

May Class III Up 92 Cents

The May Class III price hit a record-high \$20.58 per cwt., up 92 cents from the previous record of \$19.66 in April. The Class III price is \$10.87 higher than a year ago. The May Class IV price is \$14.50 per cwt., down 7 cents versus April and up \$4.76 over last year's price.

Member Representative Larry Phinney Retires

MMPA Member Representative Larry Phinney retired from the association on July 1.

Larry began his 20-year career with MMPA in 1984 serving MMPA members in the central area of Michigan. In March 1999, he relocated to the south area where he has worked with MMPA members in southern Michigan.

MMPA extends its appreciation to Larry for his dedicated service to the cooperative and its members. We wish him well in his retirement.

Osceola County Farms to be Awarded for MAEAP Verification on July 9

A special award day is planned to recognize three Osceola County farmers that have taken a proactive approach to reduce the agricultural pollution risk of their operation to surface and groundwater.

The three farms are: MMPA dairy farm Gingrich Meadows in LeRoy, and beef farms owned by Butch & Kate Ruppert in LeRoy, and Tom & Karen Bluhm in Reed City.

These farms have been verified as being environmentally assured through the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). All three farms have been evaluated and assured by the MDA in the Farmstead and Livestock Systems.

The awards presentation begins at 11:00 a.m. on July 9 at the Gingrich Meadows Farm at 14888 18 Mile Road in LeRoy. Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Honorable Rick Johnson will make the award presentations to all three farms at this event.

MAEAP is a cooperative effort by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service plus many other farm related organizations. Representatives of each of these organizations will be present to talk about their role in the program.

Speakers include: MAEAP Program Manager Jan Wilford, Scott Piggott of Michigan Farm Bureau, MSUE Extension Director Maggie Bethel, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Kevin Wickey and Kristin Linderman of Right to Farm.

Lunch will be provided at noon. Following lunch, a tour of the Gingrich Farmstead will be provided by MAEAP Resource Analyst Josh Appleby showing the effort the family has made to become environmentally assured.

R.S.V.P. for the event is appreciated, but not necessary. To R.S.V.P. or for more information, contact the Osceola-Lake Conservation District at 138 West Upton, Reed City or call (231) 832-2950.

Upcoming Events

July

- 8 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting - *Novi*
- 19-23 Michigan Dairy Expo - *East Lansing*
- 20-22 Ag Expo - *East Lansing*
- 21 Great Dairy Adventure - *East Lansing*

August

- 4-6 MMPA OYDC Conference - *Novi*
- 11-22 Michigan State Fair - *Detroit*

MSU Extension Director Search Committee

A search committee has been formed to select the next director of Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). The committee will be chaired by Lynn Harvey, MSUE associate director of operations.

The committee is designed to ensure substantial constituent and stakeholder participation throughout the process. Joshua Wunsch, Traverse City cherry producer and member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, will serve on the search committee and also chair an inclusive external stakeholders committee, currently being formed. Charlene Wenham, a Benton Harbor-based management and education consultant, will serve on the search committee as the representative of the MSU Extension and Experiment Station Council. The council is a county-based citizens' advisory group of Extension/Experiment Station stakeholders from across the state.

Early in the search process, MSU campus-based committee members, including CANR and MSUE administrators, plan to attend public "listening sessions" at key locations throughout the state. These listening sessions will be announced well in advance and be open to the public.

Michigan State Fair

The 2004 Michigan State Fair will take place August 11-22 — more than 2 weeks earlier than it has run in previous years.

Popular attractions include the Miracle of Life Exhibit, the DNR/HCMA Outdoor Zone (where youngsters can learn to fish), Free Concerts, Daily Parades, Competitions, Horse Shows, Agricultural Displays, Arts & Crafts, Racing Pigs, Rabbits & Poultry, Dairy Exhibits, Carnival Rides & Games and the World's Largest Stove. Admission to the 2004 State Fair includes a free circus under a Big Top Tent featuring three shows on weekdays and four shows on weekends.

Quality Watch –

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tal Protection Agency is currently conducting a study to determine farm odor emission values and how to implement current air quality guidelines on livestock enterprises. Once the study is complete, it is likely EPA will limit hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane and odor as well as initiate regulatory actions on farms exceeding the limits.

For more information please contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Division, MSU Extension Dairy Agent Dan Bollinger or one of MMPA's CNMP-trained member representatives. All are available to conduct odor footprints at no charge.



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

MMPA Country Fresh

May 2004

Bernard Baker

Charles Wamhoff

MMPA Carney

May 2004

Brian & Bonnie Hanson

Roxanne Kirschner

Tuinstra Farms

Sherwin Wilson

Gary J & Gary WS Rasmussen

Sunny Valley Farms

Rivard Farms

Sandahl Dairy Farm

Steven & Becky Brock

Clifford Graham & Susan Anderson

James & Renee Revall

Kenneth Veaser

MMPA Allendale North

May 2004

Fisk Farms

MMPA M & G

May 2004

Allen, Herbert & Dan Whitwam*

Carl Vermeesch

Bob, Jeffrey, Daniel & Andrew Parr

Ted & Cynthia Furness

Steven & Lisa Alexander

David Heberling

Arthur Peruski

David Leavine

Greg & Shelly Messing

Gary Roggenbuck

Erdman Farms

*Scored 100 percent