DV Monitors

Milk components starting seasonal slide

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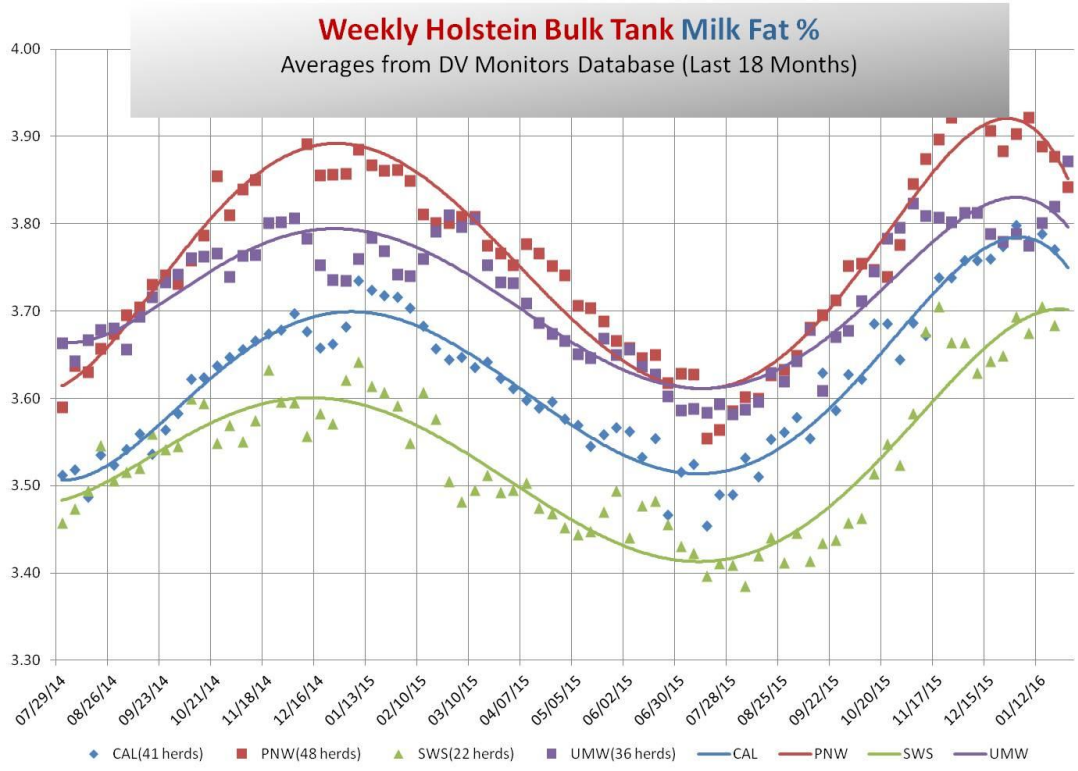
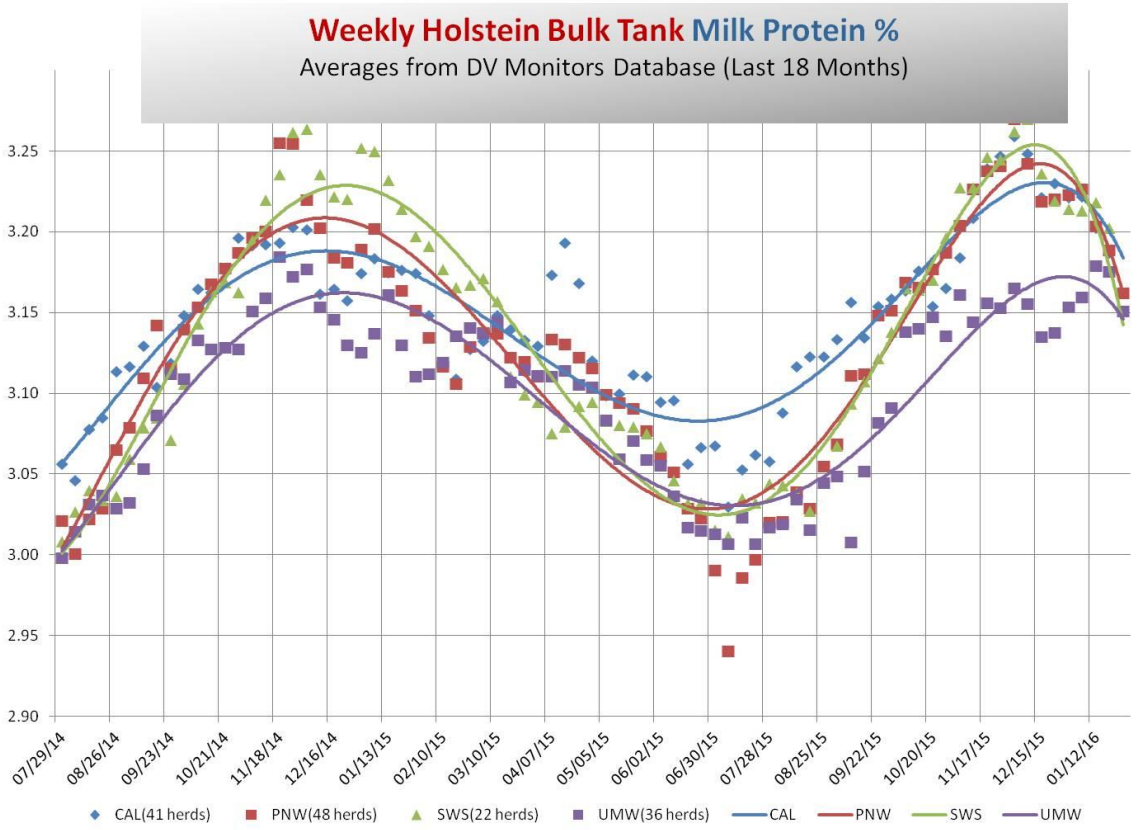
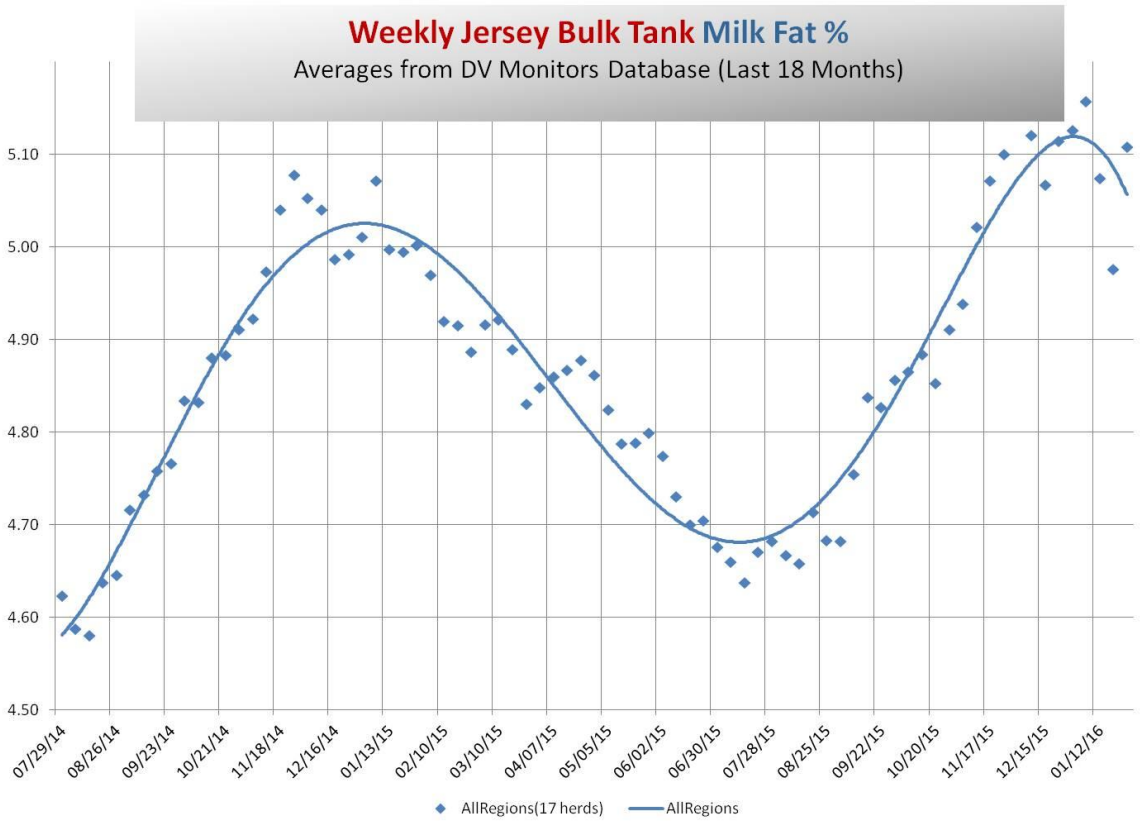
You may not have noticed much yet, but we are off our seasonal peaks for milk fat and milk protein concentrations.

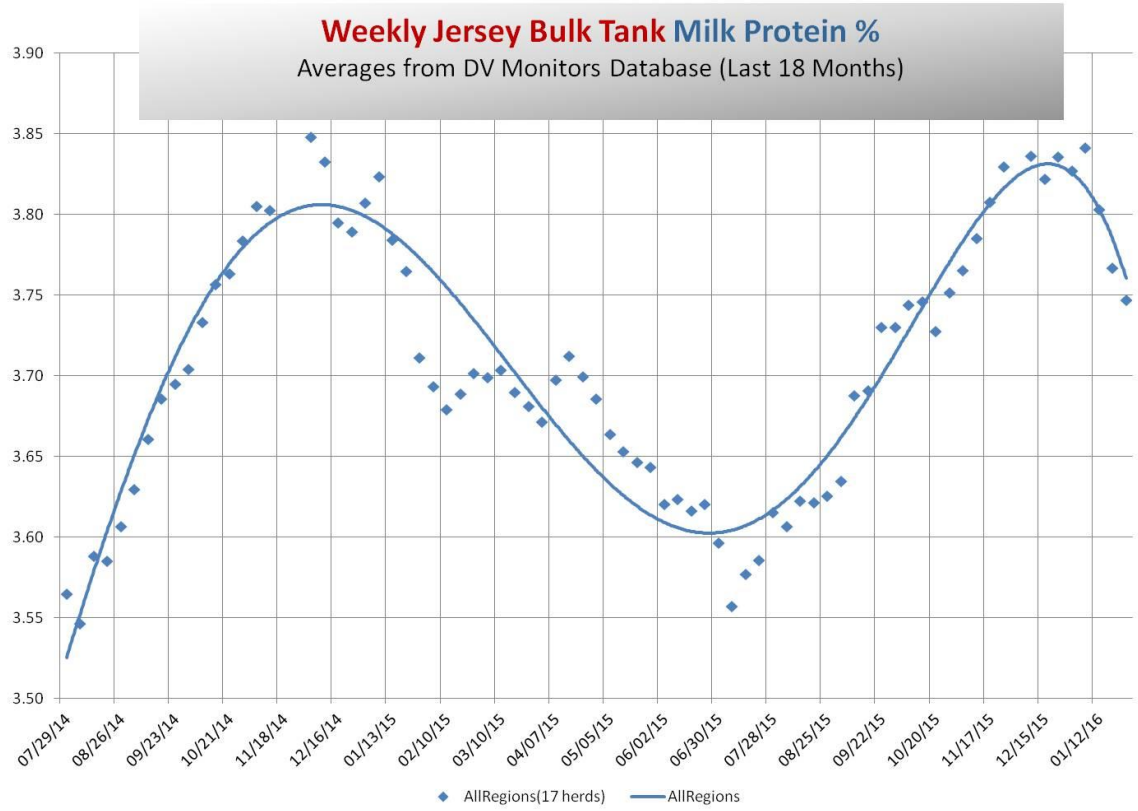
This month's DV Monitors shows both milk fat and milk protein data for leading Holstein and Jersey herds through the end of January. We're now past our seasonal highs, so milk component percentages are starting to drop. Although the declines are a normal seasonal occurrence, now is the time of year to really focus on keeping milk components up.

Producers have done an amazing job of maximizing their milk checks despite the challenge of lower milk prices. Butter prices have continued to be the dairy market's bright spot, which has meant the opportunity to benefit from various nutritional tools to sustain milk fat despite the seasonal downward trend.




Weekly Holstein Bulk Tank Milk Protein %
Averages from DV Monitors Database (Last 18 Months)
3.25
3.20
3.15
3.10
3.05
3.00
2.95
2.90
07/29/14
08/26/14
09/23/14
10/21/14
11/18/14
12/16/14
01/13/15
02/10/15
03/10/15
04/07/15
05/05/15
06/02/15
06/30/15
07/28/15
08/25/15
09/22/15
10/20/15
11/17/15
12/15/15
01/12/16
CAL(41 herds)
PNW(48 herds)
SWS(22 herds)
UMW(36 herds)
CAL
PNW
SWS
UMW


Weekly Jersey Bulk Tank Milk Fat %
Averages from DV Monitors Database (Last 18 Months)
5.10
5.00
4.90
4.80
4.70
4.60
4.50
07/29/14
08/26/14
09/23/14
10/21/14
11/18/14
12/16/14
01/13/15
02/10/15
03/10/15
04/07/15
05/05/15
06/02/15
06/30/15
07/28/15
08/25/15
09/22/15
10/20/15
11/17/15
12/15/15
01/12/16
AllRegions(17 herds)
AllRegions



DV Monitors information provides an 18-month historical perspective to help you and your and advisors make these types of informed decisions with a view of milk fat and milk protein trends by season and region. Our monthly updates help you monitor milk components across the West, including the Upper Midwest.

DV Monitors provides real-time regional milk component data from about 150 Holstein herds and 17 Jersey herds enrolled in our database. We download DV Monitors data from weekly weighted averages from various milk processor websites for every load of milk and then 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. We also provide separate charts of the Holstein data from four major dairy regions. The database consists of data from the following regions with the number of herds that have been continually part of the database over the past year-and-a-half:

- CA – California (41 herds)
- PNW – Oregon, Washington, Idaho (48 herds)
- SW – Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas (22 herds)
- UMW – South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio (36 herds)

There are fewer Jersey herds enrolled in the database, so we compute a national rather than regional average. For both Holsteins and Jerseys, the database is large enough to provide an index for all Diamond V customers to compare their milk fat and milk protein performance to that of other leading herds.

DV Monitors can help rule out some of the "background noise" of normal variation by providing weekly summaries for comparable high-performing herds. In addition to revealing important seasonal trends, the data can show the transient effects of other factors affecting the herds enrolled in the program.

You can use DV Monitors data to "self index" your dairy's fat and protein performance against others. If your milk component values are much greater than the regional averages, then it's likely that what you and your nutritionist are doing is working.

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