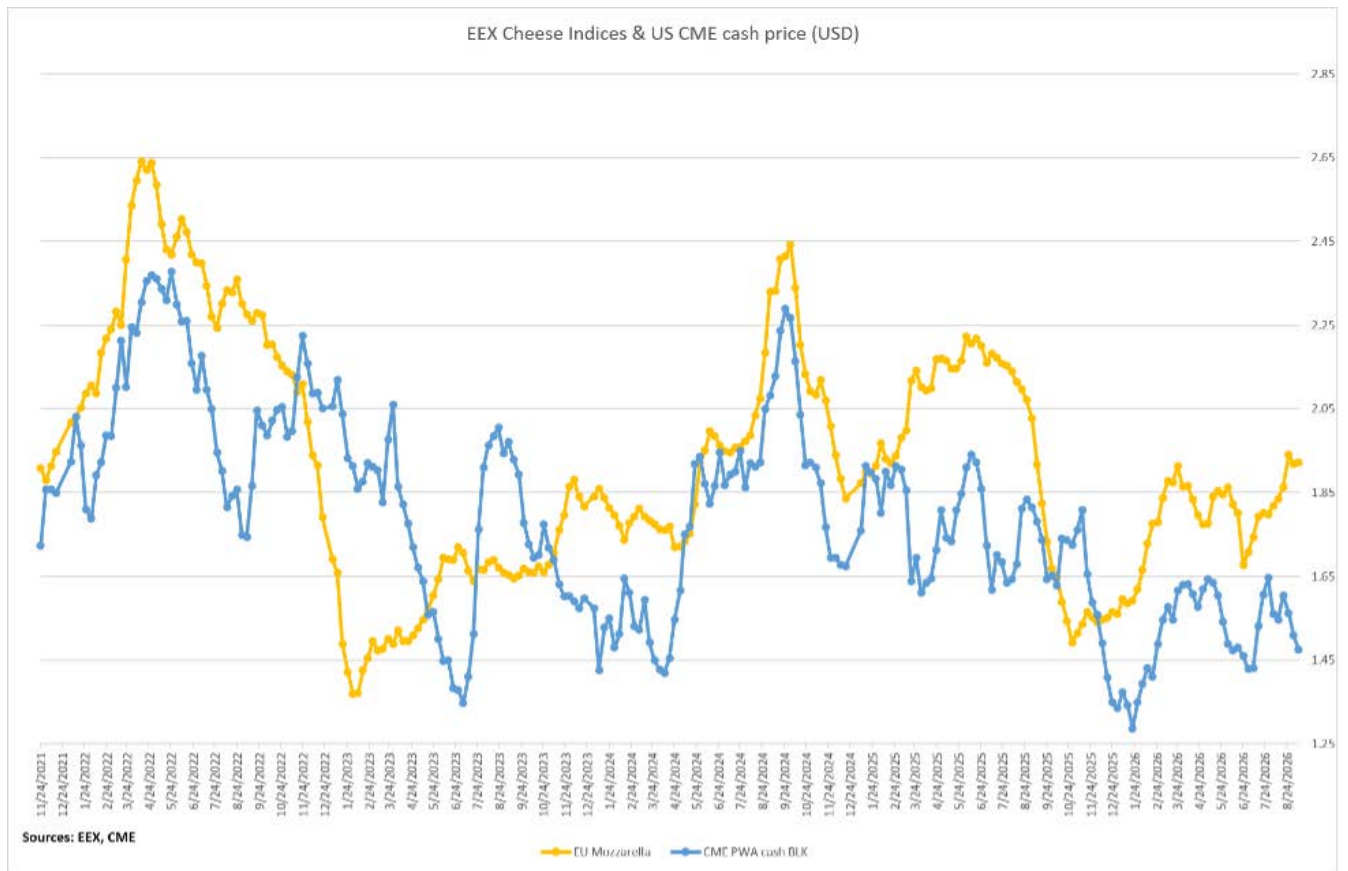


The total growth in cheese plants specifically has added approximately an additional 10% capacity increase in potential cheese production across the U.S., and the incremental production has so far found a home in the export market. Total cheese exports year-to-date through July are running 25% ahead of last year, while total cheese commercial disappearance year-to-date is only up 3.24% from 2025 for the same period. (Figure 2.)

This does not necessarily imply that domestic demand is poor as exports only represent around 11% of total cheese production; however, this percentage has been growing steadily over the past few years and is up from an average of around 7% just three years ago. As more cheese is exported as

a percentage of total production, it increasingly exposes the U.S. market to foreign competition, trade barriers, and currency differentials which impact purchasing power from major importers. One of the reasons why cheese exports have been so strong is that U.S. prices are very competitive in the global market, particularly relative to the EU. The current \$0.45 premium that EU Mozzarella carries over CME Block Cheddar is historically wide, and while 2026 EU milk production is up over 3.5% year-over-year, the drought and a shrinking dairy cow herd should keep EU cheese prices elevated as milk production shrinks in the second half of the year. (Figure 3.)





While there is a lot of attention on the U.S. trade relationship with China given the upcoming summit between Presidents Trump and Xi with hope for a thawing in the relationship that will lower tariffs and lead to increased agricultural exports, the U.S. trade relationship with both Canada and especially Mexico should not be overlooked. Recent hostilities in trade with Canada raise concerns that USMCA could be threatened, with Mexico currently taking over 40% of total U.S. cheese exports. It would be particularly damaging if a deteriorating North American trade relationship with both Mexico and Canada raised tariffs or trade barriers that would harm U.S. cheese exports. For further information on how to identify and protect margins for your own operation, please contact us.

Trading futures and options carries a risk of loss. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Insurance coverage cannot be bound or changed via phone or email. CIH is an equal opportunity employer and provider. © CIH. All rights reserved. ■

Jacob DeKruyf
 jdekruyf@cihedging.com

From Soil Sample to Nutrient Management: Why Good Sampling Matters

Miguel Mena & Valene Cauhorn | AGPROfessionals

For agricultural operations, the soil beneath a field is more than a growing medium; it's an important part of the nutrient management equation. Knowing what nutrients are already present in the soil helps producers make informed decisions about manure and fertilizer applications while supporting crop productivity, environmental stewardship, and regulatory compliance.

For Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), including dairies, feedlots, pork and poultry operations, and egg producers, soil sampling is a key part of developing and maintaining an effective Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

Start With a Soil Test

The goal isn't simply to apply nutrients. It is to apply the right nutrients, at the right rate, in the right place, and at the right time, so knowing what's already in the field is the first step. Soil testing provides information about existing levels of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, along with other soil chemical characteristics that can influence crop production and fertility requirements.

This information helps agronomists and producers determine how much additional nutrient a crop may need, and how much may already be available through existing soil nutrients or manure applications.

Sampling Correctly Matters

The usefulness of a soil test depends on obtaining a representative sample. Part of obtaining a representative sample involves how a field is spatially divided before sampling. Fields may be divided into sampling zones based on factors such as soil type, slope, cropping plans, and areas where manure or fertilizer will be applied. Additional methods may also include grid sampling where a soil core is taken every 1, 2.5, or 5 acres. Whole field or random sampling may also be considered for uniform fields where there are known low levels of chemical,

topographical, and management variability.

Once the approach has been selected, multiple soil cores from a representative area are typically combined to create a composite sample for laboratory analysis. Sampling depth can vary based on crop type, nutrient management requirements, and for CAFO's, regulatory requirements. Depending on the situation, samples may be collected from both the surface layer and deeper soil profile.

Proper sample handling is also required if soil samples are not able to be delivered to the lab immediately. The best practice is to allow soil samples to air dry by spreading the sample across paper or cardboard. This stops microbial activity and slows down chemical reactions that could occur after sampling. Once submitted to the testing lab, samples are then analyzed for nutrients, pH, organic matter, and other soil properties relevant to the nutrient management program.

Turning Soil Test Results Into Better Decisions

The real value of a soil test comes from using the resulting data to make sound agronomic and nutrient management decisions. At a basic level, the results help operators match manure and fertilizer applications to crop nutrient needs.

More importantly, your test results and Nutrient Management Plan enable you to:

- Adjust crop rotations and other best management practices.
- Identify opportunities for cover crops or soil amendments.
- Reduce the potential for excess nutrients to move off-site and into waterways.
- Meet applicable nutrient management and regulatory requirements.

In other words, that soil sample becomes a force multiplier for your agricultural operation.



Sampling Is More Than a Compliance Requirement

For CAFO operators, soil sampling may be required under state-specific nutrient management regulations. In some situations, annual sampling is required to develop planning documentation for the agronomic application of manure and wastewater on land application sites. Soil samples may also be used within NMPs to develop phosphorus indexing to minimize surface-water-risk situations.

However, consistent sampling provides value beyond checking a regulatory box. When results are collected and evaluated over time, they can help reveal trends in soil nutrient levels and provide a better foundation for long-term nutrient management decisions.

Build a Better NMP With Better Information

An NMP is only as useful as the information behind it. Current, representative soil test data gives agronomists and producers a clearer picture of field conditions and helps inform nutrient application decisions. That's why a consistent soil sampling program should be viewed as an investment in both

land productivity and the operation's long-term success.

At AGPROfessionals, our agronomy team works with agricultural operations to integrate soil information into practical nutrient management strategies. By combining field data, agronomic expertise, and an understanding of applicable regulatory requirements, we help producers make informed decisions that benefit their crops, their land, and their operation. ■

Miguel Mena
mmena@agpros.com

Valene Cauhorn
vcauhorn@agpros.com

U of I Grad Student Studies New Approach to Dairy Calf Feeding

John O'Connell | University of Idaho

A University of Idaho graduate student's research could help a large Mountain Home dairy reduce the time calves require to mature into productive herd members by changing the way they are fed.

Katie Corder-Steiner, of Mountain Home, is pursuing a master's degree in animal science, and her thesis project is aimed at eliminating a one- to two-week weight-gain lull dairy calves typically experience following weaning.

She chose the perfect time to invite Caleb Degroot, with Sunview Dairy, to collaborate on the study, as Degroot and his staff were also considering ways to address that lull.

"Katie approached us last spring with the idea of feeding forages and hay to our calves at an earlier age than most people do," Degroot said. "That had been something our nutrition team had been looking at for a long time."

If study results support her hypothesis, Corder-Steiner's research could lead other Idaho dairies to rethink a long-standing tradition of waiting until after calves are transitioned off milk, known as weaning, before introducing forages into their diet.

In addition to milk, most dairies feed calves grains — such as corn, barley, oats, wheat or sorghum — which support rumen development until they are weaned, which typically occurs when they are between 75 and 90 days old. In ruminant animals such as cows, the rumen is the first of four stomach compartments, serving as a fermentation chamber where microbes break down fibrous plant material. Grain helps calves develop their rumen by providing readily fermentable starches that stimulate the growth of rumen microbes and papillae, which are the tiny finger-like projections that line the rumen wall and absorb nutrients.

Forages such as alfalfa hay pack a lot of energy, but they can be difficult for calves to digest before they





have a fully developed rumen. Dairywomen typically don't feed forages to calves until just after weaning, and it takes a while for their systems to acclimate to the new feed source, which temporarily slows weight gain.

For her experiment, Corder-Steiner selected 100 first-generation Holstein and Jersey cross calves born at Sunview Dairy June 15-20. Over the course of the 121-day study, she's feeding half of the calves the usual way — they'll be fed milk and grain until they are weaned, when they'll also begin receiving hay and forages. The remaining calves will have access to a trough filled with hay, in addition to milk and grain, beginning a few days after birth.

Corder-Steiner is hoping the early exposure to forage will help calves adjust sooner to it, thereby eliminating the usual period after weaning when they don't gain much weight. She'll also be comparing health and mortality data from the two groups, in addition to running an economic analysis to determine if the additional feed and labor costs associated with earlier exposure to forages warrant the investment.

"They love the forage. We are having to refresh it every day," Corder-Steiner said. "The worry in the past was if we offered them both, they would eat too much hay and not enough grain."

Corder-Steiner's advisor, Mireille Chahine, an emeritus professor of animal and dairy science, believes it's the right time to revisit when to begin feeding forage to dairy calves because dairies have changed other practices during the past decade. Mainly, dairies have begun feeding calves significantly more milk than in the past, which could provide them with more energy to digest their food.

"Maybe if there's more energy and nutrients coming from milk and the forage is of reasonable quality it will not affect rumen development," Chahine said.

Studies conducted in Europe at a shorter length and involving different calf breeds have shown promise for feeding forages earlier.

Corder-Steiner met with several Idaho dairymen prior to starting the project to gauge their interest in the concept.

“If it shows good results, it would be something worth considering,” she said.

Degroot believes dairymen still have much to learn about calf management and behavior. Beyond expediting weight gain, Degroot sees potential to lay a stronger foundation for long-term animal health through Corder-Steiner’s approach.

“It’s kind of like an early investment into a bank account,” Degroot said. “The idea of feeding forages and hay to calves at an earlier age is you want to develop the rumen. The earlier you can develop the rumen, the healthier it is and the more productive of a lactating cow she can be.”

About University of Idaho

University of Idaho, home of the Vandals, is Idaho’s land-grant university and the state’s first Carnegie R1 research institution — a ranking reserved for the top 4% of U.S. universities. From its residential campus in Moscow, U of I serves the state through centers in Boise, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho Falls and McCall, nine research and Extension centers, and Extension

offices in 42 counties. With more than 12,000 students, U of I is a leader in student-centered experiential learning, interdisciplinary research, business and community service and global outreach. The Vandals compete as a founding member of the Big Sky Conference and as an affiliate in the Big West and Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. Learn more at uidaho.edu. ■

John O’Connell
joconnell@uidaho.edu





195 River Vista Place
Suite #308
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10

IDA Board Meeting - *Boise, ID*

November 11-12

Dairy West and IDA Joint Annual Meeting - *Boise, ID*

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