



# Fluid Milk and Cream - Central U.S.

Agricultural Marketing Service  
Dairy Market News

Report 19

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There are contrary views from contacts in the region regarding the peak milk output timeframe. Some suggest that level was reached earlier in the spring season, while others say the region is potentially there currently. Either way, milkfat is widely available as May cream access/pricing has held somewhat steady with April levels. Milk availability, though, is shifting. Spot milk prices were reported as high as \$.50-over Class III, and as low as \$1.50-under Class. During week 19 of 2023, spot milk prices ranged from \$12- to \$4-under Class III. Clearly, 2024 is expected to provide a much different availability narrative than last year. School districts are still clearing steady loads of milk, but that is beginning to change. A number of schools in the southern states within the region have reached their penultimate and/or ultimate weeks of the spring semester. Milk handlers say this will put more milk into processing in the weeks to come. The upcoming weeks are expected to answer some questions regarding milk availability, but despite school milk demand slowdowns, a growing number of contacts expect a tightening milk supply later this spring and into the summer. Cream, as was mentioned, is still somewhat available. Reported multiples were lower at all facets this week. Butter makers say May cream contracts are in line with those of April. Ice cream and Class III manufacturing demand needs, though, are ticking up on a weekly basis.

The DMN monthly average of the range price series for Upper Midwest Class II cream during April was \$3.5749, compared to \$3.4667 in March.

Price Range - Class III Milk; \$/CWT; Spot Basis: - 1.50 - .50  
Trade Activity: Slow

### Midwestern U.S. F.O.B. Cream

Commodity			Low Price	High Price
Cream	All Classes	\$/LB Butterfat	3.1642	3.7669
Cream	All Classes	Multiples Range	1.0500	1.2500
Cream	Class II	\$/LB Butterfat	3.5559	3.7669
Cream	Class II	Multiples Range	1.1800	1.2500

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