



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## WTO Issues Statement on Doha Negotiations

At the end of April, the chairman of the WTO Agriculture Negotiating Committee, Crawford Falconer, issued a “challenge paper” intended to spur forward movement in the WTO Doha Round negotiations. This paper focused on several of the key areas of discussion, including specific topics within the realms of export competition, market access and domestic support. Ambassador Falconer attempted to narrow down the range of ideas currently on the table to those that he felt remained within the realm of possibility, given various countries’ key goals and sensitivities. He also offered suggestions in some areas about potential paths forward.

Falconer announced that he intends to write a second paper on the remaining topics in the agricultural negotiations that were not addressed in his first text. He then plans to draft a subsequent paper on the full range of issues after receiving feedback from WTO members on the ideas put forth in the earlier two papers. Countries are now reviewing the April text and analyzing what it might mean for the negotiations as they move forward in the coming months.

## April Class III Price Up \$1.00

The April Class III price is \$16.09, up \$1.00 from March, and up \$5.16 from a year ago. The April Class IV is \$16.12, up \$2.41 from March, the highest Class IV price under the current pricing regime – and the first time Class IV milk has been higher than Class III milk since February 2004.

## New Phone System at MMPA Novi

MMPA recently installed an automated phone system at its Novi Headquarters location. The new phone system will help members more quickly access the MMPA personnel they would like to speak with.

When you call MMPA, you will now be greeted by an automated attendant who will instruct you to either dial your party’s extension or will give you some of the following options to access different areas of MMPA:

Press 1 for the Lab

Press 2 for Producer Merchandise

Press 6 for the Member Services Department

Press 202 for Forward Contracting information (Nancy Muszynski)

*At any time during the automated message, you may dial -0- to be connected to the operator who will assist you.*

The name and extension number of several staff members are listed on the staff page of the Messenger. If the employee you are trying to reach is not listed on the staff page and you do not know their extension number, you can either dial 0 to be connected to the operator or dial 9 to be connected to the automated company directory.

MMPA is committed to serving our members and continues to make efforts to assist members in the most efficient manner possible.

## Upcoming Events

### June

26-27 MMPA/4-H Milk Marketing Tour – Novi

### July

16-20 Michigan Dairy Expo – East Lansing

17-19 Ag Expo at Michigan State University – East Lansing

## EPA Proposes to Extend Compliance Deadlines for NPDES CAFO Permits

In mid-May, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a proposed rule to extend the compliance deadline for newly defined CAFOs to seek National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage and for permitted CAFOs to develop and implement a nutrient management plan.

Currently, the deadline for these CAFOs to seek permit coverage and develop a plan is July 31, 2007, but EPA is proposing to extend the compliance deadline until February 27, 2009. This proposed extension is needed for EPA to complete their rulemaking to respond to the decision of Second Circuit Court in the 2005 Waterkeeper Alliance et al. case.

Because EPA has not yet promulgated the final NPDES CAFO rule, the proposed deadline of February 27, 2009, would provide additional time for producers to comply with the new rule and for States to adjust their regulatory programs.

NMPF is supportive of this new proposed deadline, and will be submitting comments to EPA encouraging the agency to adopt the proposed deadline of February 27, 2009. This proposed rule will be open for a 30-day comment period and comments must be submitted by June 11, 2007. For more information, visit the Federal Register notice.

## Farmers' Input Needed for Foot and Mouth Online Survey

Livestock producers throughout the nation are asked to participate in an online survey to gather data on animal movements and husbandry practices that will be used in a simulation model to predict the impact of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, as well as determine the best strategies for containment.

This project is being conducted by School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California-Davis, in collaboration with the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Diseases (FAZD), and is supported by the USDA and the Department of Homeland Security.

According to Dr. Tim Carpenter, director of the study, "the online survey will allow us to develop a model based on real, up-to-date data for animal movements and current practices that could determine how the disease spreads. Only livestock producers can provide us with this information. This model would put the U.S. at the forefront in preparedness for not only foot-and-mouth but also other foreign animal diseases."

CADMS guarantees that all the information will be kept confidential and will only be used for modeling purposes. The online survey can be found at: [www.cadms.ucdavis.edu/adm/index.php?id=2](http://www.cadms.ucdavis.edu/adm/index.php?id=2)

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the state inspector will submit an administrative fine request to MDA Food and Dairy Division in Lansing, Michigan. MDA, in consultation with the state inspector, state area supervisor and other MDA officials will review the situation and determine whether or not to assess the fine and determine the amount. In all cases, the license or permit holder will be notified in writing and given the opportunity to appeal within a specified time frame.

Because there are many variations to the administrative fine process, it is important to note that not all situations are covered in this article. The administrative fine policy is being implemented to gain compliance with habitual offenders. The new policy should not impact the vast majority of producers, dairy processing plants and bulk milk haulers that are doing their job properly. In fact, very few operations will be assessed an administrative fine especially when the producer, processor or hauler makes the effort to comply with items that need to be corrected. Copies of the administrative fine policy can be obtained from the MDA Food and Dairy Division or your State Inspector. Please note that this policy does not change the administrative fine structure established for positive drug residue shipments.

