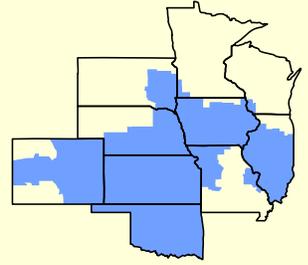


APRIL 2022

Marketing Service

Bulletin

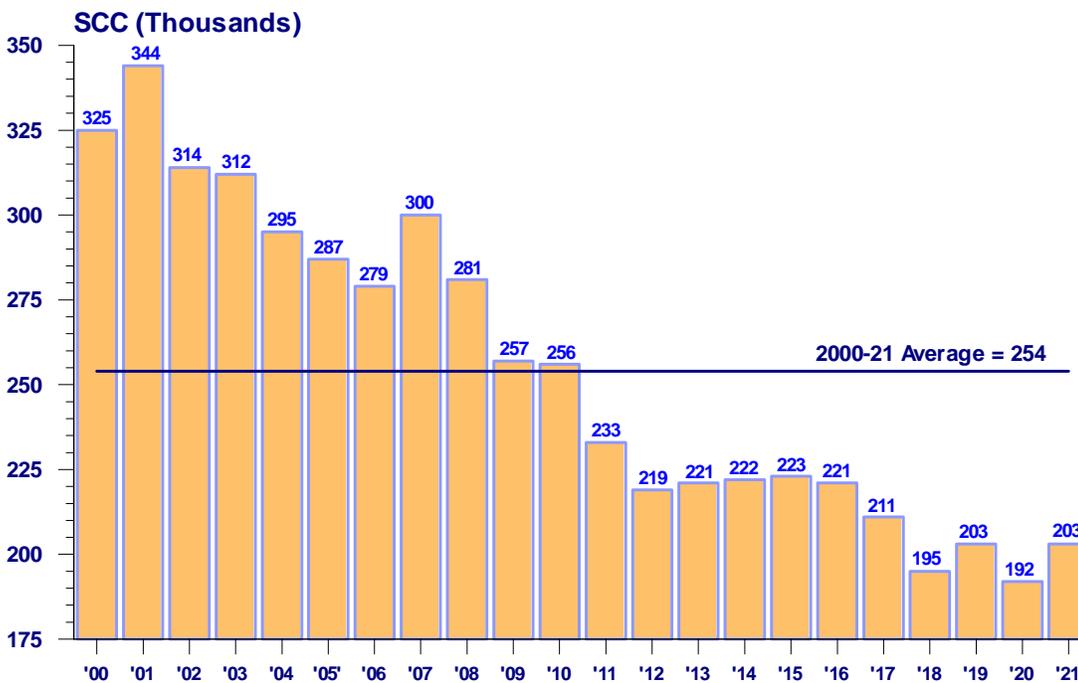
Facilitating the efficient marketing of milk and dairy products.



CENTRAL MARKETING AREA



Producer Milk Somatic Cell Counts Central Federal Milk Order



A well-known and widely-used standard for producer milk quality is the somatic cell count (SCC). SCC is a measure of the total number of cells* per milliliter in milk, and lower counts are indicative of higher quality. Somatic cells enable animals to fight infection and ensure good health, and all milk naturally contains some somatic cells. Although high SCCs can affect dairy product manufacturing yields, milk flavor and product shelf life, they generally are not a food safety or

public health issue. The federal SCC regulatory limit is 750,000; however, several states have lower maximum allowed limits: California - 600,000; Idaho - 400,000; Oregon - 500,00; and Washington - 400,000. The SCC limit in many other major dairy countries is 400,000.

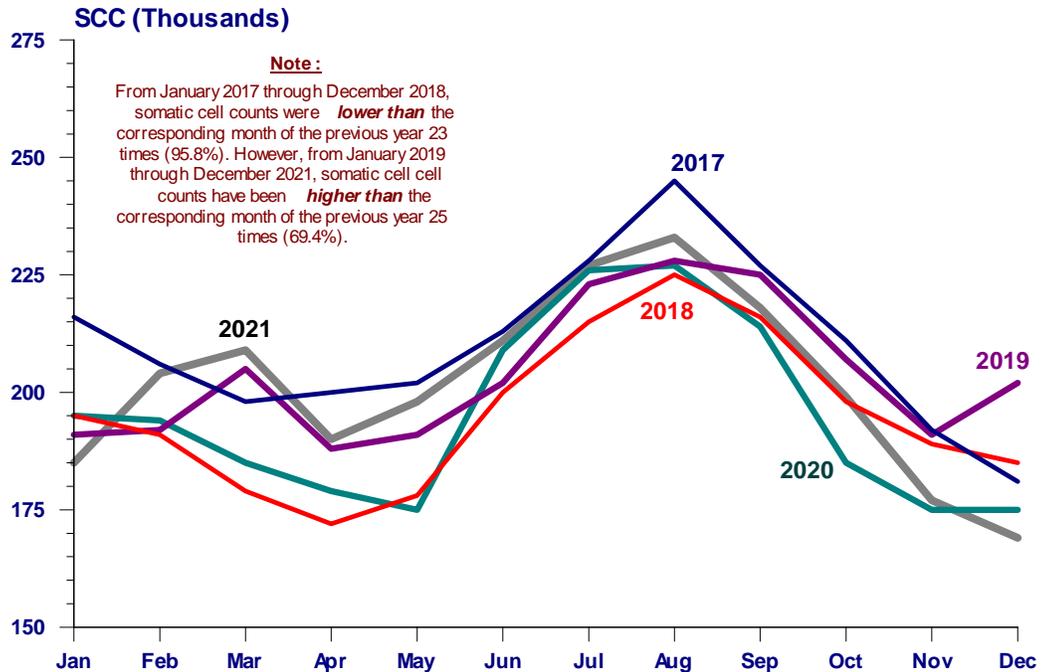
Four of the current 11 Federal Milk Orders (FMOs) adjust milk payments to producers based on the SCC in raw milk. The benchmark SCC for this adjustment is 350,000, with positive payments for SCCs below that level and negative adjustments for milk with higher counts. Price adjustments are made on a per hundredweight basis for every 1,000 SCC variation from the 350,000 standard. The magnitude of the SCC adjustment varies monthly based on the wholesale price of cheese.

The Central Order is one of the four FMOs that utilize a SCC price adjustment. The graph on this page displays yearly average SCCs for the Central FMO since its inception in 2000. As indicated by this graph, SCCs have decreased significantly since the early years of the order's existence. With a couple of notable exceptions, the

* The somatic cell count (SCC) is primarily composed of leukocytes, or white blood cells, that are produced by a cow's immune system to fight inflammation in the mammary gland. All milk naturally contains some somatic cells.

annual Central Order SCC has exhibited a persistent downward trend, averaging 254,000 over the 22 years depicted by the graph on page one. The annual SCC has been below the 22-year average during each of the last 11 years, and has been less than the previous year in 14 of the 21 years since 2000. The 203,000 SCC average for 2021 is the third lowest on record, matching the 2019 average but above the previous year's all-time low of 192,000. 2018 and 2020 have been the only years with an annual average SCC below 200,000.

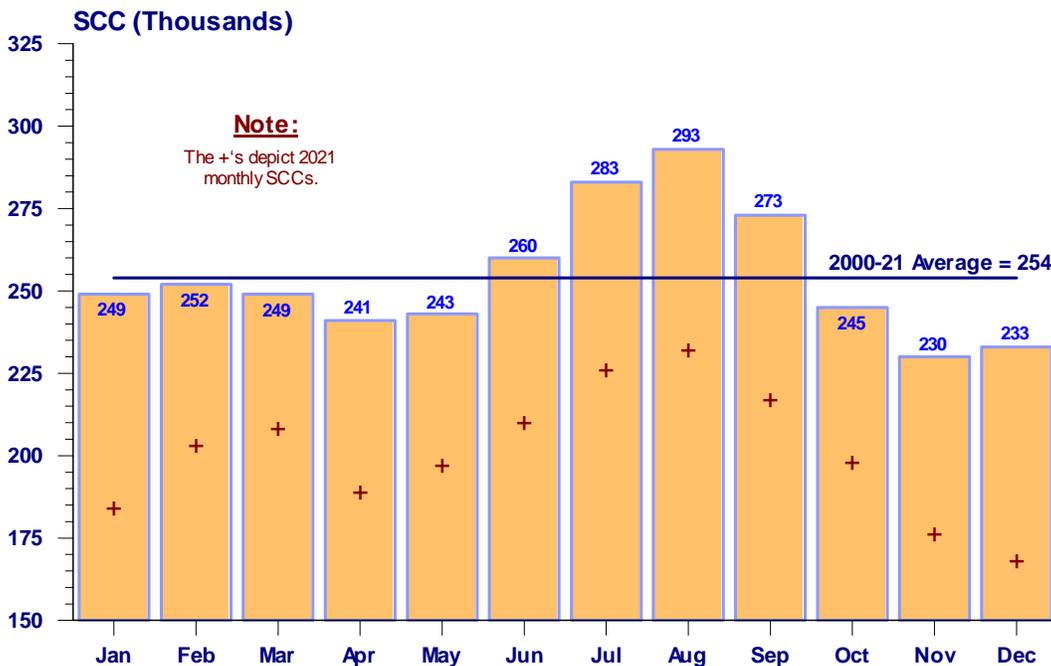
Producer Milk Somatic Cell Counts Central Federal Milk Order



The top graph on this page depicts Central Order monthly SCCs for the last 5 years (January 2017 through December 2021), and highlights the extent of the downward trend in SCCs over this period of time. SCC's were below the corresponding month of the previous year during 23 of the 24 months FROM January 2018 through December 2019. This downward trend did not continue in 2019, since SCCs were higher than the corresponding month of 2018 in every month except January. 2020 saw a return to the downward trend, with eight months posting year-over-year SCC decreases. However, during 2021 the Central Order SCC was above the corresponding month of the previous year 10 times. Thus, the SCC was above the corresponding month of the previous year 69.4% over the 36

months from January 2019 through December 2021.

2000 - 2021 Monthly Average SCCs Central Federal Milk Order

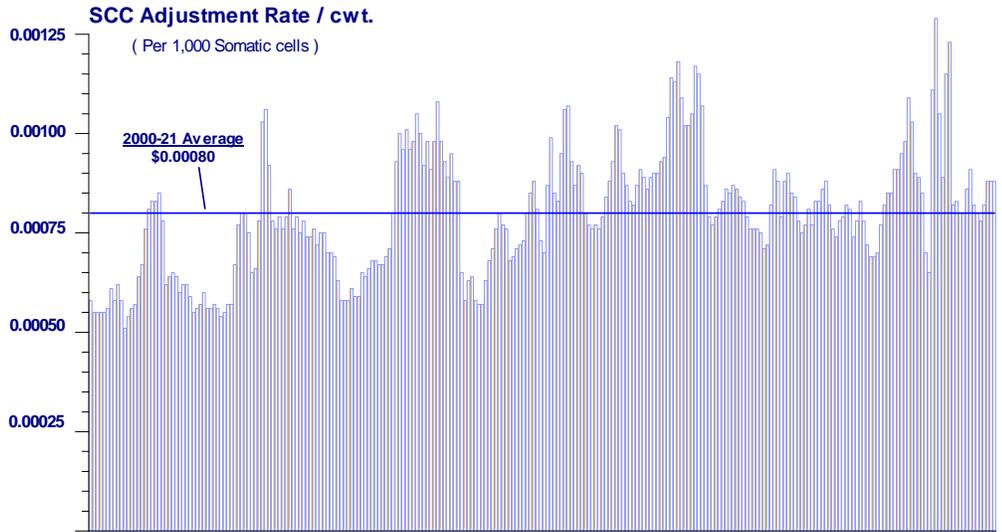


Central Order monthly average SCCs for 2000 through 2021 are depicted by the bottom graph on this page. A distinct seasonal pattern is evident from the information presented in this graph, along with the top graph on this page. SCCs have been higher than the 22-year average during the warmer months, most noticeably during July through September. The lowest monthly average SCCs have been recorded during the early winter

SCC Monthly Adjustment Rates

Central Federal Milk Order

months of November and December. The 22-year average for August is the highest of any month at 293,000, while the lowest is attributable to November with a 230,000 SCC average. Monthly SCCs for 2021 are depicted by the pluses inside the bars of the graph on the bottom of page 2.



January 2000 through December 2021

The top graph on this page details monthly SCC adjustment rates for January 2000 through December 2021. Milk payments to Central Order producers are adjusted for counts above and below 350,000, and these adjustments are made on a per hundredweight basis for each 1,000 variation in SCC. The adjustment rate averaged \$0.00080 during the time frame depicted by this graph, ranging from a low of 0.00051 in November 2000 to a high of 0.00129 recorded during July 2020.

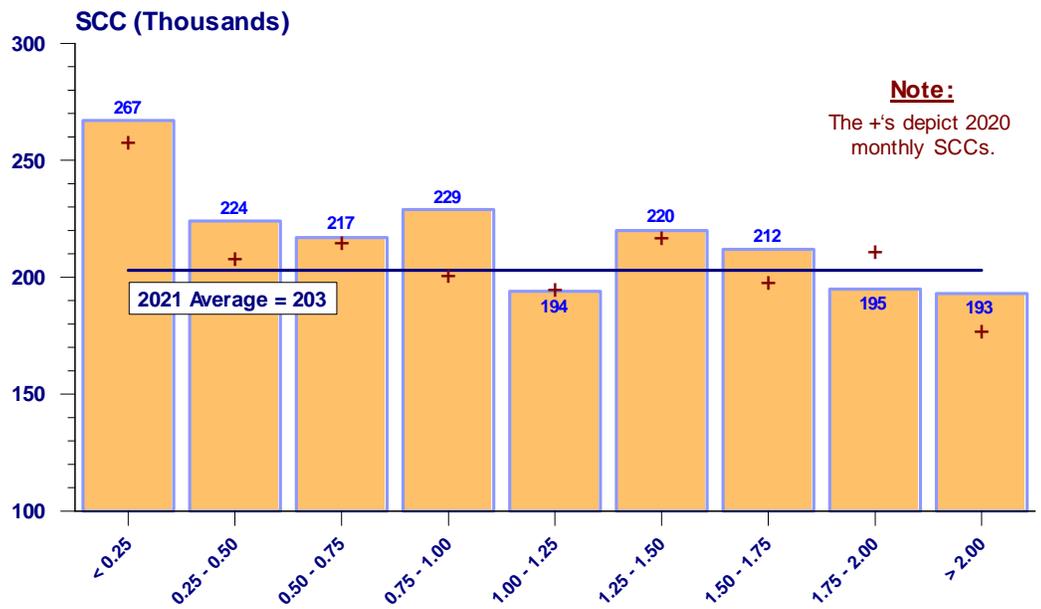
The lower graph on this page depicts 2021 weighted average SCC's for Central Order producers grouped by marketing size category. The categories used in this graph increase in 250,000 pound increments up to 2,000,000 pounds per month - all marketings above that size are grouped together. The plus signs in the accompanying graph indicate the 2020 SCC average for each size category.

This graph depicts Central Order data only; therefore, the marketings represented in each size category do not necessarily correspond to overall farm size, since producers can have marketings on more than one FMO during any given month. With that caveat in mind, the data in this graph indicates a SCC decrease of 43,000 (-16.1%) going from the smallest size category to the next larger size.

With the exception of the 1 to 1.25 million pound category, SCC averages were relatively flat through the 1.75 million pound category. The two largest size categories, along with the 1 to 1.25 million pound category, were the only ones with SCC counts below the 2021 average of 203,000. The largest size category, with marketings of over 2 million pounds per month, accounted for over 75% of the Central Order total during 2021.

2021 SCC by Marketing Size Categories

Central Federal Milk Order



Note:
The +'s depict 2020 monthly SCCs.

Monthly Marketings (Million Pounds)



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

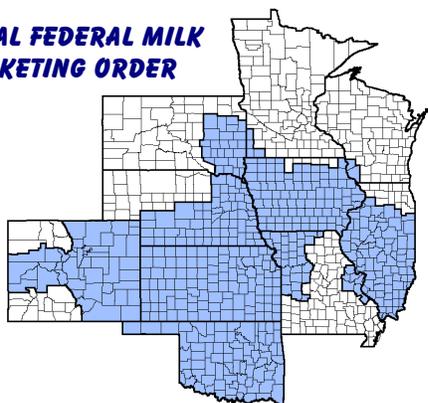
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FEDERAL MILK MARKET ADMINISTRATOR
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SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66285-4650

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Website: www.fmmacentral.com
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**CENTRAL FEDERAL MILK
MARKETING ORDER**



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	Statistical Uniform Price		Producer Price Differential		Class I Utilization	
	<u>Mar '22</u>	<u>Feb '22</u>	<u>Mar '22</u>	<u>Feb '22</u>	<u>Mar '22</u>	<u>Feb '22</u>
Northeast	24.74	23.67	2.29	2.76	29.20	30.98
Appalachian	25.86	24.87	---	---	68.49	71.43
Florida	27.77	26.71	---	---	83.03	82.15
Southeast	26.42	25.47	---	---	75.77	77.34
Upper Midwest	22.66	21.19	0.21	0.28	7.71	8.16
Central	23.15	21.98	0.70	1.07	28.53	29.55
Mideast	23.38	22.19	0.93	1.28	39.08	39.48
California	23.32	21.97	0.87	1.06	20.92	21.30
Pacific Northwest	23.49	22.45	1.04	1.54	21.63	18.85
Southwest	23.73	22.40	1.28	1.49	28.65	29.31
Arizona	24.66	23.30	---	---	27.56	27.05