The Market Administrator's Report

Pacific Northwest & Arizona-Las Vegas Marketing Areas

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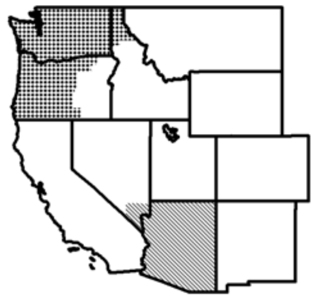

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June 2005

MARKET SUMMARIES FOR MAY 2005

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

Pacific Northwest

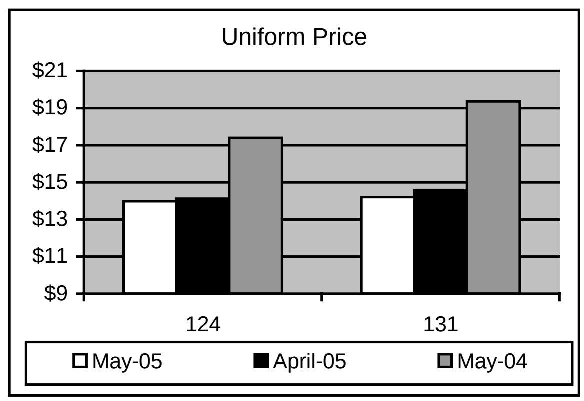
Producers delivered a total of 629.2 million pounds of milk to the market during May. Comparisons to the previous month are affected by eligible milk not pooled in April 2005. Daily deliveries averaged 20.3 million pounds, up 34.4 percent from April. An estimated 856 producers delivered milk to the market during the month. Daily deliveries per producer averaged 23,712 pounds, up 5.7 percent from April.

Class I producer milk during May totaled 180.3 million pounds, 28.7 percent of total producer receipts. Daily usage averaged 5.8 million pounds, down 1.3 percent from April.

Arizona-Las Vegas

Producers delivered a total of 266.7 million pounds of milk to the market during May. Daily deliveries averaged 8.6 million pounds, down 3.9 percent from April. An estimated 90 producers delivered milk to the market during the month. Daily deliveries per producer averaged 95,588 pounds, down 3.9 percent from April.

Class I producer milk during May totaled 76.1 million pounds, 28.5 percent of total producer receipts. Daily usage averaged 2.5 million pounds, down 10.5 percent from April. ♦



Federal Order Producer Prices and Component Levels: May 2005

Producer Prices	FO124	FO131	Component Levels (%)	FO124	FO131
Uniform Price 1/*	13.98	14.21	Butterfat	3.580	3.533
Butterfat 2/	1.5475	1.5784	Protein	2.987	N/A
Protein 2/	2.5965	N/A	Other Solids	5.708	N/A
Other Solids 2/	0.1043	N/A	Nonfat Solids	8.695	N/A
PPD 1/*	0.21	N/A			
Skim 1/	N/A	9.00			

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

MAY 2005 CLASS PRICES

May 2005 non-advanced Class Prices were calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from April 30, May 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2005. Component prices for the month are $2.5965 per pound of protein, $1.5475 per pound of butterfat, $0.1043 per pound of other solids, and $0.7810 per pound of nonfat solids.

May 2005 Class III and IV prices at 3.5% butterfat are $13.77 and $12.20 per hundredweight, respectively. The May Class III price compared to April is down $0.84. The Class III price is $6.81 lower than May 2004. The Class III price at 3.67% butterfat is $4.12 above the support price of $9.90 at 3.67% butterfat.

Class II butterfat was announced at $1.5545 per pound. Class I skim and butterfat and Class II skim prices for May 2005 were announced on April 22, 2005. The Class II price at 3.5% butterfat is $12.78 for May 2005 .

FINAL: NASS COMMODITY PRICES

	April	May	Change
Cheese*	$1.5590	$1.4765	-$0.0825
Butter	$1.5287	$1.4046	-$0.1241
Nonfat Dry Milk	$0.9156	$0.9289	$0.0133
Whey	$0.2580	$0.2603	$0.0023

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

Current Commodity Prices - - The NASS survey of cheddar cheese prices showed a net increase in prices received for 40-pound blocks and 500-pound barrels. The survey of 40-pound blocks showed a net increase of 2.63 cents between the May 14 and the June 11 surveys, to $1.4849 per pound. The survey of 500-pound barrels (**adjusted to 38% moisture**) showed a net increase of 4.48 cents to $1.4513 per pound.

The NASS butter price showed a net increase of 4.26 cents between the weeks ending May 14 and June 11 from $1.3797 per pound to $1.4223 per pound.

The NASS nonfat dry milk showed a net decrease of 0.44 cent since mid-May to $0.9238 per pound. The average price for NASS whey showed a net increase of 0.98 cent since mid-May to $0.2693 per pound. ♦

JULY'S CLASS I PRICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On June 17, the July 2005 Class I price was announced at $15.79 for the Pacific Northwest Order, and $16.24 for the Arizona-Las Vegas Order. The Class I price was calculated using NASS commodity price surveys from the weeks of June 4 and 11.

The July Class III and IV advance skim prices are $8.73 and $7.03 per hundredweight, respectively. The butterfat portion of the Class I mover increased 3.44 cents from $1.5266 to $1.5610 per pound.

The July 2005 Class II skim and nonfat solids prices were also announced on June 17. The skim price is $7.73 per hundredweight, and the nonfat solids price is $0.8589 per pound for all Federal orders. ♦

ADVANCED: NASS COMMODITY PRICES FOR CLASS I PRICE CALCULATIONS

	June	July	Change
Cheese*	$1.4612	$1.4827	$0.0215
Butter	$1.3872	$1.4158	$0.0286
Nonfat Dry Milk	$0.9287	$0.9289	$0.0002
Whey	$0.2597	$0.2684	$0.0087

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

USDA PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO APPALACHIAN AND SOUTHEAST MILK ORDERS

On May 19, 2005, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced a decision that recommends adopting proposed amendments to the Appalachian and Southeast Federal milk marketing orders. This decision is based on record evidence of a public hearing held in February 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia.

This decision recommends expanding the Appalachian milk marketing area to include 25 unregulated counties and 14 unregulated cities in Virginia and eliminating the ability to simultaneously pool the same milk on the Appalachian or Southeast order and a state-operated milk order that has marketwide pooling. The decision also recommends amending the transportation credit provisions of the Appalachian and Southeast orders to increase the maximum rate of assessment by three cents per hundredweight (cwt) to $0.095 per cwt and $0.10 per cwt, respectively.

This decision does not recommend adopting a proposal that would merge the Appalachian and Southeast milk marketing areas into a single order or a proposal that would create a new "Mississippi Valley" milk order by splitting the Southeast marketing area. Proposals regarding the producer-handler provisions of the Appalachian and Southeast orders will be addressed in a separate decision.

The partial recommended decision was published in the May 20, 2005, Federal Register. Interested persons are provided 60 days to file comments in response to the decision. Comments should be sent to David Jamison, Acting Chief, Order Formulation and Enforcement Branch, Dairy Programs/AMS/USDA, Room 2968-S, Washington, DC 20250.

Additional information about the decision may be obtained from the following market administrators:

Appalachian: Harold H. Friedly
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
P.O. Box 18030, Louisville, KY. 40261-0030
Tel. (502) 499-0040
email: friedly@malouisville.com

Southeast: Sue L. Mosley
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
P.O. Box 491778, Lawrenceville, GA. 30049
Tel. (770) 682-2501
email: smosley@fmmatlanta.com ♦

USDA ANNOUNCES INTERIM ORDER TO AMEND UPPER MIDWEST MILK ORDER

On May 31, 2005, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued an interim order amending current provisions of the Upper Midwest Federal milk marketing order. The interim order was approved by Upper Midwest dairy farmers.

This interim order amends the performance standards and transportation credit provisions of the Upper Midwest order. The amendments include: 1) revising the supply plant performance standards so that milk seeking to be pooled on the order demonstrates consistent service to the Class I market; 2) preventing handlers located within the States that comprise the Upper Midwest marketing area from qualifying milk located outside of the States that comprise the marketing area; 3) eliminating diversions to nonpool plants outside of the States that comprise the Upper Midwest marketing area; and 4) establishing a limit on the receipt by handlers of a transportation credit to milk movements of 400 miles or less.

The interim order was published in the June 1, 2005, Federal Register. The interim amendments to the order will become effective on July 1, 2005.

For additional information about the decision contact:

Upper Midwest: H. Paul Kyburz,
Market Administrator
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435-5037
Tel. (925) 831-5292
email: pkyburz@fmma30.com ♦

ANALYSIS OF COMPONENT LEVELS IN INDIVIDUAL HERD MILK AT THE FARM LEVEL

The following is the abstract from the Seattle Market Administrator's study entitled: "*Analysis Of Component Levels In Individual Herd Milk At The Farm Level: 2004.*" A copy of the complete study is available from this office and on our web site at ***http://www.fmmaseattle.com.***

Component levels in producer milk pooled on the Pacific Northwest (FO 124) and Arizona-Las Vegas (FO 131) Federal Milk Marketing Orders were analyzed for 2004 to determine average levels, regional and seasonal variation, and, when possible, the statistical relationship between components. Handlers regulated under the Pacific Northwest Order report butterfat, protein, and other solids. Handlers regulated under the Arizona-Las Vegas Order report butterfat only. Producer milk pooled was also valued using Federal order minimum producer prices for the respective orders. For 2004, a monthly average total of 924 producers were pooled on the Pacific Northwest and Arizona-Las Vegas Orders. During 2004, these producers delivered 9.4 billion pounds to the two markets. The milk shed of the two Federal orders includes Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Major findings of this study include:

1. The 2004 average component levels for the Pacific Northwest Order were 3.68% butterfat, 3.05% true protein, and 5.69% other solids. The 2004 average butterfat level for the Arizona-Las Vegas Order was 3.61%.

2. In both orders, butterfat and protein levels decrease during the summer months and increase in the late fall and winter.

3. Although the volume of producer milk, number of producers, and average milk production per producer varies greatly between regions, there are only small differences in aggregate component levels between geographic regions within the milk shed of the two orders.

4. The Pacific Northwest Order's linear regression in 2004 for protein is PRO% = 1.43 + 0.439 * BF%, with an R-squared of 0.65.

5. The Pacific Northwest Order's regressions for estimating other solids using butterfat have a very poor correlation (R-squared of less than 0.05). The monthly regressions show a negative relationship; other solids levels appear to be independent of butterfat levels. ♦

DAIRY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK *

2006 Milk Production Expansion To Outstrip Demand Growth

Milk and dairy product prices are expected to fall again in 2006. Expansion in milk production is projected to accelerate after more than 2 years of relatively strong returns. Production growth is expected to surpass demand gains (particularly for skim solids), leading to the lower prices. Even so, farm milk prices are projected to stay considerably above the low prices of 2002-03.

The strong returns of late 2003 through early 2005 and the expected good returns for the rest of 2005 have generated strength in milk cow numbers. Relatively few farmers have exited dairying because recent returns have bolstered their staying power, a pattern that is likely to continue through 2006. Meanwhile, the number of producers wishing to add substantial new facilities probably has risen considerably, following a 2-year rest after the last expansionary surge. However, continued tight replacement heifer markets, likely tight alfalfa supplies in the Northwest, the generally lackluster prospects for dairy quality forage, and the lengthening time needed for governmental approvals probably will inhibit expansions during the rest of 2005. By 2006, the effects of these problems should lessen.

Milk cow numbers are expected to stay near early 2005 levels during the rest of this year, before drifting higher as 2006 progresses. If so, 2006 milk cow numbers would average about unchanged, following a very small fractional decrease in 2005. Milk per cow should continue to recover in 2006. Incentives for heavy concentrate feeding will remain quite favorable.

Milk per cow is projected to grow more than two percent in 2006, slightly faster than 2005's expansion. However, such increases may hinge on the availability of good 2005 forage in light of the apparently very tight stocks of high quality hay at the start of the current forage year.

Gains in demand for dairy products are expected to be fairly substantial. Growth in the economy and consumer income is forecast to stay good. Consumer debt may be the most vulnerable point. Demand could soften if interest rates rise more than currently expected, forcing reductions in expenditures for consumption.

Export demand for nonfat dry milk is projected to stay good through at least most of 2006. New Zealand milk production may rebound in its 2005/06 season, and European export supplies could creep larger if milk production returns to quota levels. However, Australian output probably will be stagnant even if the current dry conditions do not worsen. Continued strong demand for milk powders is likely to readily absorb the small increase in other exporters' supplies, and substantial amounts of U.S. powder probably will be needed to meet import needs.

Farm milk prices are projected to fall more than $1 per cwt in 2006, following a slightly smaller decrease this year. Although 2006 prices are expected to be much lower than the 2004 record, they are projected to be near the 2000-04 average. Healthy demand likely will remain the key to absorbing record output at such relatively favorable prices. ♦

***Source:** *Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry Outlook*/LDP-M-131/May 19, 2005 Economic Research Service, USDA

COMMERCIAL DISAPPEARANCE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS UP 1.1% FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2005

Commercial disappearance of U.S. milk for the first quarter of 2005 was up 1.1 percent over the same period of 2004. Commercial disappearance is used as an indicator of consumption of U.S. milk marketings and is a residual figure. This measure of consumption includes civilian and military purchases of milk and dairy products for domestic and foreign use (exports), but excludes farm household use, commercial stocks, and imports. The table below shows commercial disappearance by commodity and their milk-equivalent on a fat solids basis.

American cheese, other cheese, and nonfat dry milk disappearance showed increases from 2004. Butter and fluid milk disappearance showed decreases from 2004. Other Cheese disappearance increased the most, up 4.8 percent Butter disappearance decreased the most, down 1.8 percent. ♦

Commercial Disappearance

	January-March		%
	2004	2005	Change #
Selected Products	- - Million Pounds - -		
Butter *	290.3	281.5	-1.8%
American Cheese *	927.2	923.9	0.7%
Other Cheese *	1,360.0	1,408.9	4.8%
Nonfat Dry Milk *	326.9	325.7	0.5%
Fluid Milk Products*	13,983.6	13,663.4	-1.2%
Total **	42,042	42,026	1.1%

Source: Dairy Market News, Volume 72, Report 21.
* Commercial Disappearance in product pounds.
** Commercial Disappearance, milk-equivalent, milk fat basis.
# Percent change on a daily average basis.

U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES THAT BEEF CHECKOFF PROGRAM IS CONSTITUTIONAL

On May 23, 2005, by a vote of 6-3, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985, overturning lower court decisions by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit and the U.S. District Court for South Dakota, which ruled the measure unconstitutional.

"I am extremely pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the lower courts' decisions and ruled in favor of the Beef Checkoff Program," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. "This is certainly a win for the many producers who recognize the power of pooled resources. As this administration has always contended, USDA regards such programs, when properly administered, as effective tools for market enhancement."

As a result of this decision, the Beef Checkoff Program will continue without interruption. USDA is reviewing this decision to determine its implications for other first amendment challenges to checkoff programs.

Under the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985, the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board develops budgets and awards contracts to carry out a coordinated program designed to strengthen the position of beef in the marketplace. One such contract resulted in the highly recognizable "Beef It's What's for Dinner" campaign.

The mandatory program is funded by an assessment of $1 per head collected each time cattle are sold. All producers owning and marketing cattle, regardless of the size of their operation or the value of their cattle, must pay the assessment. A comparable assessment is collected on all imported cattle, beef and beef products. ♦

Also:

On May 31, 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an order stating that the February 24, 2004, decision (Cochran v. USDA) against the constitutionality of the National Dairy Checkoff by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit should be vacated and case remanded for further consideration in light of Johanns v. Livestock Marketing Association.

The Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (Dairy Act) authorized a national producer program for dairy product promotion, research, and nutrition education to increase human consumption of milk and dairy products and reduce milk surpluses. This self-help program is funded by a mandatory 15-cent-per-hundredweight assessment on all milk produced in the contiguous 48 States and marketed commercially by dairy farmers. It is administered by the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. The Dairy Act provides that dairy farmers can direct up to 10 cents per hundredweight of the assessment for contributions to qualified regional, State, or local dairy product promotion, research, or nutrition education programs. ♦

MONTHLY SELECTED STATISTICS

Minimum Class Prices (3.5% B.F.)	PACIFIC NORTHWEST May 2005	Apr 2005	May 2004	Apr 2004	ARIZONA-LAS VEGAS May 2005	Apr 2005	May 2004	Apr 2004
Class I Milk ($/cwt.)	$16.70	$16.03	$21.55	$15.54	$17.15	$16.48	$22.00	$15.99
Class II Milk ($/cwt.)	12.78	13.24	15.03	15.21	12.78	13.24	15.03	15.21
Class III Milk ($/cwt.)	13.77	14.61	20.58	19.66	13.77	14.61	20.58	19.66
Class IV Milk ($/cwt.)	12.20	12.61	14.50	14.57	12.20	12.61	14.50	14.57
Producer Prices								
Producer Price Differential ($/cwt.)	$ 0.21	$(0.49)	$(3.18)	$(4.32)	+	+	+	+
Butterfat ($/pound)	1.5475	1.6964	2.4282	2.5013	+	+	+	+
Protein ($/pound)	2.5965	2.7055	3.7639	3.4465	+	+	+	+
Other Solids ($/pound)	0.1043	0.1020	0.1444	0.1042	+	+	+	+
Uniform Skim Price ($/cwt.) . . .	+	+	+	+	9.00	8.92	11.23	8.99
Uniform Butterfat Price ($/pound)	+	+	+	+	1.5784	1.7086	2.4363	2.4614
Statistical Uniform Price ($/cwt.) . .	$13.98	$14.12	$17.40	$15.34	$14.21	$14.59	$19.36	$17.29
Producer Data								
Number of Producers	856 *	673	699	692	90 *	90	93	98
Avg. Daily Production (lbs.) . . .	23,712 *	22,438	20,284	19,960	95,588 *	99,510	86,017	86,170
Number of Handlers								
Pool Handlers	27	26	27	26	5	5	5	6
Producer-Handlers	9 *	9	7	7	3 *	3	2	2
Other Plants w/ Class I Use . . .	22 *	22	19	20	30 *	30	31	31
Producer Milk Ratios								
Class I	28.66%	39.01%	38.40%	43.24%	28.52%	30.61%	29.32%	32.67%
Class II	6.75%	8.30%	8.78%	8.35%	11.74%	9.27%	7.09%	7.46%
Class III	29.40%	7.10%	2.78%	2.87%	38.03%	36.74%	43.10%	41.16%
Class IV	35.19%	45.59%	50.04%	45.54%	21.71%	23.38%	20.49%	18.71%

+ Not Applicable. * Preliminary.

MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTAL STATISTICS

Producer-Handler Data	Apr 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2004	Mar 2004
Production	32,538,944	33,987,683	20,786,094	21,412,941	R	R	R	R
Class I Use	26,313,051	26,936,215	17,335,040	18,092,494	R	R	R	R
% Class I Use	80.87%	79.25%	83.40%	84.49%	R	R	R	R
Class I Route Disposition In Area								
By Pool Plants	154,504,025	163,853,917	158,177,138	165,686,961	77,977,837	79,743,077	77,288,417	80,231,680
By Producer-Handlers	19,274,853	19,629,390	16,274,652	17,250,272	1/	1/	1/	1/
By Other Plants	2,881,662 *	3,364,208	4,265,080	4,084,816	28,208,334 *	28,563,073	33,968,068	34,084,368
Total	176,660,540	186,847,515	178,716,870	187,022,049	106,186,171	108,306,150	111,256,485	114,316,048

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

MONTHLY STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(Product pounds based upon reports of handlers)

RECEIPTS, UTILIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MILK	PACIFIC NORTHWEST				ARIZONA-LAS VEGAS			
	May 2005	Apr 2005	May 2004	Apr 2004	May 2005	Apr 2005	May 2004	Apr 2004
TOTAL PRODUCER MILK	629,228,064	453,015,991	439,531,111	414,368,058	266,691,563	268,675,729	247,986,147	253,339,255
RECEIPTS FROM OTHER SOURCES	22,680,707	117,970,667	19,058,052	16,396,174	42,977,397	46,186,461	34,743,802	11,393,394
OPENING INVENTORY	33,770,143	32,282,540	31,190,547	31,656,755	16,548,277	15,517,263	13,638,830	15,446,349
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR	685,678,914	603,269,198	489,779,710	462,420,987	326,217,237	330,379,453	296,368,779	280,178,998
UTILIZATION OF RECEIPTS								
Whole milk	29,183,435	29,128,016	28,359,249	29,306,151	18,646,989	19,209,152	20,222,470	22,102,790
Flavored milk & milk drinks	12,630,037	11,206,370	10,646,422	11,271,774	5,468,726	6,362,305	4,949,538	6,229,974
2% milk	64,066,155	63,023,971	65,629,679	66,158,137	28,952,338	30,405,580	26,593,805	28,408,762
1% milk	23,118,273	23,949,145	23,180,635	24,053,702	10,358,854	10,832,820	8,871,810	9,644,716
Skim milk	26,058,306	25,930,158	25,361,516	26,058,930	10,075,537	10,701,466	9,328,487	10,304,342
Buttermilk	1,334,756	1,266,365	1,336,896	1,328,444	454,510	466,514	536,760	597,833
CLASS I ROUTE DISP. IN AREA. .	156,390,962	154,504,025	154,514,397	158,177,138	73,956,954	77,977,837	70,502,870	77,288,417
Class I dispositions out of area . . .	15,299,055	14,829,901	12,179,338	13,944,145	4,065,916	4,401,593	3,452,577	3,967,070
Other Class I usage	24,295,569	22,868,691	25,277,178	25,847,568	6,550,127	8,511,854	8,202,597	11,230,660
TOTAL CLASS I USE.	195,985,586	192,202,617	191,970,913	197,968,851	84,572,997	90,891,284	82,158,044	92,486,147
TOTAL CLASS II USE	51,923,179	46,694,207	46,675,212	43,683,218	32,255,662	26,092,979	18,517,815	19,757,110
TOTAL CLASS III USE	190,346,682	131,547,707	12,204,173	12,340,574	102,050,867	98,702,689	108,173,084	105,244,193
TOTAL CLASS IV USE	247,423,467	232,824,667	238,929,412	208,428,344	107,337,711	114,692,501	87,519,836	62,691,548
TOTAL ACCOUNTED FOR	685,678,914	603,269,198	489,779,710	462,420,987	326,217,237	330,379,453	296,368,779	280,178,998
CLASSIFICATION OF RECEIPTS								
Producer milk: Class I . .	180,307,971	176,717,878	168,811,252	179,162,560	76,063,991	82,266,062	72,713,904	82,785,252
Class II .	42,483,241	37,622,179	38,582,661	34,583,442	31,305,878	24,895,157	17,586,850	18,886,905
Class III .	184,991,646	32,161,432	12,204,173	11,906,144	101,433,512	98,702,689	106,878,111	104,269,228
Class IV .	221,445,206	206,514,502	219,933,025	188,715,912	57,888,182	62,811,821	50,807,282	47,397,870
Other receipts: Class I .	15,677,615	15,484,739	23,159,661	18,806,291	59,525,674	61,703,724	48,382,632	26,839,743
Class II .	9,439,938	9,072,028	8,092,551	9,099,776	1/	1/	1/	1/
Class III .	5,355,036	99,386,275	0	434,430	1/	1/	1/	1/
Class IV .	25,978,261	26,310,165	18,996,387	19,712,432	1/	1/	1/	1/
Avg. daily producer receipts	20,297,679	15,100,533	14,178,423	13,812,269	8,602,954	8,955,858	7,999,553	8,444,642
Change From Previous Year . .	43.16%	9.33%	-31.56%	-33.78%	7.54%	6.05%	-12.38%	-9.55%
Avg. daily Class I use	6,322,116	6,406,754	6,192,610	6,598,962	2,728,161	3,029,709	2,650,259	3,082,872
Change From Previous Year . .	2.09%	-2.91%	-1.84%	3.58%	2.94%	-1.72%	-7.46%	2.60%

1/ Restricted - Included with Class I.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE:

NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Charles F. Conner was sworn in as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture on May 2, 2005.

Prior to his tenure at the USDA, Mr. Conner served on the National Economic Council beginning in November 2001 as a Special Assistant to the President for Agricultural Trade and Food Assistance, focusing primarily on Farm Bill issues.

From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Conner was President of the Corn Refiners Association, Inc., a national trade association representing the corn refining industry. Prior to that, Conner held several staff positions with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. Conner grew up on a family farm in Benton County, Indiana, which remains in the family. Mr. Conner received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University in 1980. He is married and has four children.