

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

On November 18, 2005 the California Department of Food and Agriculture released the latest nonfat powder, bulk butter, Cheddar cheese and whey processing costs for the period of January through December 2004. Subsequent to the release, revisions were made to the nonfat powder and Cheddar cheese processing costs.

You will find enclosed the revised cost exhibit with the revisions highlighted. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the telephone number or email address listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Venetta Reed".

Venetta Reed
Supervising Auditor I

Enclosures



**Weighted Average Manufacturing Costs
for Butter, Nonfat Powder, Skim Whey Powder and Cheddar Cheese
1989 - 2005**

Amended January 2006

Costs include processing labor, non-labor processing, packaging, other ingredients (for butter and Cheddar cheese only), general and administrative and return on investments.

<u>Date of Release</u>		<u>Butter</u>		<u>Nonfat Powder</u>		<u>Cheddar Cheese¹</u>		<u>Skim Whey Powder</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Cost per Pound</u>	<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Cost per Pound</u>	<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Cost per Pound</u>	<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Cost per Pound</u>	<u>Number of Plants</u>
1989	May	\$0.0879	11	\$0.1370	11	\$0.2251	9		
1992	July	\$0.0969	12	\$0.1443	12	\$0.2010	9		
1995	November	\$0.0928	9	\$0.1328	9	\$0.1981	8		
1996	December	\$0.0970	9	\$0.1333	9	\$0.1898	8		
1997	July	\$0.0958	8	\$0.1327	9	\$0.1840	9		
1999	February	\$0.0930	8	\$0.1277	9	\$0.1759	10		
2000	February	\$0.0957	8	\$0.1356	10	\$0.1693	9		
2001	October ²	\$0.1001	8	\$0.1590	11	\$0.1802	9		
2002	November ³	\$0.1208	7	\$0.1619	11	\$0.1775	9		
2002	December ⁴	\$0.1211	7	\$0.1512	11	\$0.1746	9		
2003	November ⁵	\$0.1235	7	\$0.1464	10	\$0.1632	9		
2004	November ⁶	\$0.1299	7	\$0.1560	10	\$0.1706	9	\$0.2675	4
2005	November ⁷	\$0.1368	8	\$0.1543	10	\$0.1769	7	\$0.2673	3

¹ For the 1996 Cheddar cheese cost study and subsequent cost studies, we have included costs associated with Cheddar cheese plants producing 500 pound barrels and 640 pound blocks. However, costs for packaging labor and packaging expenses were replaced with the average of those costs associated with 40 pound block plants.

² Includes the cost studies completed for periods between January 1998 and December 1999 and adjusted for utility costs. The utility cost adjustments were made using each plant's invoices for energy costs for August 2001.

³ Includes the unadjusted cost studies for periods between July 2000 and December 2001.

⁴ Includes the cost studies for periods between July 2000 and December 2001 and adjusted for August 2002 utility invoices as well as 2002 data updating wages, payroll taxes and fringe benefits for all plants.

⁵ Includes the unadjusted cost studies for periods between January and December 2002.

⁶ Includes the unadjusted cost studies for periods between January and December 2003.

⁷ Includes the unadjusted cost studies for periods between January and December 2004.

Butter Processing Costs

Amended January 2006

- 1 Manufacturing cost data were collected and summarized from eight California butter plants. The eight plants processed 382.9 million pounds of butter during the study period, representing 99.9% of the butter processed in California.
- 2 The processing costs summarized in this study were incurred during a 12-month period, starting in January 2004 and concluding in December 2004.
- 3 The "Processing Non-Labor" category includes costs such as utilities, repairs and maintenance, supplies, depreciation and rent.
- 4 The volume total includes both bulk butter and cut butter, but the costs reflect only costs for bulk butter (25 kg and 68 lb blocks).
- 5 To obtain the weighted average, individual plant costs were weighted by their butter processing volume relative to the total volume of butter processed by all plants involved in the cost study.
- 6 The current manufacturing cost allowance for butter is \$0.156 per pound. About 75% of the butter was processed at a cost less than the manufacturing cost allowance.

<u>Cost Groups</u>	<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Processing Labor</u>	<u>Processing Non-Labor</u>	<u>Package</u>	<u>Other Ingredient</u>	<u>General & Administrative</u>	<u>Return on Investment</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Volume in Group</u>	<u>Percent in Group</u>
<i>dollars per pound of butter</i>										
Low Cost	4	\$0.0446	\$0.0456	\$0.0098	\$0.0045	\$0.0117	\$0.0068	\$0.1230	288,092,738	75.2%
High Cost	4	\$0.0692	\$0.0652	\$0.0106	\$0.0026	\$0.0256	\$0.0061	\$0.1793	94,838,606	24.8%
<u>Summary Statistics</u>										
Weighted Average		\$0.0507	\$0.0504	\$0.0100	\$0.0040	\$0.0151	\$0.0066	\$0.1368		
Range	{ Minimum Maximum	\$0.0392	\$0.0336	\$0.0073	\$0.0016	\$0.0053	\$0.0038			
		\$0.1826	\$0.1124	\$0.0141	\$0.0086	\$0.0914	\$0.0103			
Total									382,931,344	100%

Cheese Processing Costs

Amended January 2006

- 1 Manufacturing cost data were collected and summarized from seven California cheese plants. The seven plants processed 817 million pounds of cheese during the study period, representing 98.5% of the Cheddar and Monterey Jack cheese processed in California.
- 2 The processing costs summarized in this study were incurred during a 12-month period, starting in January 2004 and concluding in December 2004.
- 3 The "Processing Non-Labor" category includes costs such as utilities, repairs and maintenance, supplies, depreciation and rent.
- 4 The volume total includes both Cheddar and Monterey Jack cheeses, but the costs reflect only costs for 40 lb blocks of Cheddar.
- 5 Three plants processed 500-lb barrels or 640-lb blocks. Packaging costs and packaging labor for 40 lb blocks were substituted for these plants.
- 6 To obtain the weighted average, individual plant costs were weighted by their cheese processing volume relative to the total volume of cheese processed by all plants involved in the cost study.
- 7 The current manufacturing cost allowance for cheese is \$0.171 per pound. About 62% of the cheese was processed at a cost less than the manufacturing cost allowance.
- 8 The weighted average yield was 11.08 lbs of cheese per hundredweight of milk. The weighted average moisture was 37.84%, and weighted average vat tests were 4.02% fat and 9.05% SNF.

<u>Cost Groups</u>	<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Processing Labor</u>	<u>Processing Non-Labor</u>	<u>Package</u>	<u>Other Ingredient</u>	<u>General & Administrative</u>	<u>Return on Investment</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Volume in Group</u>	<u>Percent in Group</u>
<i>dollars per pound of cheese</i>										
Low Cost	3	\$0.0397	\$0.0759	\$0.0180	\$0.0089	\$0.0191	\$0.0094	\$0.1710	628,560,303	76.9%
High Cost	4	\$0.0709	\$0.0584	\$0.0206	\$0.0179	\$0.0243	\$0.0042	\$0.1963	188,508,025	23.1%
<u>Summary Statistics</u>										
Weighted Average		\$0.0469	\$0.0719	\$0.0186	\$0.0110	\$0.0203	\$0.0082	\$0.1769		
Range	{ Minimum	\$0.0340	\$0.0518	\$0.0146	\$0.0066	\$0.0077	\$0.0024			
	{ Maximum	\$0.0852	\$0.0795	\$0.0281	\$0.0289	\$0.0299	\$0.0128			
Total									817,068,328	100%