

ment. We are currently working with MDEQ officials to encourage them to seek another ECOS agreement with the EPA that will allow for MAEAP to be used as an equivalent or better option to the permitting process.

I will send a copy of the new NPDES General Permit rules to all MMPA member farms with 500 or more cows. Even if you are covered under one of the "old" General Permits, or are MAEAP verified, it is still a good idea to know what could be coming down the environmental regulation pipeline in the future.

MAEAP Progressive Planning Surveys

Throughout 2006, MMPA Member Representatives will be conducting surveys of member farms to determine how many environmentally compliant actions farmers have taken to make a positive impact on the environment. We have worked out a system that makes the survey 100 percent anonymous.

This survey is part of a larger survey being conducted by MAEAP in order to determine how many voluntary actions farmers have taken to positively impact the environment since January 2004. MSU

Extension Educators and other MAEAP partners are surveying all farms in Michigan.

The goal of this survey process is to benchmark and measure the impact MAEAP has had on farms in the past two years. Our hope is that information obtained by the survey will provide us with enough data to make the case that MAEAP is working and showing that farmers are taking voluntary actions that are positively impacting and protecting our environment.



MMPA Quality Premium Program

Somatic Cell Count premiums and deductions (in addition to Federal Order SCC Adjustments computed in the producer pay price) will be paid at the following levels:

- 50,000 or below +45¢ / cwt.
- 51,000 - 75,000 +40¢ / cwt.
- 76,000 - 100,000 +35¢ / cwt.
- 101,000 - 125,000 +30¢ / cwt.
- 126,000 - 150,000 +25¢ / cwt.
- 151,000 - 175,000 +20¢ / cwt.
- 176,000 - 200,000 +15¢ / cwt.
- 201,000 - 225,000 +10¢ / cwt.
- 226,000 - 275,000 +05¢ / cwt.
- 600,001 - 750,000 -10¢ / cwt.
- Over 750,000 -50¢ / cwt.

A payment of 5¢ / cwt. will be added for each of the following, if the count is equal to or below:

- 10,000 Raw Bacteria Count
- 20,000 Pre-Incubated (PI) Count

There will be a deduction of 10¢ / cwt. for the following criteria:

- Greater than 100,000 Raw Bacteria Count

A high raw count deduction will be waived if the producer has received the quality premium the previous three months for raw bacteria count.

To qualify for Raw, PI and Somatic Cell Count premiums there must **not** be any of the following during the month:

- Positive drug residue
- Abnormal freeze points
- High load count shipment or rejected load shipment
- #3 or #4 sediment *
- Raw Bacteria count over 100,000 *

The count levels for raw and PI will be determined on one test run per month.

** Note: These do not affect the somatic cell count premium.*

To qualify for MMPA volume premiums there must be:

- No abnormal freeze points during the month
- An average somatic cell count of 750,000 or less.