



# Historic highs ahead for milk components in West

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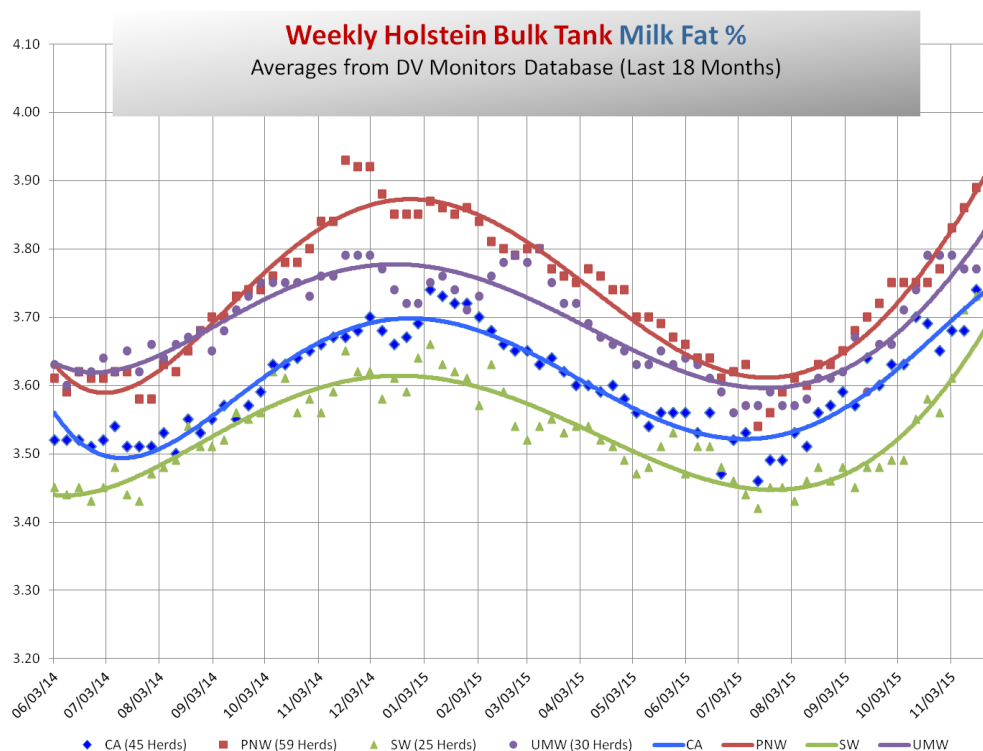
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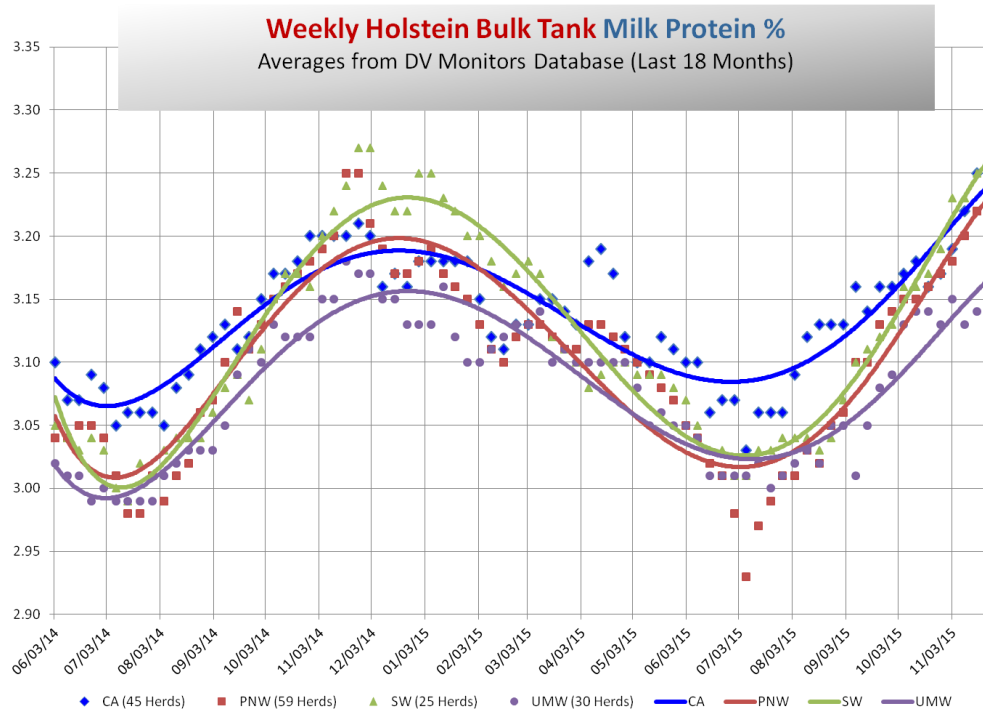


This month's DV Monitors data show results through the end of November – and it looks like we will see historic highs in milk components before the end of the year. One of the major bright spots in dairy markets is that butter fat prices are also near their historical highs. These returns couldn't have come at a better time.

DV Monitors provides monthly updates to help you monitor milk components across the West, including the Upper Midwest. This tool provides real-time regional milk component data from nearly 160 Holstein herds and 19 Jersey herds.

For Holstein herds, all regions are now averaging above 3.6% milk fat and overall region averages are now above 3.75%. Milk protein percentages for Holstein herds are also at seasonal highs averaging above 3.2% across regions.





The data come from weekly weighted averages from Holstein and Jersey herds enrolled in our DV Monitors database. We download the information from various milk processor websites for every load of milk and generate weekly averages.

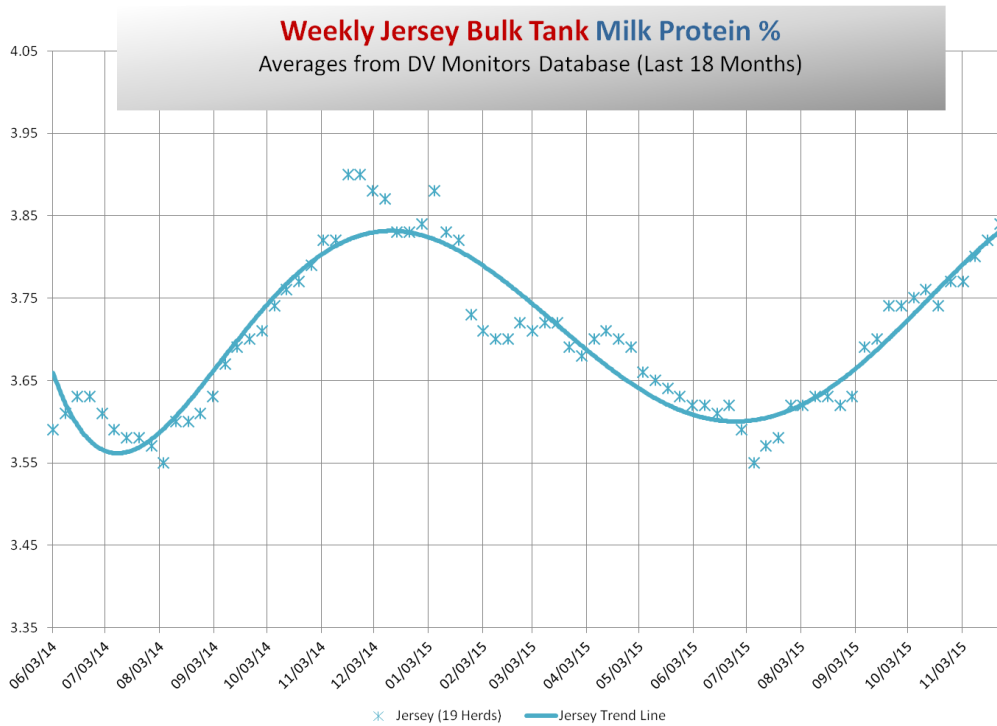
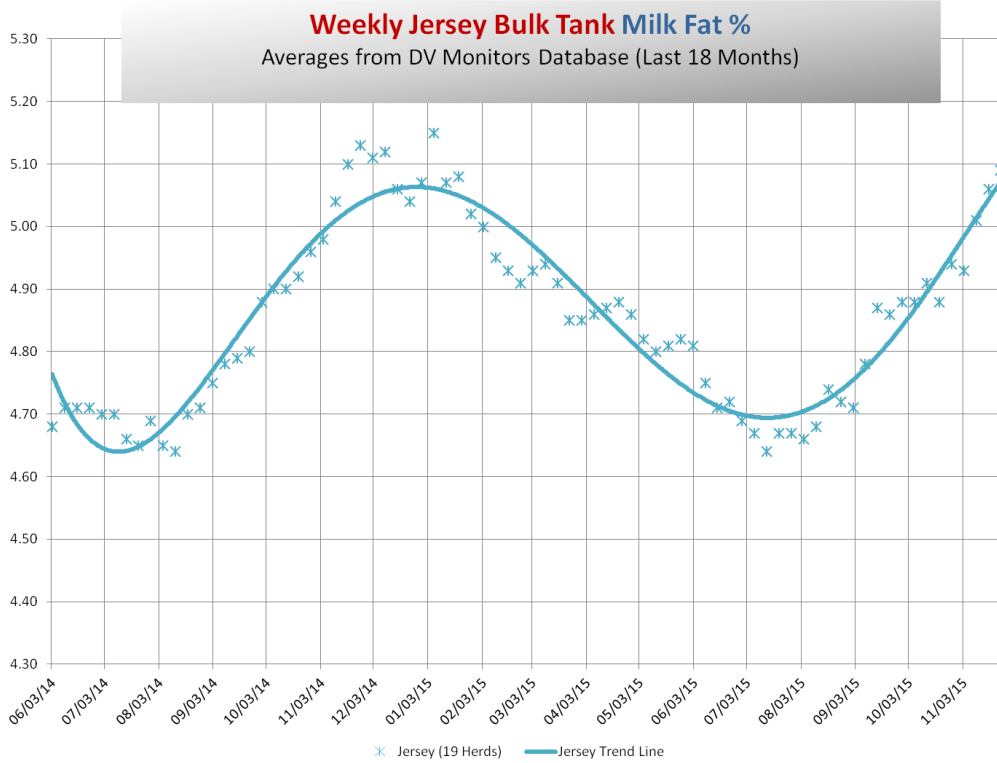
We summarize the data by breed because it's hard to compare an individual dairy with milk processor averages in some regions that have large numbers of Holstein and Jersey herds pooled together. DV Monitors shows the Holstein data across four major dairy regions:

- CA – California (45 herds)
- PNW – Oregon, Washington, Idaho (59 herds)
- SW – Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas (25 herds)
- UMW – South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio (30 herds)

For the Jersey breed, we compute a national rather than regional average due to the lower number of Jersey herds enrolled in the database. In any case, the database is large enough to provide an index for all Diamond V customers to compare to other leading herds.

This month's DV Monitors update shows that for both milk fat and protein concentrations we're nearing the seasonal highs for Holsteins across all regions as well as for Jerseys. However, in the case of Jersey milk components, it is much more difficult to be certain of this due to the smaller number of Jersey herds we track.

***See Jersey data charts below:***



By providing weekly summaries for comparable high-performing herds, DV Monitors can help rule out some of the “background noise” of normal variation. The data reveal important seasonal trends as well as the transient effects of other factors affecting the herds enrolled in the program.

Using DV Monitors data, you can “self index” your dairy’s fat and protein performance against others. If your protein value is much greater than the regional average, then it’s likely that what you and your nutritionist are doing is working.

We welcome your questions about this unique information resource from *DairyAdvisor*. Please email questions to the editor ([cgill@diamondv.com](mailto:cgill@diamondv.com)) with “DV Monitors” in the subject line. A Diamond V Dairy Advisor will follow up.



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