Milk fat and protein approaching seasonal highs
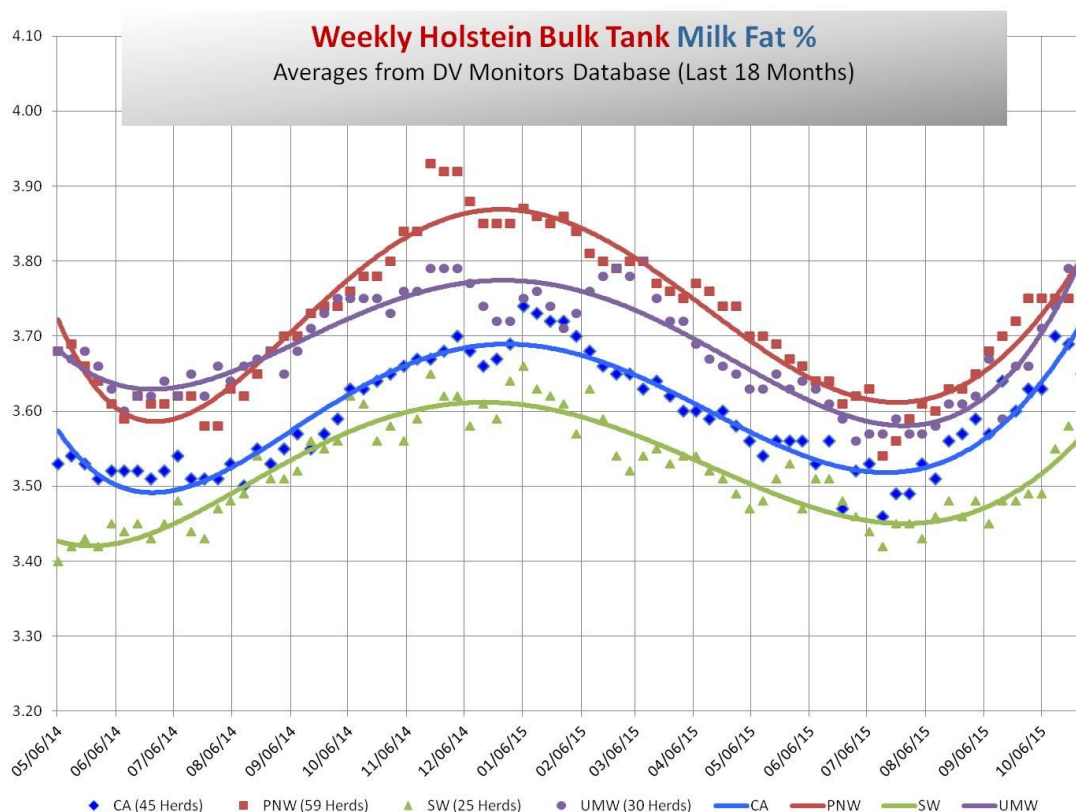
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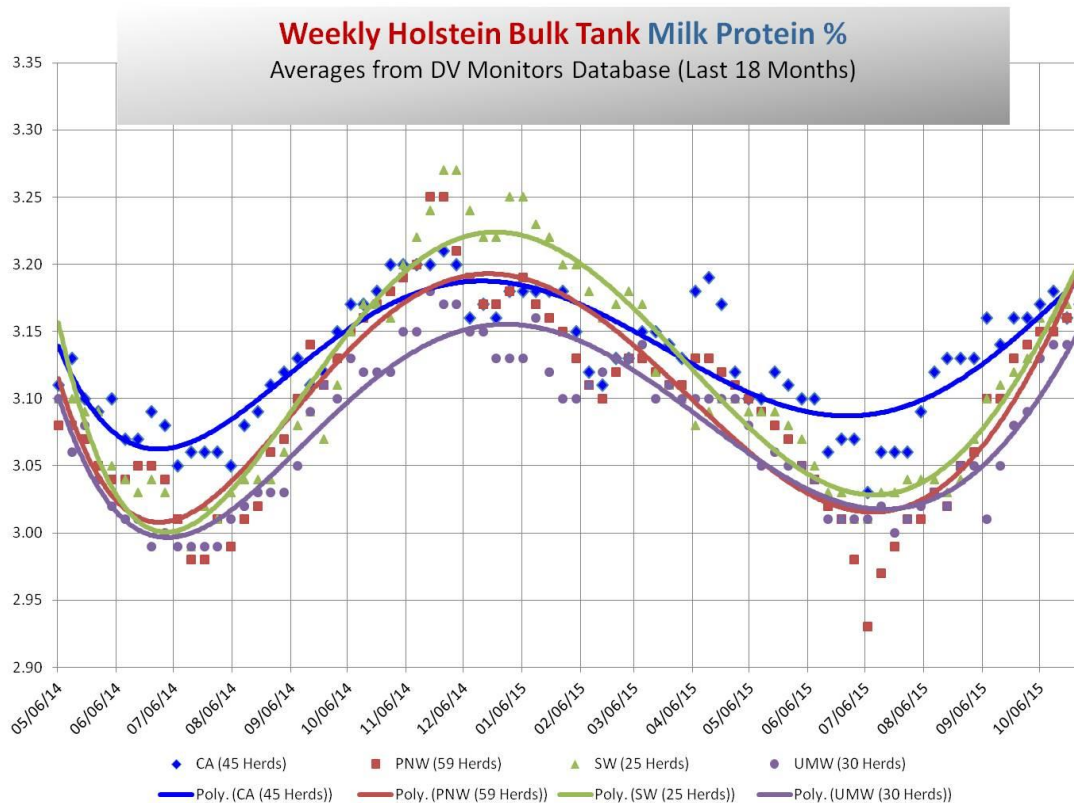
We continue to provide monthly updates to help you monitor milk components across the West. DV Monitors is a tool that provides real-time regional milk component data from 159 Holstein and 19 Jersey herds. This month the data run through the end of October. We expect milk components to reach their seasonal highs for the year in December.

For Holstein herds, all regions are now averaging above 3.5% milk fat. We predict that within two months all regional milk fat averages will be above 3.6%. Milk protein percent for Holstein herds are also near their seasonal highs, averaging above 3.13% for all regions.

Weekly Holstein Bulk Tank Milk Fat %
Averages from DV Monitors Database (Last 18 Months)

Weekly Holstein Bulk Tank Milk Protein %
Averages from DV Monitors Database (Last 18 Months)

Legend:
- CA (45 Herds)
- PNW (59 Herds)
- SW (25 Herds)
- UMW (30 Herds)
- Poly. (CA (45 Herds))
- Poly. (PNW (59 Herds))
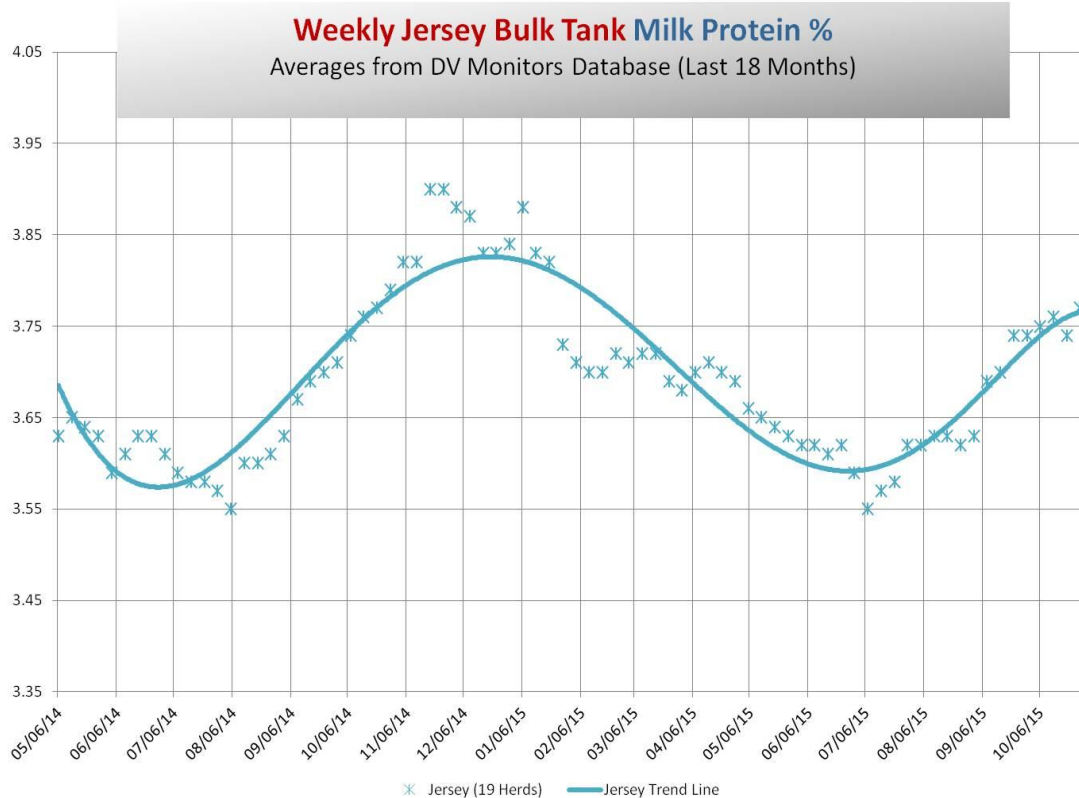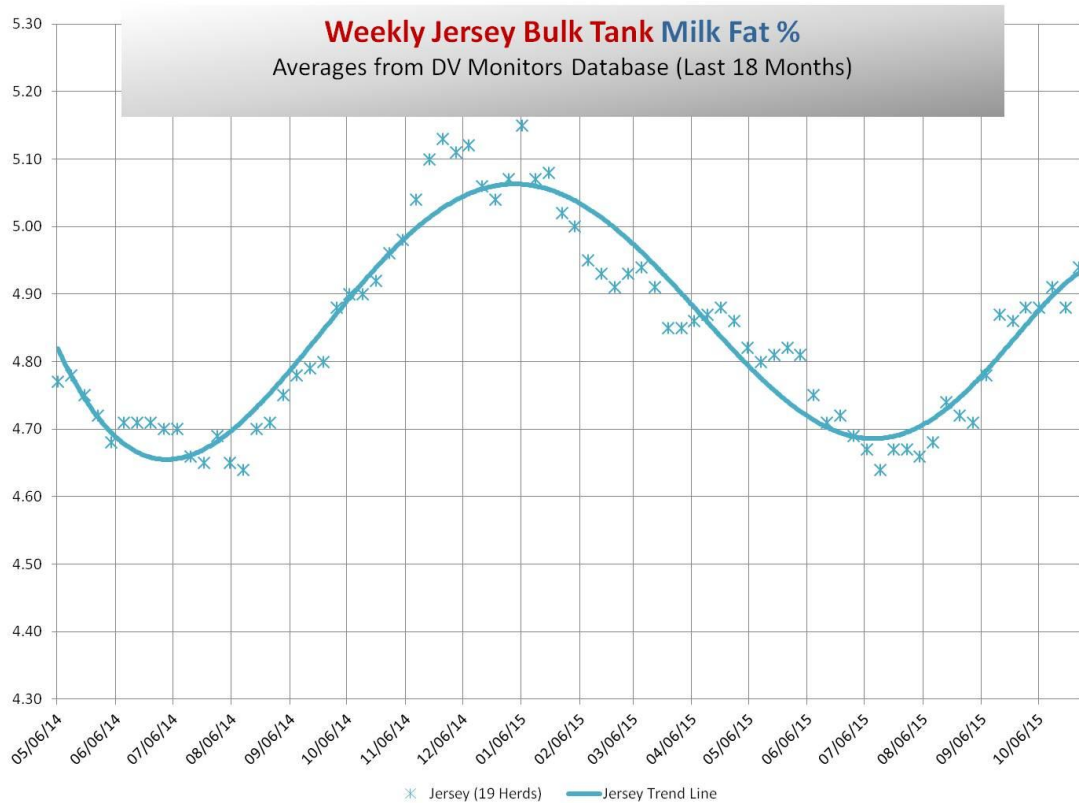- Poly. (SW (25 Herds))
- Poly. (UMW (30 Herds))

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

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.

For the Jersey breed, we compute a weekly national rather than regional average due to the lower number of Jersey herds enrolled in the data base. For the Holstein breed, we generate weekly averages 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)

See graphs below:

Weekly Jersey Bulk Tank Milk Fat %
Averages from DV Monitors Database (Last 18 Months)

Jersey (19 Herds) — Jersey Trend Line

Weekly Jersey Bulk Tank Milk Protein %
Averages from DV Monitors Database (Last 18 Months)

Jersey (19 Herds) — Jersey Trend Line

The database is large enough to provide an index for all Diamond V customers to compare to other leading herds across both time and region. This month's DV Monitors update shows that both milk fat and protein concentrations are nearing their seasonal highs for each region and both breeds.

You can use DV Monitors to help rule out some of the "background noise" of normal variation. Weekly summaries for comparable high-performing herds can 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. For example, 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 – keep doing that if you are getting a higher milk blend price than it is costing you.

We welcome your questions about *DairyAdvisor's* new information resource. Please email questions to the editor (cgill@diamondv.com) with "DV Monitors" in the subject line. A Diamond V Dairy Advisor will follow up.

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