



The Market Administrator's

BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA MARKETING AREA

Peter Fredericks, Market Administrator

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To contact the California Marketing Area office:

Tel.: (916) 702-6455 — Fax: (833) 673-3751

Mailing Address: 181 Blue Ravine Rd Suite 120 Folsom, CA 95630

e-mail address: market.admin@cafmmo.com — website address: www.cafmmo.com

March Pool Price Calculation

The March 2026 Statistical Uniform Price (SUP) for the California Marketing Area increased by \$1.18 per hundredweight (cwt) from last month to \$17.22 per cwt for milk delivered to plants located in Los Angeles County, California, the pricing point for the California Federal Marketing Order. The SUP is announced at 3.5 percent butterfat, 3.18 percent protein, and 5.79 percent other solids. When reported at the average tests of pooled milk (4.26 percent butterfat, 3.38 percent protein, and 5.75 percent other solids), the March SUP was \$19.13 per cwt, \$1.13 higher than February. The March Producer Price Differential (PPD) in Los Angeles County was \$1.06 per cwt, \$0.04 lower than the month prior.

Product Prices Effect

Prices in the National Dairy Product Sales Report experienced mostly upward trends. The butter price and nonfat dry milk prices both increased by just over 20 cents to \$1.8969 and \$1.5741 per pound, respectively. The cheese price increased by roughly 13 cents to \$1.5607 per pound. The dry whey price had the only decline of the month declining 2 cents to \$0.6724 per pound.

Most component prices increased in March. The butterfat price had the largest increase at roughly 24 cents, rising to \$2.0220 per pound. The nonfat solids price increased nearly 20 cents, reaching \$1.3215 per pound. The protein price had the smallest increase of roughly 15 cents, rising to \$2.0905 per pound. The other solids price declined 2 cents to \$0.4178 per pound.

All Class prices increased into March. The Class I price had the smallest increase for the month, rising \$0.77 to \$18.27 per cwt. The Class II price increased by \$2.00 to \$17.34 per cwt. The Class III price increased by \$1.22 to \$16.16 per cwt. Lastly, the Class IV price increased by the largest margin of \$2.65 to \$18.94 per cwt.

Selected Statistics

This month's pool volume at 1.82 billion pounds was the lowest for the month of March under FO 51. Class II utilization, at 133 million pounds, was the largest volume for the month of March. The nonfat solids price, \$1.3215 per pound, was the highest price since November 2022. ❖

Pool Summary

- A total of 843 producers were pooled with an average daily delivery per producer of 69,659 pounds, a decrease of 3.53 percent from February.
- Pooled milk receipts totaled 1.820 billion pounds, an increase of 4.93 percent on an average daily basis.
- Class I usage (milk for bottling) accounted for 21.9 percent of total pooled milk receipts.
- The average butterfat test of producer receipts was 4.26 percent.
- The average true protein test of producer receipts was 3.38 percent.
- The average other solids test of producer receipts was 5.75 percent. ❖

Class Utilization

Pooled Milk	Percent	Pounds
Class I	21.9	398,257,017
Class II	7.3	133,038,527
Class III	68.3	1,243,532,593
Class IV	2.5	45,568,968
Total Pooled Milk		1,820,397,105

Producer Component Prices

	2026	2025
	\$/lb	
Protein Price	2.0905	2.4606
Butterfat Price	2.0220	2.6242
Other Solids Price	0.4178	0.3647

Class Price Factors

	2026	2025
	\$/cwt	
Class I	18.27	23.12
Class I ESL Adj	0.80	N/A
Class II	17.34	20.12
Class III	16.16	18.62
Class IV	18.94	18.21

2025 FO 51 Producer Milk

From 2024 to 2025, producer milk pooled in Federal Order (FO) 51 increased 15 percent to 26.7 billion pounds, an increase of approximately 3.5 billion pounds. While all Class I milk is required to be pooled, handlers may elect whether to pool milk utilized in Classes II, III, and IV, and these decisions are often driven by class prices.

California milk accounted for 96.55 percent or 25.7 billion pounds of total producer milk in 2025, as shown in Figure 1. The remaining 3.45 percent originated from outside of California which amounts to 920.5 million pounds. Milk from Nevada accounted for 3.06 percent or 816.5 million pounds. Utah, Oregon, and Idaho each contributed roughly 49.9, 21.0, and 17.6 million pounds representing 0.34 percent of total producer milk. Collectively New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Colorado accounted for 15.4 million pounds of producer milk, representing 0.04 percent.

FO 51 Producer Milk by County

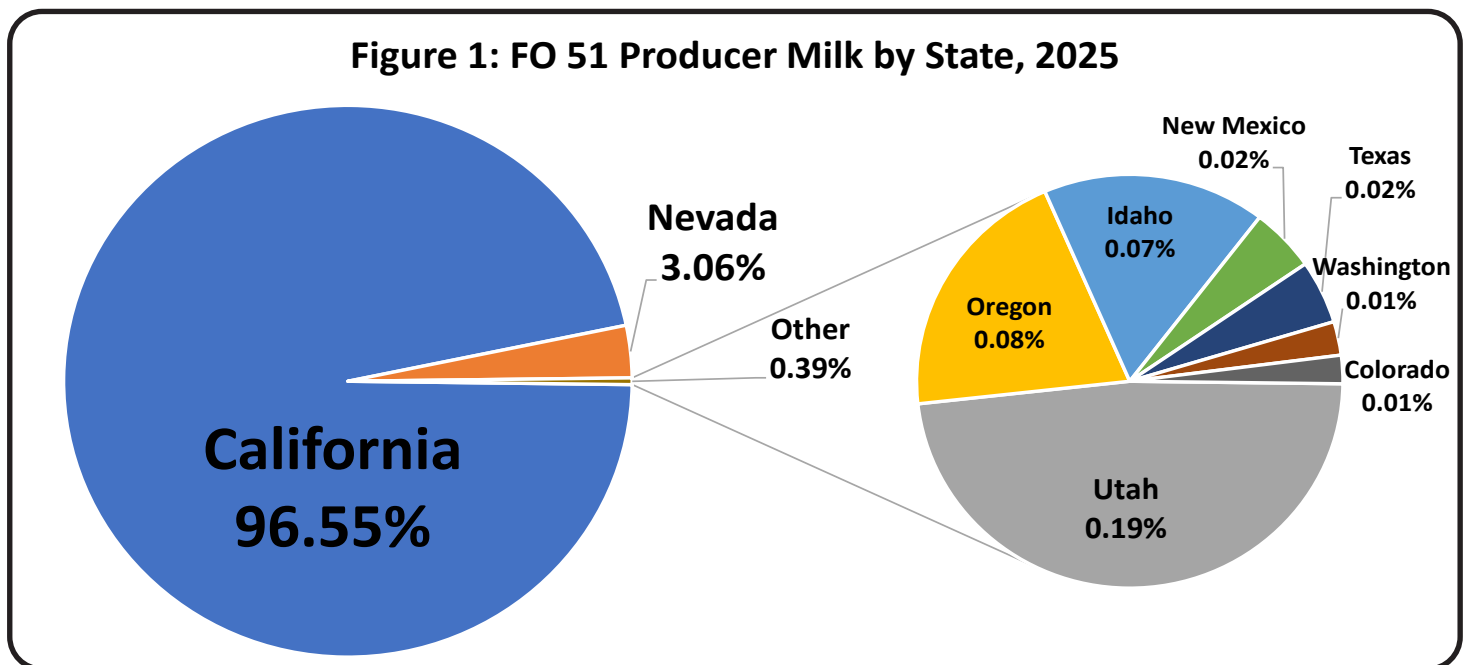
There are 29 counties with milk production in California and the top ten accounted for 24.6 billion pounds of producer milk in 2025, a 14.8 percent increase from 21.4 billion pounds in 2024. Additionally, those top ten counties contributed 95 percent of California producer milk to the FO 51 pool in 2025. The top producing counties are Tulare, Kern, Merced, Kings, Stanislaus, Fresno, San Joaquin, Madera, Riverside, and Sonoma County.

Tulare County is the top milk producing county, with 7.3 billion pounds of pooled milk, an increase of 44 percent from 5.1 billion pounds in 2024. Tulare County contributed 28.4 percent to producer milk followed by Kern and Merced Counties at 13 and 12.9 percent, respectively. Kern County ranked second with 3.34 billion pounds, up 33 percent from 2.5 billion pounds in 2024. Merced County followed closely at 3.33 billion pounds but declined 16 percent from 3.9 billion pounds in 2024, reversing its previous position ahead of Kern County.

Stanislaus County was the only other top-producing county to post a decline, decreasing 15 percent to 1.9 billion pounds in 2025 and accounted for 7.5 percent of California's total producer milk. Counties with restricted data (those with less than three producers) collectively contributed 1.4 percent, about 370.6 million pounds, while Sonoma County accounted for 1.3 percent of producer milk at 329 million pounds, the smallest volume of the top ten producing counties.

The producer milk of the remaining counties that are not restricted nor among the top ten accounted for 3.1 percent of the total, about 784.9 million pounds. Del Norte had the smallest amount of producer milk in 2025 accounting for 0.1 percent of total California producer milk. See Table 1 and Figure 2 for additional statistics.

(continued on page 3)



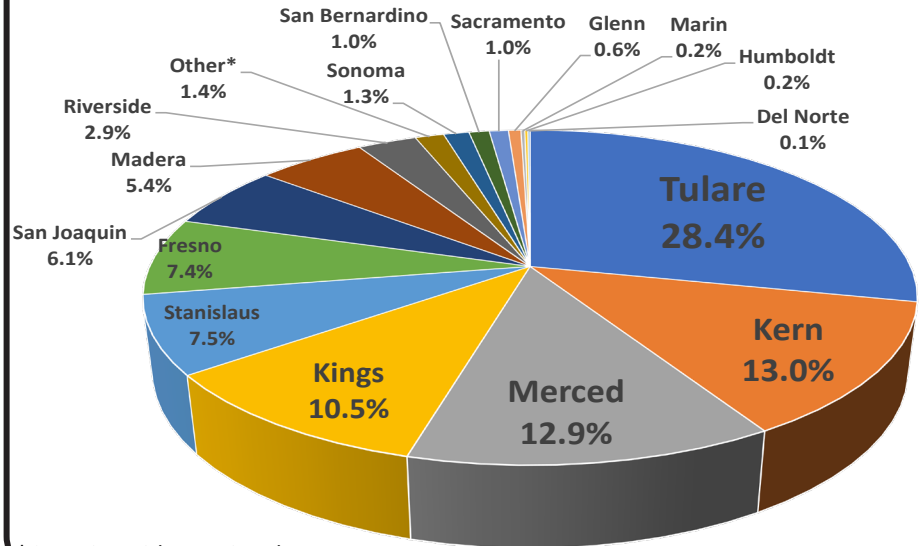
2025 FO 51 Producer Milk *(continued from page 2)*

FO 51 Pooled Components by County

Pooled component tests continued to show gradual increases in 2025 with the butterfat test rising to 4.22 percent and the protein test increasing to 3.38 percent in FO 51. The average California county pooled butterfat test in 2025 was 4.18 percent, an increase of 0.02 percentage points. The protein test average increased by a larger margin of 0.04 percentage points to 3.35 percent. The top ten counties butterfat test average increased to 4.19 percent and the protein test average rose to 3.36 percent.

Del Norte had the highest butterfat and protein percentage at 4.49 and 3.41 percent, respectively. Tulare County, the top producing county in the state, reported the second highest butterfat test of 4.32 percent, up 0.03 percentage points from 2024, and a protein test of 3.41 percent, up 0.02 percentage points. Humboldt county had the third highest butterfat tests at 4.30 percent but had one of the lowest protein tests at 3.29 percent. Although Kern County is the second largest dairy producing county in the state, its butterfat test of 4.21 percent is just above the California average; however, its protein test of 3.39 percent was one of the highest. San Bernardino County reported the lowest butterfat and protein test for the year at 3.78 percent and 3.27 percent, respectively. ❖

Figure 2: Distribution of FO 51 Producer Milk by County, 2025



*Counties with Restricted Data

Table 1: 2025 Producer Milk and Pooled Components by County

County	2025 Producer Milk	PM Change from 2024	Butterfat Test	Butterfat Change from 2024	Protein Test	Protein Change from 2024
	Pounds	%	%	Percentage Points	%	Percentage Points
Tulare	7,307,566,577	43.7%	4.32%	0.03	3.41%	0.02
Kern	3,337,260,410	32.9%	4.21%	0.07	3.39%	0.03
Merced	3,334,144,708	-16.4%	4.18%	-0.05	3.37%	-0.03
Kings	2,702,779,322	7.9%	4.29%	0.08	3.38%	0.02
Stanislaus	1,942,938,463	-15.4%	4.12%	-0.01	3.34%	0.00
Fresno	1,917,351,806	13.9%	4.24%	0.10	3.35%	0.04
San Joaquin	1,568,790,250	3.0%	4.09%	0.07	3.37%	0.04
Madera	1,402,270,355	70.4%	4.20%	-0.03	3.36%	-0.03
Riverside	758,069,366	8.8%	4.16%	0.05	3.34%	0.02
Sonoma	328,299,436	2.1%	4.10%	0.08	3.29%	0.03
San Bernardino	261,103,294	-30.9%	3.78%	-0.01	3.27%	0.07
Sacramento	245,082,508	2.9%	4.07%	0.09	3.29%	0.05
Glenn	160,159,322	15.3%	4.04%	0.08	3.30%	0.06
Marin	49,448,379	-7.9%	4.23%	0.06	3.36%	0.04
Humboldt	40,255,549	19.0%	4.30%	0.07	3.29%	0.04
Del Norte	28,825,158	4.7%	4.49%	0.16	3.41%	0.01
Other***	370,588,677	-12.3%	4.30%**	0.05	3.40%**	0.00
Total CA	25,754,933,580	13.3%	4.18%**	0.02	3.35%**	0.04
Top 10 CA Counties*	24,599,470,693	14.8%	4.19%**	0.04	3.36%**	0.01
Total FO 51	26,675,467,132	15.0%	4.22%**	0.04	3.38%**	0.02

*Includes Tulare, Kern, Merced, Kings, Stanislaus, Fresno, San Joaquin, Madera, Riverside, and Sonoma Counties

**Butterfat and Protein tests are averages

***Restricted Counties



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Computation of Producer Price Differential and Statistical Uniform Price*

	<u>Product Pounds</u>	<u>Price per cwt./lb.</u>	<u>Component Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Class I— Skim	388,063,738	\$12.71	\$49,322,901.10	
Butterfat	10,193,279	1.7167	17,498,802.06	
Less: Location Adjustment to Handlers			(1,124,167.08)	\$65,697,536.08
Class II— Butterfat	17,694,790	2.0290	35,902,728.91	
Nonfat Solids	10,919,029	1.1409	12,457,520.21	48,360,249.12
Class III— Butterfat	44,036,041	2.0220	89,040,874.89	
Protein	42,643,923	2.0905	89,147,121.05	
Other Solids	72,024,964	0.4178	30,092,029.94	208,280,025.88
Class IV— Butterfat	5,608,207	2.0220	11,339,794.56	
Nonfat Solids	3,794,838	1.3215	5,014,878.41	16,354,672.97
Total Classified Value			<i>Total value of milk in the pool</i> →	\$338,692,484.05
Add: Value for 60 (f) through 60(j)				812,438.42
Other Source Receipts	34,650			
Total Pool Value				\$339,504,922.47
Less: Value of Producer Butterfat	77,532,317	2.0220	(156,770,344.96)	
Value of Producer Protein	61,490,025	2.0905	(128,544,897.29)	
Value of Producer Other Solids	104,615,488	0.4178	(43,708,350.90)	(329,023,593.15)
Total PPD Value Before Adjustments			<i>Total Class III value of producer components</i> ↗	\$10,481,329.32
Add: Location Adjustment to Producers				8,923,070.69
One-half Unobligated Balance—Producer Settlement Fund				764,644.97
Less: Producer Settlement Fund—Reserve				(872,468.31)
Total Pool Milk & PPD Value	1,820,431,755			\$19,296,576.67
Producer Price Differential		\$ 1.06		
Statistical Uniform Price		\$ 17.22		

Value from which PPD per hundredweight is calculated

* Price at 3.5 percent butterfat, 3.18 percent protein, and 5.79 percent other solids.