

April Class III Price Up \$5.17

The April Class III Price is \$19.66, up \$5.17 from March and up \$10.25 from a year ago. The April Class IV price is \$14.57, up \$0.47 from March and up \$4.84 from a year ago.

Gary Mills Named Dairy Fieldman of the Year

MMPA member representative Gary Mills was named Dairy Fieldman of the Year during the Michigan Dairy Industry Conference held in Lansing on April 29.

Gary has worked for MMPA since 1969, serving MMPA members in southwest Michigan as a member representative and most recently, supervising other member representatives in that area. Gary's wife, Sharyn and their children, Tammy and Vaughn joined him as he received the prestigious award.

Each year, the annual Dairy Industry Conference is held for all individuals working in Michigan's dairy industry as field representatives, dairy farm inspectors, and laboratory personnel.

The conference is organized by a cross-section of representatives from all aspects of the Michigan dairy industry. All MMPA member representatives and laboratory technicians attend this educational conference as a yearly training seminar.

\$3.9 Million Paid to MMPA Members

Michigan Milk Producers Association made cash payments of \$3.9 million in equity retirements in May. These cash payments represent the retirement of the balance of the 1994 Certificates of Equity and half of the 1995 Equities. This is in addition to the \$1.4 million in cash patronage from 2003 earnings paid to members earlier this year. Combined, MMPA has paid \$5.3 million in addition to the monthly milk check to its dairy farmer members in the first five months of 2004.

"Dairy farmers are recovering financially from the record low milk prices of the past two years," says John Dilland, MMPA General Manager. "The MMPA board of directors approved early retirement of the Certificates of Equities to provide some additional cash flow for our members during spring planting season."

During the past fiscal year MMPA returned extra cash payments in the form of equity payments, cash patronage refunds and a "13th" check in October. These payments totaled over \$8.5 million or about 26 cents per

hundredweight on all the milk produced by MMPA members.

MMPA has achieved these benchmark goals without an equity capital retain, relying on the Association's plant operations, milk marketing and member dues to fund the cooperative.

MMPA is a member owned and operated dairy cooperative serving over 2,500 dairy farmers in Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana.

Humphries Named DNR Director

Michigan's Natural Resources Commission recently selected Rebecca Humphries as the next director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She will replace K.L. Cool on June 1.

Humphries' DNR experience spans 25 years of service at the DNR; from field biologist to her most recent position as the Wildlife Division chief.

Upcoming Events

June

29-30 MMPA / 4-H Milk Marketing Tour - Novi

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

Help MMPA Salute Active Military Service Personnel

MMPA plans to salute active duty military service personnel that are current MMPA members, their children or grandchildren in the August issue of the *Michigan Milk Messenger*.

Please send photos and the following information – name of service person, rank, military branch, where they are stationed and their relationship to the MMPA member (eg. son of John Smith) to:

MMPA Salute, P.O. Box 8002, Novi, MI, 48376-8002.

Be sure to include your name, producer number and phone number so that we know you are a MMPA member and can contact you with any questions. If you would like your photos returned please include a self-addressed envelope.

All photos must be post-marked by July 6. Contact Mindy Pratt at pratt@mimilk.com or (248) 474-6672 for more information.

25TH Ag Expo — July 20-22

On-site demonstrations featuring new technologies, farm equipment and management strategies, and hundreds of commercial and educational exhibits are among the featured attractions at the 25th annual Ag Expo, July 20-22 at Michigan State University (MSU).

This year's event also includes field demonstrations focused on deep tillage and hay production. Producers will also have the opportunity to earn restricted-use pesticide applicator credits.

To make Ag Expo more accessible to more visitors, the show hours on Wednesday, July 21 have been extended from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"Ag Expo provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase both commercial agriculture and outstanding educational programs from across the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources," says Kirk Heinze, Ag Expo director. "This 25th anniversary year, especially, we'll have the opportunity to celebrate Expo's proud past while looking ahead to the exciting future of the college, the university and Michigan's agricultural industry."

Ag Expo visitors will have the opportunity to take a shuttle bus to the Michigan Dairy Expo at the MSU pavilion each day and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's home lawn care field day on July 22.

The field day will offer homeowners tips for establishing lawns and controlling pests such as grubs and moles.


On the main Ag Expo site, visitors can meet MSU educators from agronomy and agricultural engineers to foresters, veterinarians and animal scientists. They will be on hand to discuss their work and share information on various aspects of farm business management and production, new university research and MSU Extension programs.

Ag Expo will feature commercial farm equipment from throughout the Midwest and several Canadian provinces on the 35-acre main exhibition site.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 20, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 21 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 22. All Ag Expo events and parking at Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road are free.

For more information, call 1-800-366-7055 or visit www.agexpo.msu.edu.

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