



## \$4.2 Million Paid to MMPA Members

Michigan Milk Producers Association made cash payments of \$4.2 million in equity retirements in May. These cash payments represent the retirement of the balance of the 1995 Certificates of Equity and half of the 1996 Equities. This is in addition to the \$1.6 million in cash patronage from 2004 earnings paid to members earlier this year. Combined, MMPA has paid \$5.8 million in addition to the monthly milk check to its dairy farmer members in the first five months of 2005.

"The continued success of our operations and diverse product mix allow us to make these extra cash payments to our members in the form of equity retirements and cash patronage," says John Dilland, MMPA General Manager. "We are able to do this while still offering our members a competitive pay price."

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 \$7.8 million or about 24 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.

## 2002 NAHMS Johne's Report

USDA recently made available results of the Dairy 2002 Johne's Disease on U.S. Dairy Operations study. The study is part of the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS). It was conducted in 21 major dairy states representing over 83 percent of the U.S. dairy operations.

A few highlights from the report are:

- Dairy producer knowledge of Johne's disease is increasing. The 1996 NAHMS report stated that 17.7 percent of producers were fairly knowledgeable about the disease, while the 2002 report showed that 45.3 percent of producers were fairly knowledgeable.

- During the 12 months prior to the 2002 study, a higher percentage of large and medium operations (38.3 percent and 39.5 percent, respectively) performed testing for Johne's disease, compared to 20.4 percent of small operations. Overall, 25.7 percent of operations tested for Johne's.

- Nearly 7 out of 10 operations that tested for Johne's used only a serum ELISA to test at least one cow during the 12 months prior to the 2002 study. Only 5.7 percent used fecal culture to diagnose the disease. About one-fourth of the operations used both fecal culture and serum ELISA to test for Johne's.

*For more information or to view the report, visit the APHIS web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs)*

## June and July MILC Payments Likely

The recent decline in the cheese market was significant enough to trigger a Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) payment for the month of June. A Class I mover of \$13.62 for June provides a MILC payment of three cents per cwt. for June. Given the current price trends, it is possible that July will also have a MILC payment. The last time the Class I mover was low enough to trigger a MILC payment was April 2004.