



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## December Class III Price Up 63 Cents

The Class III price for December is \$13.47, up 63 cents from November, and up 10 cents from a year ago. This is the highest price in 14 months. The Class IV price is \$12.30, up 19 cents from a month ago but down 27 cents from December 2005.

## 2007 Michigan Agri-Energy Conference

The 2007 Michigan Agri-Energy Conference will take place March 13-14 at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing.

Producers can join other farmers, service providers, rural and agricultural leaders, researchers, and state policy makers to learn more about the latest trends in renewable energy solutions. National and local experts will discuss ways to improve your bottom line by capitalizing on the potential of renewable sources like wind and solar, biomass, biofuels and bioproducts.

A detailed conference brochure and online registration is available on the Web at [www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops](http://www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops), click on "Upcoming DEQ Workshops" and scroll down to "2007 Agri-Energy Conference." For more information, contact the Environmental Assistance Center, at: [deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov) or 1-800-662-9278.

## U.S. Begins Process of Opening Border to Canadian Dairy Cattle

The Bush administration said it will further open the border to imports of Canadian cattle, including dairy replacements, despite questions about Canadian safeguards against BSE, or mad cow disease.

On January 4, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it would issue a proposed rule that will allow imports of Canadian cattle born on or after March 1, 1999, along with beef cuts from older Canadian cattle. That regulation also will include live animals that are imported for breeding, such as dairy heifers. The plan will go through 60 days of public comment until March 12. Department officials said they will take into account all comments before publishing a final rule, possibly in the summer.

The U.S. initially placed a ban on Canadian cattle and beef in May 2003, when that country's first case of BSE was found. In December 2003, an imported Canadian Holstein in Washington state became the first case of BSE found in the U.S. In 2005, USDA allowed animals less than 30 months of age to be imported, provided they went directly to slaughter.

## Former MMPA Employee Dies

Former MMPA Director of Testing & Quality Control, Sidney H. Beale, passed away suddenly on December 16, 2006. Sid began working for MMPA as a dispatcher in 1955 and was with the cooperative for 24 years.

## Upcoming Events

### February

- 8-10 Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference – *Frankenmuth*
- 15-16 UDIM Dairy Product Promotion Seminar – *Lansing*

### March

- MMPA Milker Training Schools (*see page 19 for complete listing*)
- 2-10 Agriculture and Natural Resources Week at MSU – *East Lansing*
- 14 Michigan Agri-Energy Conference – *Lansing*
- 19 MMPA Resolutions Committee Meeting – *Lansing*
- 20 MMPA State Annual Meeting – *Lansing*
- 30 Young Cooperator Dairy Leadership Conference – *Mt. Pleasant*

## MSU Gears Up to Celebrate ANR Week

Farmers, agriculturists, foresters and others interested in livestock, land and water are invited to Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week, March 2-10 at Michigan State University (MSU). The annual event, formerly known as Farmers' Week, is hosted by the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

This year's festivities include educational programs ranging from forest stewardship training to a pasteurizer operator workshop and a Master Gardener program. In addition, ANR Week is the setting for numerous annual meetings and conferences, including the Michigan State Rabbit Breeders (with meeting and shows March 2-4), the Michigan Wildflower Conference (March 5), the Michigan FFA Convention

(March 7-9), the Michigan Barn Preservation Network Conference (March 9) and the Beekeepers Annual Conference (March 10).

Other events include heritage livestock, organic agriculture, horticulture, grazing livestock and youth development programs.

For a complete list of programs, conferences and educational opportunities, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/anrweek](http://www.canr.msu.edu/anrweek) or contact program coordinator Sandi Bauer at (517) 353-3175, ext. 217, or e-mail [bauer@msu.edu](mailto:bauer@msu.edu). Free ANR Week program guides with dates, times, locations, costs and event descriptions are available from any county MSU Extension office or the MSU Bulletin Office, 117 Central Services, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1001; (517) 353-6740.

## EPA Issues Final Rule on Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures

On December 14, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final rule for the Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations. The SPCC regulations require covered facilities that store 10,000 gallons or more of oil to prevent, prepare for and respond to oil discharges. This final rule will provide alternative compliance options for certain regulated facilities.

This final rule provides streamlined options for specifically qualified facilities and exemptions from the SPCC regulations for certain vehicle fuel tanks and other bulk oil storage containers. EPA is also removing requirements for animal fats and vegetable oils that pertain to onshore and offshore oil production facilities, oil drilling and workover facilities.

The SPCC regulations have been in place since 1974, however many facilities and farm operations have been unaware that these regulations affect them. To remedy this, EPA is extending the compliance dates for preparing or amending, and implementing SPCC Plans for farms until the Agency promulgates a rule specifically addressing how farms should be regulated under the SPCC rule. For purposes of the SPCC rule, EPA defines a farm as "a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced or sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during a year."

The final rule will soon be published in the Federal Register. NMPF will work with EPA in the development of agriculture specific regulations for SPCC.

## 2007 District Meeting Schedule

District	Date	Time	Place
1	Wed., Feb. 21	11:00 a.m.	Gene Davis Banquet Center, Jackson
2	Mon., Feb. 19	11:00 a.m.	Constantine Village Hall, Constantine, MI
4	Tues., Feb. 27	11:00 a.m.	Coyote Creek Grille, Dimondale
5	Tues., Feb. 20	11:00 a.m.	New Hope United Methodist Church, Remus
6	Mon., Feb. 19	11:00 a.m.	Main Street Cafe, St. Johns
7	Wed., Feb. 28	11:00 a.m.	Walli's - East, Flint
8	Tues., Feb. 27	11:00 a.m.	Ubyly Heights Golf Course, Ubyly
10	Tues., Feb. 22	10:15 a.m.	Valley Plaza Conference Center, Midland
11	Wed., Feb. 14	11:00 a.m.	Swan Inn, Comstock Park
12	Fri., Feb. 23	11:00 a.m.	United Methodist Church, Engadine