

THE PRODUCER WARRANTS THAT THE PRODUCER'S MILK WILL:

- Qualify as Grade A milk, as determined by applicable regulatory authorities;
- Be free of added water;
- Be free of antibiotics and drugs;
- Not be adulterated or misbranded as defined by any federal or state statute or regulation;
- Be properly cooled and not sour;
- Not contain any foreign substance harmful to human health;
- Be safe for human consumption and not make persons ill;
- Be produced solely from Producer's dairy herd and not from dairy cows of other dairies;
- Be free and clear of security interests, liens and claims of lenders, creditors and other persons except as disclosed to and approved by Valley Queen;
- Be produced from Producer's dairy herd and dairy facilities that meet all requirements of government statutes, laws and regulations, governmental and court orders and judgments applicable thereto.
- Be derived from healthy cows.

ANTIBIOTICS AND DRUGS

If a producer suspects that antibiotics or drugs have entered the milk supply at the producer's dairy facilities, the producer is to immediately notify Valley Queen. Milk suspected of containing antibiotics or drugs is **not** to be loaded onto trucks until tested.

If antibiotics or drugs are discovered in the milk while it is yet at the producer's dairy facilities and before the milk is loaded on Valley Queen's truck, the milk will be disposed of at the producer's dairy facilities, and the producer will not be paid for the milk.

If antibiotics or drugs are discovered as the result of routine sampling of producer samples and were not detected on the bulk load:

- No further milk can be picked up from the producer until sampled and proved to be free of drug residue;
- No payment will be made for any milk which is subsequently disposed of;
- State and Federal laws require milk processors to report to regulatory authorities milk that contains antibiotics or drugs.

If antibiotics or drugs are discovered in the producer's milk after it has been loaded on a truck and if the source of the antibiotic or drugs is determined to be the producer's milk, the following provisions apply:

- Producer will be financially responsible for the entire load of contaminated milk including disposal costs;
- Valley Queen will be entitled to all remedies afforded to it by all applicable laws;
- No further milk can be picked up from the producer until the milk is sampled and proven to be antibiotic and drug free;
- State and Federal laws require milk processors to report to regulatory authorities milk that contains antibiotics or drugs.

ADULTERATED MILK

If the producer suspects that milk has been adulterated (generally: poisonous, unsafe or deleterious substance which may render milk injurious to health), the producer is to immediately notify Valley Queen. Adulterated milk is not to be loaded onto trucks until tested.

If the producer's milk is found to be adulterated:

- No further milk can be picked up from Producer until the milk is free from deleterious substances.
- State and Federal laws require milk processors to report to the state regulatory authorities adulterated shipments;
- Valley Queen will be entitled to all remedies afforded to it by all applicable laws.

EDGE DAIRY FARMER COOPERATIVE

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative provides dairy farmers a strong voice – the voice of milk – in Congress, with customers and within their communities. Edge fulfills requirements of the Federal Milk Marketing Orders as a verification cooperative for dairy farmers. The co-op also represents members on federal policy and collaborates with other agriculture stakeholders. The strong representation on federal policies in Washington, D.C. goes above and beyond what other cooperatives provide.

Edge is actively engaged in advocating for freer and fairer trade, common-sense farm and environmental regulatory policies, solutions for labor, accurate labeling of milk and other dairy products. The co-op also closely supports farm sustainability efforts, connects with customers on social media and elsewhere and partners with other organizations to ensure the voice of farmers is amplified. For more information, visit www.voiceofmilk.com.



Milk Procurement Policies

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

Milk Procurement Department

24-Hour On-Shift Supervisor Phone
(605) 432-4563 (Inclement Weather)
ext. 395

Dan Mikkelson
Field Service Representative
Cell 605-880-3044 Office 605-432-9624

Gregg Dunnihoo
Fleet Coordinator
Cell 605-880-3217 Office 605-432-9626

Evan Grong
Transportation and Milk Procurement Manager
Cell 605-924-0611 Office 605-432-9623

P.O. Drawer 351 **Phone:** 605-432-4563
Milbank, SD 57252 **Fax:** 605-432-9383
<http://www.vqcheese.com>

The Heritage Center: 605-432-9696
Email: heritagecenter@vqcheese.com

MILK PRICES

Milk prices are based on Valley Queen's cheese yield pricing program and will vary with the global dairy market. Fixed pricing is also available at producer's election. Please see the Valley Queen forward pricing program brochure for details.

All premiums and adjustments described in these policies, the cheese yield pricing program and the fixed pricing program are subject to change or termination at any time.

BUTTERFAT AND PROTEIN TESTS

Samples will be tested for each milk delivery and will be averaged semi-monthly for payment purposes.

Somatic Cell Quality Program

The Somatic Cell Premium Program is a fixed level program. Your premium level is based on the chart below.

Somatic Cell Count	Premium
0—124,999	\$0.50
125,000—174,999	\$0.40
175,000—224,999	\$0.30
225,000—274,999	\$0.20
275,000—324,999	\$0.10
325,000—399,999	\$0.00
400,000—499,999	(\$1.50)
500,000 and over	(\$3.00)

Example #1: SCC=120,000.....SCC Premium=\$0.50

Example #2: SCC=220,000.....SCC Premium=\$0.30

The Somatic Cell Count Premium level does NOT change with the cheese yield price. For example a two week average SCC of 120,000 will pay a premium of \$0.50, regardless of what the cheese yield price is.

ADVANCES

No advances allowed.

Transportation Premium

Producers capable of accommodating full tanker load milk pickup will be eligible for a \$0.50 per CWT premium. Production levels, storage capacity, tank sizes and tank quantity are requirements for determining eligibility.

HAULING RATES

Each producer is assigned a fixed hauling rate per CWT. Hauling rates are subject to change and any rate changes will be communicated prior to the change.

FUEL SURCHARGE

Your fixed hauling rate will be multiplied by a fuel surcharge rate based on the prevailing diesel price at the time of calculation. The fuel surcharge rate will be calculated monthly.

rbST-FREE CERTIFICATION

All milk sold to Valley Queen must be certified as rbST-free. There is no premium associated with rbST-free milk.

MILK PAYMENT

Semi-monthly cutoffs are on the 15th and last day of each month. Milk payments will be deposited to the producer's account on the 8th and 23rd or next banking day. Vouchers will be delivered on milk trucks. Direct deposit of milk payments is required.

MILK QUALITY/GRADE A MILK

Valley Queen will purchase only Grade A milk. If a producer temporarily loses their Grade A permit, OR if a producer consistently has SPC bacteria counts above 100,000 and/or LPC bacteria counts over 500 for a period of 4 weeks or longer this may result in a milk quality deduction of \$0.50/CWT.

Milk Storage and Handling:

It is in the best interest of producers to have and maintain a minimum of 24 hours of on-site storage capacity. Less than truckload producers must have sufficient storage capacity for every-other-day pickup. Milk must be stored using only approved storage containers.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. A maximum of three assignments per producer.
2. Any changes to existing assignments or any new assignments must be in writing and received and approved by Valley Queen prior to the beginning of the pay period.

MINIMUM PRODUCTION

Valley Queen will not pick up milk from any producer who does not have at least 1,000# per day.

MILK ROOM AND MILKING FACILITIES

All milk rooms and milking facilities must be state approved. Valley Queen will pay for inspection fees up to \$200 per farm relative to the annual inspection process in any state where we procure milk. Valley Queen will deduct from the producer's milk check any reinspection fees paid on behalf of the producer. Valley Queen will deduct from the producer's milk check any Raw Milk Assessment imposed by any state where we procure milk.

SOUR AND/OR IMPROPERLY COOLED MILK

Any producer who has tank problems, sour or improperly cooled milk must immediately call a field service representative or Valley Queen's office. Valley Queen cannot accept or use sour milk. The decision to accept or reject milk that may be sour will be based, at Valley Queen's election, on the sensory evaluation of Valley Queen employees or analytical laboratory testing. The decision to accept or reject sour or improperly cooled milk may be made either prior to or after the milk has been loaded on the truck. All bulk storage tanks must be in proper working order. Valley Queen reserves the right to charge a producer for costs incurred as a result of improperly cooled milk.

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

As part of our commitment to the safe and humane treatment of dairy cows, all producers are required to participate in the FARM program by allowing access to FARM-certified auditors appointed by Valley Queen. In addition, Valley Queen may implement additional 3rd-party audit programs to comply with industry standards for animal welfare policies.

CHEESE

Cheese orders can be placed through our Heritage Center. We have several varieties available. Please check with The Heritage Center for current selection. The Heritage Center number is (605) 432-9696 or at heritagecenter@vqcheese.com.