



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## October Class III Price Up Three Cents

The October Class III price is \$12.32, up 3 cents from September, but down \$2.03 from a year ago. The October Class IV price is \$11.51, up 41 cents from a month ago but down \$2.10 from October 2005.

## MDEQ Ag Roundtable Meeting Set

A Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Agriculture and Rural Communities Roundtable session will take place Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at the Gaylord Intermediate School Cafeteria from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The school is located at 240 E. 4th Street in Gaylord, Mich.

Legislation was passed in 2005 creating the Roundtable to evaluate how laws, rules and policies administered by the DEQ affect farmers, food processors, agribusiness and rural communities. The legislation requires the MDEQ Director to convene at least two Roundtable sessions each year.

MMPA encourages all producers in the meeting area to participate in these Roundtable sessions.

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## MMPA Member Relations Director Honored at NMPF Meeting

MMPA Member Relations Director, Sheila Burkhardt, was presented with the 2006 Outstanding Achievement in Communications Award during the National Milk Producers Federation Annual Meeting. The award is presented each year to a person who demonstrates outstanding communication skills through their dairy cooperative. As director of Member Relations, Sheila oversees all of the communication projects and Member Relations Programs at MMPA.



The MMPA Member Relations department received the following awards for the *Michigan Milk Messenger*: Third Place Member Magazine, Third Place Cover Design for the June 2006 *Messenger* cover, Second Place Column/Editorial for “State Inspector Program Funding at Risk,” Third Place Feature Story for “U.S. Championship Cheese from Michigan’s Leelanau Peninsula,” and Second Place News Story for “USDA’s Starling Control Program.” The department also received First Place and Best of Class honors for their Campaign entry entitled “Informing Elected Officials about Michigan’s Dairy Industry.” The MMPAC brochure took an Honorable Mention in the Single Issue/Special Purpose issue category.

## Upcoming Events

### December

- 7 MMPA Advisory Committee - Novi
- MMPA Local Meetings begin

### January

- 30 Agriculture’s Conference on the Environment – Lansing
- 31 MMPA Resolutions and Nominating Committee Meetings

## Learn to Keep Agriculture in the Family at 'Farm it Forward' Program

Keeping a family farm in business from one generation to the next or between multiple members of one generation can be a challenge. Discover how to address major issues that can lead to failure in multiple-generation farm businesses during "Farm it Forward," an educational program offered by Michigan State University (MSU) Extension.

**Farm it FORWARD**



The program will take place over two weekends, January 5-6 and March 2-3, 2007, at the MSU W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, in Hickory Corners, Mich.

Participants will learn about the importance of communication in multigenerational farm families. They will have the opportunity to work through the process of planning a farm business transition and find out whether their existing op-

erations are large enough to support additional partners.

Resource professionals who work with farm transitions have been recruited to facilitate the program and provide a positive environment for building a solid plan of action.

Topics include planning, ideas for multiple-generation farm families that live and work together, strategic business

planning, farm business planning and estate planning basics.

"Putting together an informed plan of action can really improve the future outcome of the farm transition process," says Dennis Stein, MSU Extension educator in Tuscola County and one of the program's organizers. "The transition of knowledge and management

is no small task, and it shouldn't be undertaken without some outside assistance."

Participating farms must send at least two people to the program. The registration fee is \$300 for up to four people from one farm and \$125 for each additional person from the same farm. The fee is due December 1 and includes all materials and meals. It does not include lodging.

To get more information about the program or lodging, or to register, contact Stein at [steind@msu.edu](mailto:steind@msu.edu) or call the Tuscola County MSU Extension office at (989) 672-3870, fax (989) 673-8248 or visit <http://www.msu.edu/user/steind/>

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nately, the great majority of us that grow our own feeds will be insulated from rising corn and soybean prices due to increased production of ethanol and bio-diesel.

The Midwest dominates the Senate Agriculture Committee, which should pan out well for dairy. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) has indicated that he will work for an extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) with an increase in the payment rate.

Another favorable outcome for dairy is the possibility that a more reasonable and workable immigration bill could be written and passed.

### Outcomes that Could Occur Include:

- No elimination of the estate

tax. It is probable legislators will increase the exemption-amount.

- A halt or slow down of future world trade negotiations due to trade-distorting policies that are likely to be put into place under a Democratic-led legislature.
- More emphasis placed on healthcare reform, which could lead to additional taxes, and at the very least, will hold up legislative action on issues that impact dairy.

How the new power shift pans out for dairy and agriculture remains to be seen. If you have questions on legislative action at both the Federal and State levels, please contact me in the Novi office.

*Edward Kirkpatrick*

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

#### MMPA Constantine Northern Indiana

*October 2006*

Richard Thomas\*  
 Perry H. Lambright\*  
 Clyde S. Miller\*  
 Lonnie D. Beachy\*  
 Wilbur Lee Hostetler\*  
 Orva J. Petersheim\*  
 Harley Bontrager Jr. \*  
 Jerry D. Lehman\*  
 Ira L. Hochstetler\*  
 Glen Nisley  
 Olen J.Fry  
 Ervin O. Miller  
 Orla W. Bontrager Jr.  
 William, Susan, Joshua,  
 Caitlin & Timothy Gamble

*\*scored 100 percent*