

October Class III Up Nine Cents

The October Class III price is \$14.39, up 9 cents vs. the prior month and \$3.67 per cwt. higher than last year. The October Class IV price is \$10.16, up 11 cents vs. September but 34 cents per cwt. less than last October.

MDA Unveils New Tools to Bolster Agrisecurity in Michigan

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) now has two mobile emergency supply units and has equipped its veterinarians with personal emergency response kits, both of which are key to the state's emergency preparedness efforts and bolstering its agrisecurity capabilities, according to MDA Director Dan Wyant.

"While ensuring a safe food supply, animal and plant health have always been top priorities of MDA, there has been an increased emphasis on agrisecurity and preparedness in light of Sept. 11 and animal health events around the country and word," Wyant says. "These trailers and kits, while we hopefully will never have to use them, will go a long way in helping ensure that Michigan stands prepared and ready to quickly and effectively mobilize and respond to a potential animal health situation."

The two mobile units are comprised of 16-foot trailers stocked with a two-week supply of various gear and items that the state's veterinarians may need to quickly respond to animal health situations due to a natural disaster,

a disease outbreak like Foot and Mouth Disease or an intentional act of animal-related terrorism. They are equipped with generators so any potential power outages won't hinder response efforts.

About 50 personal emergency response kits have been sent to both Lansing-based and field veterinarians and technicians across the state and include biosecurity items like coveralls and booties and safety gear like respirators.

The trailers and kits are funded by \$64,000 in federal homeland security dollars provided to states through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help shore up local emergency preparedness as well as response capabilities.

Additional emergency preparedness and response efforts in the animal health arena that have been completed or are currently in the works include:

- Providing updated training to MDA inspectors, field veterinarians and staff on proper biosecurity measures as they are essential in preventing and eliminating the spread of disease. These training sessions encompass an overview of infectious animal disease and methods of disease spread, proper bio-security

procedures on-farm and farm-to-farm, premises entry and exit biosecurity and proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

- Having staff participate in Incident Command System training – an essential element to effective emergency response.

- Developing, in conjunction with Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, a "Vet Net" program to help raise awareness and train a corps of private veterinarians in foreign animal disease identification and response.

- Developing database/GIS mapping of livestock premises and appropriate agri-businesses to enhance investigation, surveillance and eradication efforts of animal diseases.

- Working with the National Animal Health Emergency Management (NAHEM) Steering Committee, and networking with Michigan's animal industry groups and organizations to raise their awareness and assist them in developing industry response plans to augment the states' Animal Disease Emergency Response Plan. These industry plans will be based on NAHEM standards.

Upcoming Events

December

8 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting – *Novi*
MMPA Local Meetings Begin

January

MMPA Local Meetings Continue

MMPA's Ovid Plant Receives Safety Award

Memorial Healthcare's Occupational Medicine Center in Owosso, Mich. recently honored the MMPA Ovid manufacturing plant through their annual Safe and Healthy Workplace Award program.

The Ovid plant was one of two organizations that won top honors receiving the "Bad to the Bone" award for demonstrating exemplary safety practices and exceeded all required components for the category.

According to a program spokesperson, the award winners have "very involved management/employee teams that take safety seriously. As a result, all experience decreased lost work days, fewer MIOSHA recordable injury rates and enhanced morale."

Congratulations to the Ovid plant employees!

Producers scoring 95 percent or more on Grade A Surveys and Federal Check Ratings

MMPA Defiance Ohio

October 2003

Olsthoorn Dairy LLC

Arts Dairy LLC

Amos Stoll Jr.

Raymond Miller

Henricks and Krieger LLC

MMPA Robert LaLone

October 2003

Anthony & Alice Hoitinga*

John Straathof

Hillhaven Farms Inc.

Richard Hyde

John Burke

OK Farms LLC

Tjerk Okkema

William Hough

Bruce Carey

William Stein

James Vredenburg

MMPA Allendale East

October 2003

Roger Copeland*

Brent & Nina Butler

Leonard & Kevin Pixley

Herbert & Andrew Hagenow

Nugentdale Farms LLC

Kristina Moon

James Elmer

Mazel Houghton

Howard Smith

Allen & Ruth Petersen

Hoskins Farms

*Scored 100 percent

Michigan Ag Commission Approves State Standards for Irrigation

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture has unanimously approved a set of Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for irrigation water use.

Developed and adopted by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, GAAMPs give farmers guidelines to voluntarily follow concerning a wide range of agricultural practices from manure management and pesticide utilization to care of farm animals. Farmers who comply with the standards are offered protection under Michigan's Right to Farm

Act from nuisance lawsuits.

The irrigation GAAMP does not recommend water volume limits. Rather, it provides direction in terms of practices that can help a farmer use water resources wisely, said Mike Gregg, special project coordinator for water resources with the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Those recommendations include practices such as proper equipment maintenance to avoid excessive leaks and knowing the water rate application per crop to avoid supplying a plant with excessive water supplies.

The new GAAMP recognizes water uses beyond traditional irrigation, such as irrigation used to help protect crops from frost, germinate seeds and activate herbicides. It does not, however, address other agricultural water uses, such as water used to care for livestock and water used for dairy and food processing.

Farmers wanting to learn more about irrigation water use GAAMPs can go online to www.michigan.gov/mda or contact the Right-to-Farm hotline at (877) 632-1783.