



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## November Class III Price Up 52¢

The Class III price for November is \$12.84, up 52¢ from October, but down 51¢ from a year ago. This was the highest Class III price since January 2006. The November Class IV price is \$12.11, up 60 cents from the previous month but down 79 cents from a year ago.

## U. S. Government Won't Make Animal ID Mandatory

The USDA abandoned plans to make farmers and ranchers register their animals in a nationwide database intended to help limit disease outbreaks. Faced with widespread opposition, the USDA said any national animal tracking program should remain voluntary.

So far, about 23 percent of the nation's ranches, feed lots, livestock barns and other facilities have registered their premises with the Agriculture Department. The department's goal is to have all premises registered by January 2008 and full participation in the system by January 2009.

NMPF has been working with other dairy industry organizations through IDairy in order to spur producers to register their premises, tag their animals, and ultimately identify that tag information in the National FAIR database.

Due to the bovine tuberculosis (TB) situation in Michigan, animal ID is mandatory for all cattle in the state by March 1, 2007.

## Michigan Department of Agriculture Animal Identification Update

As of December 1, 2006, there were 3,966 producers who placed tag orders for the new 840 tag, totaling 376,906 tags. In addition, there are 2,179 producers in the Upper Peninsula and Modified Accredited Zone (northern Lower Peninsula) currently using the RFID tags. Over 40 percent of Michigan producers are now using the new RFID ear tags.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) reminds producers to order their tags well in advance of the mandatory March 1, 2007, deadline.

### *Several points of clarification are:*

1. All cattle must be identified with RFID electronic ear tags prior to movement from premises.
2. Animals for personal consumption do not need to be tagged.
3. Provides faster intra and interstate animal tracking for disease control and eradication programs.
4. RFID tags will replace the metal tags beginning March 1, 2007.
5. Terminal Feedlots need RFID tags on cattle.
6. A special applicator is needed to apply the ear tag.

There are only a couple months left before **March 1, 2007**. The MDA encourages all producers not to wait until the last month to order tags, as it can take up to 4 weeks to receive the tag order once it has been placed. The signage at the auction markets say it very clearly, "**No RFID Tag – No Unload.**"

## Upcoming Events

### January

- MMPA Local Meetings (*see page 2 for complete listing*)
- MMPA District Meetings (*see page 13 for complete listing*)
- MDA TB Informational Meetings (*see page 26 for complete listing*)
- 30 Agriculture's Conference on the Environment – *Lansing*
- 31 MMPA Resolutions and Nominating Committee Meetings

### February

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

## USDA to Consider Opening Canadian Border to Dairy Replacements

The USDA has sent a new proposed rule to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that would reopen the Canadian border to cattle over 30 months of age – which may also include dairy heifers. Currently, only cattle less than 30 months may enter the U.S. for slaughter. USDA attempted this past summer to open the border for entry of animals over 30 months. But that proposal was withdrawn following the discovery this past July of a 50 month-old Alberta dairy cow with BSE - the 7th Canadian mad cow case in the past three years, which has called into question the effectiveness of the feed ban that prevents the spread of BSE.

National Milk Producers Federation is concerned that USDA will propose that the border be opened for all classes of animals, not just cattle over 30 months destined for slaughter. This could mean that breeding age dairy heifers might also be permitted entry under the proposed rule. USDA closed the border and banned all beef and cattle in May of 2003, following Canada's identification of their first domestic case of BSE.

The border remained closed to live cattle and most beef until July 2005, when it was reopened for cattle less than 30 months going directly to slaughter.

If the new proposed rule clears review by OMB and is published within the next 90 days, there will likely be a 60 day public comment period, and several months of further government review before the rule is put into place, most likely by end of summer 2007.

## “DHIA in America” Historical DVD Available

“DHIA in America – A Foundation for Progress” is a 35 minute documentary that delves into the status of the dairy industry at the turn of the century leading to the development of Cow Testing Associations and encompasses the first 100 years of DHIA.

Cow Testing Associations began in Newaygo County, Michigan in 1905. The documentary reports on the individuals involved in starting the first cow-testing association, credits institutions and organizations that fostered DHIA in the early years and brings us to the present day. For more information

contact Dr. Ted Ferris (517) 355-8442.

Each DVD costs \$35 and \$27 of your donation is tax deductible. Make checks payable to MSU. Please indicate Account A105 on your check. Include your name and address you want the DVD sent to along with your check and mail to:

DHIA Historical Documentary  
Department of Animal Science  
1290 Anthony Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1225

## MMPA 2007 Direct Deposit Schedule

The MMPA direct deposit program provides for the direct deposit of your net milk proceeds to your bank account through the use of an electronic funds transfer system. This system assures the deposit of funds on the dates listed below.

The direct deposit service is free to MMPA members. Members on direct deposit receive their check statement by mail. The statement

is the same as the one attached to the milk check. The direct deposit stub of the statement indicates the amount transferred into the member's bank account.

If you are interested in signing up for direct deposit or desire more information, please contact the MMPA Member Services Department at (800) 572-5824.

### Settlement Dates Processed Through Chase Calendar Year 2007

January 17	Wednesday	July 17	Tuesday
January 26	Friday	July 26	Thursday
February 16	Friday	August 17	Friday
February 26	Monday	August 27	Monday
March 16	Friday	September 17	Monday
March 26	Monday	September 26	Wednesday
April 17	Tuesday	October 17	Wednesday
April 26	Thursday	October 26	Friday
May 17	Thursday	November 16	Friday
May 25	Friday	November 26	Monday
June 18	Monday	December 17	Monday
June 26	Tuesday	December 26	Wednesday