



News & Views

The latest dairy news

September Class III Price Up 24 Cents

The September Class III price is \$20.07, up 24 cents from August, and up \$7.78 from a year ago, a 63 percent increase. The September Class IV price is \$21.61, down 26 cents from August, but up \$10.51 from a year ago.

CWT Launches Ambassador Program

Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) is making a concerted effort to increase the number of dairy farmers supporting CWT. Based on the success of dairy-farmer-to-dairy-farmer membership efforts in Idaho, CWT is launching the CWT Ambassadors program. CWT cooperative and individual members have been asked to nominate dairy farmers to serve as Ambassadors. Once selected, CWT Ambassadors will be asked to contact specifically-identified dairy farmers who are currently not supporting CWT. They will communicate the benefits of supporting CWT and tell these producers how their CWT membership will make it an even more effective program.

If you are interested in serving as a CWT Ambassador, please fax or e-mail complete contact information to Jim Tillison, fax number (703) 841-9328.

Bull Calf/Cull Cow Sale December 17–18 to Support 4-H Europe Trip

A cull cow/bull calf sale to raise funds for 4-H youth invited to attend the 2008 Agriculture Tour of Europe is planned for Dec. 17–18. The sale on Dec. 17 will take place at both St. Louis and Manchester UPI stockyards and at Cass City on Dec. 18.

Several Michigan Dairy 4-H teams have been invited to take an agricultural tour of Europe in June 2008. To receive an invitation, the students' teams must have placed in the top three at the World Dairy Expo. Teams that have been invited to go on the Europe trip are the 2006 Ag Tech team, made up of Tim Gamble, Bill Schuler, Adam Preston and Kenda Quist. The 2006 4-H team of Gail Carpenter, Jessica Fry, Ashley Messing and Amanda Zwagerman and the 2007 4-H team of Heather Fry, Bill Huisjen, Nichole Smith, Amanda Sollman and Emily Butcher.

The trip will include a judging contest at the Royal Highland Show in Scotland and attending the National Dairy Show in Luxembourg. They will also tour England, France and Germany. The trip will last from June 18–30, 2008.

The group asks dairy farmers to donate cull cows, feeders or bull calves to help fund the trip. All they have to do is let them know when they drop off the animals that they would like the proceeds to go toward the Europe trip. Members of the judging teams will be on hand to answer questions and talk to the people as they bring their animals in. Farms that do not haul their animals themselves will need to let their haulers know if they want to participate.

Upcoming Events

November

- 12-14 NMPF/UDIA/NDB Joint Annual Meeting – *Orlando, FL*
- 19 MMPA Leaders' Conference – *East Lansing*

December

- 5 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting – *Novi*
- MMPA Local Meetings begin

Crop Management Update, MAEAP Phase I Meeting set for Dec. 18 at MSU

A look back at the 2007 crop year and ahead to 2008 pest control and crop management recommendations will highlight the annual Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update, set for Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Michigan State University (MSU) Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education.

The event will also include a Michigan Agriculture Environmental Awareness Program (MAEAP) Phase I session for producers who are interested in receiving MAEAP verification.

“With increasing production costs, it’s important for farmers and agribusiness professionals to stay up to date on cropping options and MSU pest control recommendations,” says George Silva, Eaton County MSU Extension agriculture and natural resources educator. “Those who attend this event can get help in making year-end purchases with the information that will be presented on pesticide options and strategies that contribute to improved yields and profitability.”

MSU Extension specialists will be on hand to answer participants’ questions on topics ranging from soybean aphids to wheat diseases; growing crops for biofuel use and weed control.

Participants will receive Michigan Department of Agriculture pesticide applicator certification credits and certified crop advisor credits for attending the session.

The registration fee is \$50 per person before Dec. 12 and \$60 per person after that date. The registration fee covers all educational sessions, lunch and handouts, including MSU’s 2008 Weed Control and Insect, Disease and Nematode Control guides.

To register, call the Eaton County MSU Extension office at (517) 543-2310. An online registration form can be found at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/eaton/2007cropmanagementupdate.pdf>.

The 2007 Crop Management Update is sponsored by the Eaton County MSU Extension and the MSU Extension Field Crops Team.

WTO Talks Continue

World Trade Organization members continue to work diligently towards achieving a global trade agreement in the coming months. Negotiators recently wrapped up a lengthy session of discussions that went on throughout the first three weeks of September. Those discussions have focused on examining the paper released by Ag Negotiations Chairman Crawford Falconer in July, and exploring avenues for consensus.

Talks resumed the week of October 8. After further dialogue between WTO members, at press time, Chairman Falconer was expected to put out a new version of his text in mid to late October.

NMPF remains actively engaged in this process and in frequent communication with our negotiators to help ensure that dairy producers’ concerns and goals are sufficiently addressed in any final agreement.

Free Trade Agreements Gain Momentum

Congress has begun to tackle the free trade agreements that have been negotiated, but are awaiting approval on Capitol Hill.

In late September, the Senate Finance Committee voted 18 to 3 in favor of the Peru FTA, while the House Ways & Means Committee unanimously approved the Peru pact in its mock markups of the trade deal. This was a strong kickoff for this FTA, which would benefit the U.S. dairy industry.

NMPF is working to secure passage of the Peru FTA, given the strong prospects it offers for new U.S. dairy export opportunities to this net dairy-importing country. As part of this effort, NMPF joined with USDA and other leading agricultural organizations in a press conference held Sept. 27 to urge the passage of this and other pending FTAs, particularly those with Panama and South Korea, which would also offer benefits to U.S. dairy producers. NMPF stressed the remarkable growth of U.S. dairy exports over the past several years and urged Congress to pass these balanced, well-negotiated trade agreements in order to help us continue this positive track-record.