

## August Class III Price Up \$2.02

The August Class III price is \$13.80 per cwt., up \$2.02 vs. the prior month and \$4.26 higher than August last year. The August Class IV price is \$10.14 per cwt., up 19 cents vs. July but 15 cents lower than last year.

## Dan Javor Appointed to MBIC

MMPA District 4 Board Member Dan Javor, of Hastings, has been appointed to a three year term on the Michigan Beef Industry Commission by Governor Jennifer Granholm. Dan was appointed to replace MMPA District 6 Board Member Velmar Green, of Elsie, whose appointment expired in May.

## FDA Orders "Hormone Free" Dairy Product Label Change

*Dairy Today*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued warning letters to four firms in late September for mislabeling dairy products as having "no hormones" or being "hormone free." The FDA says the labeling is false or misleading, since all milk contains hormones. Failure to comply could result in seizure and/or injunction.

## Manure Fact Sheets Available From MSU Extension

Livestock producers looking at options for managing manure and reducing phosphorus impacts to the environment may discover ideas to benefit their operations in three new Michigan State University (MSU) Extension fact sheets.

The manure technology fact sheets focus on helping farmers determine which manure technology system would provide them with the greatest environmental and economic benefits.

The topics covered are manure solids separation, farm-based anaerobic digesters and livestock manure composting. Information is presented in a concise format with photos illustrating various concepts.

The free fact sheets can be obtained online at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/manure/> or through any MSU Extension county office.

The manure technology fact sheets were produced by the MSU Extension Manure and Water Quality Area of Expertise teams in partnership with the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Agriculture Subcommittee.

For more information, call your local MSU Extension office.

## New Michigan Law Aims to Resolve Water Use Conflicts

Governor Jennifer Granholm recently signed into law legislation that attempts to minimize water use conflicts as they arise.

House Bill 4087, introduced by Representative John Moolenaar (R-Midland), directs the state to act as a third-party mediator by establishing a toll-free phone number that residents can use to lodge complaints about conflicts with high-capacity water users.

If agriculture is involved, the Michigan Department of Agriculture would respond. If agriculture is not involved, the Department of

## Upcoming Events

### October

2 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting – *Novi*

### November

2-6 NMPF Annual Meeting – *New Orleans*

24 MMPA Leaders' Conference – *East Lansing*

Environmental Quality would be the first responder. If a complaint needs further investigation after initial response from the proper state entity (required by the bill within two business days of the complaint), the state would determine whether there is a correlation between the high-capacity water user and the resident's water complaint.

"Farms that irrigate generally are high-water users, making them targets for potential water use conflicts," says Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel Rob Anderson. "This legislation aims to mediate and resolve conflicts, not automatically point blame or restrict water use."

## Food Pyramid Revisions Taking Shape

The U.S. government is moving forward with its plan to refashion its well-known Food Guide Pyramid to urge Americans to eat less and exercise more. The proposed revisions, released for public comment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do not call for any specific changes in the dairy category of the food pyramid. The primary focus right now is urging sedentary Americans to exercise more.

Developed in 1992, the Food Guide Pyramid offers a general outline on how much a healthy person should eat each day from the five major food groups. It is the main educational tool used to help consumers interpret the U.S. Dietary Guidelines. Under the new Pyramid, the USDA will



## MMPA Ovid Takes Top Butter Honors

The MMPA Ovid plant received Grand Champion honors at the 2003 Michigan State Fair in the butter making competition. The award-winning butter sold for \$2,000 to GreenStone Farm Credit Services at the Governor's Luncheon and Junior Sale of Champions.

Proceeds from the sale of the butter and cheese auction go back to the fair to help support junior livestock events.

Pictured above, from left, are: MDA Director Dan Wyant, MMPA butter churn operator Mike Swank, butter buyer James Schiller of GreenStone Farm Credit Services, MMPA Ovid Plant Manager Kevin Bodensteiner and MMPA Q.A. Manager Bill Rann.

recognize for the first time that most Americans do not exercise regularly.

The current pyramid depicts how Americans should apportion their daily diet. Fats, oils and sweets are at the narrow top of the pyramid with advice to use them sparingly. Dairy and meat products occupy the next tier of the pyramid, with a recommended 2 to 3 servings per day. Next are vegetable and fruits, with a recommended 5 to 9 servings daily. At the bottom of the pyramid is the bread, rice and pasta group, with 6 to 11 servings recommended.

Other changes proposed by USDA are replacing the vague terminology of "servings" with the use of cups and ounces, to make the guidelines more precise. Depending on how food groups, consumer advocates and other interested parties respond to the proposal, the pyramid could take a different shape when the revisions are published in February 2005.