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WEEKLY DAIRYNEWS DIGEST. Period: 15-21 June

June 23, 2026

10 Key Topics of the Week

1. U.S. H-2A visa program opened to year-round dairy

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The week's main U.S. regulatory story. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued new interpretations that, for the first time, give year-round dairy farms access to the H-2A seasonal-worker visa program, which had historically excluded them. The story escalated quickly – from DHS clarification to cooperative support and state-level access (Wisconsin). In the background: Trump's Wisconsin visit with calls for industry reform, and farm groups pressing the Senate on dairy provisions in the Farm Bill.

Companies / organizations: [Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative](#) , DHS, USDA, farm groups.

Links:

- [U.S. DHS Clarifies H-2A Visa Eligibility for Dairy Workers](#)
- [Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative Supports New H-2A Visa Guidance for Dairy Farms](#)
- [Wisconsin Dairy Farms Gain Access to H-2A Visa Program](#)
- [New H-2A Guidelines Could Aid Year-Round Dairy Operations](#)

- [New Interpretations Allow Dairy Farmers Access to H-2A Program](#)
- [US Clarifies H-2A Visa Eligibility for Dairy Operations](#)
- [Calls for Dairy Industry Reform Highlighted During Trump's Wisconsin Visit](#)
- [U.S. Farm Groups Urge Senate to Enhance Dairy Policies in Farm Bill](#)

2. Falling global prices and a slowing market



At the Global Dairy Trade auction on 16 June the index fell 2.8% to an average of €3,428/t, with declines across all products except lactose (+4.2%). Per the FAO, the dairy price index averaged 119.2 points in May – 0.5% below April and 22.4% below a year earlier. The market is entering a slowdown amid record output from major exporters; Rabobank points to the global market heading toward a supply slowdown.

Companies / organizations: [GDT - General Datatech](#) (platform), [Rabobank](#) , FAO.

Expert quotes: Figures drawn from GDT and FAO primary sources (see links).

Links:

- [Global Dairy Trade Event Sees Price Index Drop by 2.8%](#)
- [Global Dairy Prices Decline by 2.8%: Impact on Uruguay's Market](#)
- [Global Dairy Prices Pressured by Record Milk Production Surges](#)
- [Dairy Price Surge Elevates Global Food Costs in May 2026](#)
- [Global Dairy Market Faces Slowdown Amid Rising Costs and Weather Risks](#)
- [Global Milk Production Faces Slowdown Amid Economic and Climatic Challenges](#)

Primary sources:

GDT (Farmers Journal) – <https://www.farmersjournal.ie/dairy/news/global-dairy-trade-index-falls-by-2-8-920005>

FAO Food Price Index – <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en>

3. New Zealand: record output, foreign investment, climate-law reversal



A dense country block. A record production volume is expected for the 2026 season; foreign investment is entering processing and reshaping the sector; a record six-week in-calf rate was achieved. In parallel: rising input costs, increased feed and fertiliser imports, and a politically charged story – a request for UN intervention over the reversal of NZ climate legislation. Fonterra is reinforcing its renewables agenda.

Companies / organizations: [Fonterra](#) , [NZ Clean Energy](#) .

Links:

- [Record High for New Zealand Milk Production Expected by 2026](#)
- [Foreign Investments Reshape New Zealand's Dairy Processing Sector](#)
- [UN Intervention Requested Over New Zealand's Climate Law Reversal](#)
- [Rising Input Costs Challenge New Zealand's Agricultural Optimism](#)

- [Record Six-Week In-Calf Rate Achieved by New Zealand Dairy Herds](#)
- [New Zealand Dairy Sector Increases Feed and Fertiliser Imports for 2026](#)
- [Fonterra Partners with NZ Clean Energy for Renewable Solar Project](#)
- [Fonterra Secures Major Renewable Energy Supply from Canterbury Solar Farm](#)

4. Brazil: record output, logistics, vertical integration under import pressure



The week's largest country cluster (10+ items). Record milk output shifts the focus to logistics; amid a price crisis, the government is launching public procurement of powdered milk; the industry is moving toward vertical integration under import pressure. Milk quality is improving (Rondônia) and regional export specialization is intensifying; Paraná is increasing milk collection and narrowing the gap with Minas Gerais, but reports a financial deficit despite a volume surplus.

Companies / organizations: [Alvoar Lácteos](#) (former CPLA site), [Queijo Jacuba](#) .

Links:

- [Record Milk Production in Brazil Shifts Focus to Logistics Challenges](#)
- [Brazil Initiates Public Procurement of Powdered Milk Amid Dairy Crisis](#)
- [Dairy Industry in Brazil Adopts Vertical Integration Amid Import Pressure](#)
- [Brazil's Dairy Exports: Regional Specialization as a Competitive Edge](#)
- [Paraná's Milk Collection Surges, Narrowing Gap with Minas Gerais](#)
- [Paraná's Dairy Trade: Volume Surplus but Financial Deficit in 2026](#)
- [Brazilian Milk Market Sees Rising Prices and Falling Costs](#)
- [Significant Improvement in Milk Quality in Rondônia Over Recent Years](#)
- [Alvoar Revitalizes Former CPLA Facility with New Dairy Production Plan](#)
- [Consumer Demand for Transparency Reshapes Brazil's Dairy Market](#)

5. Danone sues Chobani over protein claims (theme & company of the week)



Danone US filed suit in the Southern District of New York against **Chobani** , alleging it inflates the serving size on its 32-oz “20G Protein” tubs to claim 20 g of protein. By Danone's calculation, under the standard serving the Chobani product would contain less than 18 grams – below the high-protein threshold. Demand for protein is partly fueled by GLP-1 weight-loss drugs; this is not Danone's first suit against Chobani (a 2025 cold-brew packaging dispute).

Expert quotes: From the complaint (via Food Dive): Danone says Chobani is “siphoning away protein-conscious customers who would otherwise have purchased Oikos Pro.”

Links:

- [**Danone Files Lawsuit Against Chobani Over Protein Content Claims**](#)
- [**Danone Sues Chobani Over Alleged Misleading Yogurt Protein Claims**](#)
- [**Danone and Chobani Clash Over Protein Claims in Yogurt Market**](#)

Primary sources:

Food Dive – <https://www.fooddive.com/news/danone-sues-chobani-high-protein-yogurt-claims-oikos/823033/>

6. Food safety: listeria, recalls, vitamin over-fortification, plant shutdowns



A broad food-safety cluster across several continents. In the U.S., a recall is expanding over a deadly listeria outbreak (@Clover Hill Dairy) and a global cheese recall was issued. In Canada, Lactalis and another producer recall lactose-free products over vitamin over-fortification. In India, an FDA shut a plant in Pune after a poisoning, and the FSSAI issued notices over hygiene violations.

Countries / regions: USA, Canada, India (Pune).

Companies / organizations: [CLOVER HILL DAIRY LLC](#) , [Lactalis Canada Foodservice](#) , [Param Dairy](#) , [Bikanervala Foods Pvt. Ltd.](#) , [Fssai](#) , [Food License Registration India](#) .

Links:

- [Clover Hill Dairy Expands Recall Due to Deadly Listeria Outbreak](#)
- [Global Cheese Recall Issued Over Listeria Outbreak Concerns](#)
- [Lactalis Canada Recalls Milk Due to Vitamin Over-fortification](#)
- [Canadian Agency Recalls Lactose-Free Dairy Product for Vitamin Over-Fortification](#)
- [Pune FDA Shuts Down Dairy Plant Following Food Poisoning Outbreak](#)
- [Dairy Product Contamination in Pune Leads to FDA Shutdown](#)
- [FSSAI Targets Param Dairy and Bikanervala for Hygiene Violations](#)
- [FSSAI Issues Notices to Multiple Companies Over Consumer Complaints](#)

7. Plant-based alternatives: declining popularity, nutritional scrutiny, hybrid blends



A reversal in the plant-based narrative. Australia records declining popularity of plant-based alternatives; scientific reviews flag nutritional deficiencies in plant-based drinks; meanwhile hybrid dairy-plant protein blends are gaining momentum. Mixed M&A signals: Molinos acquires plant-based startup NotCo, while Danone expands its Silk plant-based line.

Companies / organizations: **Danone** (Silk), **Molinos Rio de la Plata** , **NotCo** .

Links:

- [**Decline in Popularity of Plant-Based Alternatives in Australia**](#)
- [**Scientific Studies Highlight Nutritional Deficiencies in Plant-Based Drinks**](#)
- [**Global Shift Towards Hybrid Dairy-Plant Protein Blends Gains Momentum**](#)
- [**Molinos Río de la Plata Acquires Plant-Based Food Innovator NotCo**](#)
- [**Danone's Silk Expands Plant-Based Protein Line in the US**](#)
- [**Consumers Eligible for Compensation in Silk Beverage Settlement**](#)

8. Animal disease: H5N1 mechanism in cattle, quarantines, tuberculosis



University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine researchers (Science Advances) provided the first explanation of why H5N1 in cows targets the udder rather than the lungs: the virus binds N-linked sialic acid receptors that are abundant in mammary tissue and scarce in the respiratory tract. In parallel: a quarantine in Idaho, bovine TB in Wicklow (Ireland) and in Chihuahua (Mexico, 38 herds).

Expert quotes: Senior author Suresh Kuchipudi called the udder a “perfect breeding ground for the virus” and warned that an infected cow sheds a large amount of virus into milk (pasteurization kills it).

Links:

- [**H5N1 Bird Flu Mechanism in Cattle Found by Researchers**](#)
- [**Idaho Dairy Industry Faces Quarantine Amid Bird Flu Outbreak**](#)
- [**Wicklow Farmers Face Crisis as Bovine TB Spreads Rapidly**](#)

- [Tuberculosis Outbreak in Chihuahua Affects 38 Cattle Herds](#)

Primary sources:

EurekAlert (University of Pittsburgh) – <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1131354>

9. Technology, sustainability and decarbonization of processing



A substantial technology layer: from AI in food-company operations and satellite farm monitoring (First Milk) to robotics (EuroTier 2026) and data-driven herd health. Decarbonization of processing is prominent – Fonterra is moving to solar power, and Circularity Fuels converts manure biogas into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

Countries / regions: Global; USA, UK, New Zealand, Germany (EuroTier).

Companies / organizations: [Circularity Fuels](#) , [First Milk](#) , [Fonterra](#) , [Yili Group](#) , VAS.

Links:

- [Circularity Fuels Converts Dairy Manure Biogas into Sustainable Jet Fuel](#)
- [Circularity Fuels Converts Dairy Biogas to Sustainable Aviation Fuel](#)
- [First Milk Implements Satellite Technology to Enhance Farm Sustainability](#)
- [How AI is Transforming Operations at Leading Food and Beverage Companies](#)
- [EuroTier 2026 to put the spotlight on robotics in livestock farming](#)
- [Yili Group Advances Precision Dairy Nutrition with Innovative Ingredients](#)
- [Decarbonizing the Boiler Room Before Fuel Switching](#)

10. India: regulation, state support and dairy development



A rich India block. Regulatory pressure (FSSAI, the Pune shutdowns, a waste crackdown in Rohtak) combines with state-level support measures: Telangana school-milk schemes, higher procurement prices in

Goa, the Kerala budget. The Supreme Court protected a dairy trademark from dilution; cooperatives are entering the Mumbai Metro for direct sales.

Countries / regions: India (Telangana, Goa, Kerala, Pune, Rohtak, Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh, Ludhiana, Punjab).

Companies / organizations: [Fssai ,Food License Registration India](#) , [Krishna Milk Union](#) , [Dairy Gyan](#) , [Vijaya Dairy Telangana](#) .

Links:

- [India's Supreme Court Protects Dairy Trademark from Dilution](#)
- [Telangana to Supply Vijaya Dairy Milk to School Students](#)
- [Telangana's New Milk Scheme to Benefit Students and Farmers Alike](#)
- [Goa Increases Milk Procurement Prices to Support Local Dairy Farmers](#)
- [Kerala Budget Introduces Measures to Boost Agriculture and Traditional Industries](#)
- [Dairy Co-Ops Leverage Mumbai Metro for Direct Consumer Access](#)
- [Gyan Dairy's Technological Leap in Uttar Pradesh's Dairy Industry](#)
- [Krishna Milk Union Achieves Rapid Debt Repayment Milestone](#)

Global commodity prices/indices are taken from primary sources (GDT, FAO) that underlie the DairyNews items. Product-level tonnages for production, imports and exports do not appear in this week's items and are marked "no data" rather than estimated.

3.1. Prices

Product	Region	Value	Δ vs prev.	Source
GDT index (all products)	Global	€3,428/t	-2.8%	GDT, 16 Jun 2026
SMP	Global (GDT)	€2,902/t	-3.6%	GDT
WMP	Global (GDT)	€3,092/t	-3.1%	GDT
Cheese — Cheddar	Global (GDT)	€3,852/t	-3.4%	GDT
Cheese — Mozzarella	Global (GDT)	€3,231/t	-5.0%	GDT
AMF	Global (GDT)	€5,687/t	-1.0%	GDT
Butter	Global (GDT)	€4,752/t	-2.4%	GDT
Lactose	Global (GDT)	€1,466/t	+4.2%	GDT
Buttermilk powder	Global (GDT)	—	no change	GDT
Whey	Global	no price in this event	—	GDT / FAO (qual.)
FAO Dairy Price Index	Global	119.2 pts	-0.5% m/m; -22.4% y/y	FAO, May 2026
Raw milk (Class I base)	USA	\$21.33/cwt (July)	-\$0.85 m/m	FMMO / Ag Proud
Raw milk	Chile	declining	↓	DairyNews
Raw milk	Brazil	prices rising, costs falling	↑	DairyNews
Farmgate price	Ireland (Dairygold)	increase	↑	DairyNews

Price sources:

GDT — farmersjournal.ie and cheesereporter.com

FAO — fao.org

3.2. Production volumes

Indicator	Region	Value / direction	Source
Raw milk (intake)	Chile	+4% in early 2026	https://dairynews.today/news/chilean_milk_reception_increases_by_4_in_early_2026_2903345.html
Raw milk	New Zealand	record expected in 2026	https://dairynews.today/news/record_high_for_new_zealand_milk_production_expected_by_2026_6574610.html
Raw milk	Brazil	record (focus shifts to logistics)	https://dairynews.today/news/record_milk_production_in_brazil_shifts_focus_to_logistics_challenges_9295737.html

Indicator	Region	Value / direction	Source
Milk + exports	Argentina	record highs	https://dairynews.today/news/argentina_s_dairy_production_and_exports_reach_record_highs_3447610.html
Cheese & dairy	Belgium	significant growth	https://dairynews.today/news/belgium_sees_significant_growth_in_cheese_and_dairy_production_4413150.html
Milk	United Kingdom	decline, farmers exiting	https://dairynews.today/news/decline_in_british_milk_production_as_farmers_exit_amid_high_costs_1971687.html
Herd / heifers	USA	herd largest in 30 yrs; heifers lowest since 1978	Ag Proud
SMP / WMP / cheese / whey / AMF (tonnage)	—	no data in this week's items	—

3.3. Import volumes

Indicator	Region	Value / direction	Source
Powdered milk (public procurement)	Brazil	public procurement launched	https://dairynews.today/news/brazil_initiates_public_procurement_of_powdered_milk_amid_dairy_crisis_8613913.html
Products made from powdered milk (policy)	El Salvador	proposal to lift import ban	https://dairynews.today/news/el_salvador_proposes_lifting_ban_on_dairy_products_made_from_powdered_milk_8843083.html
Feed & fertiliser	New Zealand	rising imports for 2026	https://dairynews.today/news/new_zealand_dairy_sector_increases_feed_and_fertiliser_imports_for_2026_3750047.html
SMP / WMP / cheese / whey / AMF (tonnage)	—	no data in this week's items	—

3.4. Export volumes

Indicator	Region	Value / direction	Source
Dairy exports	Argentina	record highs	https://dairynews.today/news/argentina_s_dairy_production_and_exports_reach_record_highs_3447610.html
Bilateral trade	Argentina → Algeria	strategic partnership	https://dairynews.today/news/argentina_s_dairy_trade_with_algeria_a_strategic_partnership_9824631.html
Exports (regional specialization)	Brazil	competitive edge	https://dairynews.today/news/brazil_s_dairy_exports_regional_specialization_as_a_competitive_edge_5139950.html

Indicator	Region	Value / direction	Source
Trade balance (Paraná)	Brazil	volume surplus, financial deficit	https://dairynews.today/news/paran_s_dairy_trade_volume_surplus_but_financial_deficit_in_2026_1604123.html
Feed exports (silage)	India (Punjab)	rising	https://dairynews.today/news/punjab_s_shift_to_unripe_maize_silage_boosts_dairy_feed_exports_5772615.html
SMP / WMP / cheese / whey / AMF (tonnage)	—	no data in this week's items	—

Other point figures of the week

Chile market concentration: 92.4% held by 5 companies • **UK farm incomes: +20%** • **Wisconsin investment: \$150M** • **California Dairy Plus: \$34M** • **Tirlán: €4.5M** • **SanCor base: \$52M** • **Preston fine: £12,000** • **Chihuahua bovine TB: 38 herds.**

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