



News & Views

The latest dairy news

July Class III Price Up \$1.21

The Class III price for July is \$21.38, up \$1.21 from June, and up \$10.46 from a year ago. The July Class IV price is \$21.64, up 88 cents from the previous month. This year's Class IV price is up \$11.43 from July 2006's Class IV price of \$10.21.

Gaspers Named 2007 MMPA OYDC

Arion and Andrea Gasper of Lowell, Mich. have been named MMPA's 2007 Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators. The Gaspers were selected by a panel of judges after the annual OYDC Conference held Aug. 15-17. They represent MMPA District 6 and the former Saranac Local. As MMPA OYDC, they will represent MMPA at several events including the National Milk Producers Federation Annual Meeting in November.



Brad and Monica Crandall of Battle Creek, Mich. were named the 2007 OYDC Runners-up. The Crandalls represent MMPA District 4 and the Battle Creek-Homer Local.

Highlights of the OYDC Conference are on pages 20-21 of this issue.

MMPA to supply rBST-free milk

In response to demands of our fluid milk customers for an rBST-free milk supply, the MMPA board of directors voted at their August 21 meeting that all MMPA member milk handled by the cooperative be rBST-free by February 1, 2008. This decision was reached after a careful review of the various economic implications of this issue, most importantly that of maintaining a fluid market for member milk. Consideration was given to segregate the milk supply but after analysis of the many implications of a segregated supply including storage, transportation, and federal order issues, it was decided to require an rBST-free supply from all members.

While the board thoroughly understands that there remains no difference in milk from cows treated with the artificial bovine growth hormone rBST versus cows not treated with rBST, we must remain responsive to our customer demands. The MMPA board of directors and management believe this decision is in the best interest of the cooperative and its mission to "market MMPA members' milk to the greatest advantage possible." MMPA member representatives are in the process of securing signed certification agreements from MMPA members in order to meet the new requirement of its processor customers. Questions regarding this decision can be directed toward the Novi office, member representatives or any MMPA board member.

Dairy Producers Encouraged to Vote "Yes" on Dairy Referendum

Michigan dairy farmers will receive a ballot this October that will enable them to decide where the state's dairy promotional dollars will be spent during the next five years. A "Yes" vote on the Dairy Promotion Referendum will continue the educational and promotion efforts of the United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

Under national law, 15-cents per hundredweight is deducted from dairy producers for advertising and educational programs. The law allows for 10 of the 15 cents to remain here in Michigan, to be used for local programs. The upcoming referendum will decide whether or not that 10 cents will stay in Michigan or go to the national level.

MMPA encourages producers to vote "Yes" on the referendum because it is crucial to maintain the successful promotion education and nutrition programs of the United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

Upcoming Events

September

26 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting – Lansing

Agriculture Commission Names Donald Koivisto As New State Agriculture Director

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture named Donald W. Koivisto as the new director of the state Department of Agriculture during a special session held August 13 at the Lansing Center. He will begin his new position on September 4.

“Don is not only a strong advocate for Michigan agriculture, but has a wealth of knowledge and experience to further expand the state’s second largest industry,” said James Byrum, Commission chair. “He will be able to hit the ground running in terms of growing Michigan agriculture, especially in the areas of renewable fuels and food processing, which are critical to the continued diversification of the state’s economy.”

“Michigan agriculture is a rapidly growing sector of the state economy, and I’m looking forward to facilitating new opportunities as the state’s agriculture director,” said Koivisto. “As an advocate for agriculture, I plan to protect the industry base while increasing Michigan’s presence in other sectors, such as specialty crops and exports into the global marketplace.”

Koivisto, 57, was born and raised in the western Upper Peninsula, graduated from Central Michigan University in 1971, and currently has a Centennial Farm in Ellsworth where he grows corn, soybeans and hay. He was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1980 where he served three terms and was chair of the House Agriculture Committee from 1984-1986. Additionally, he served 12 years in the state Senate after being elected in 1990 and was on the agriculture appropriations subcommittee. He is married with four children.

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture is a bipartisan body appointed by the Governor to provide oversight and policy direction for MDA programs, appoint the director of agriculture, and approve the rules and regulations the department promulgates.



Excellence in Dairy Promotion Award Nominations due by October 1

Do you know a Michigan dairy farmer that goes above and beyond his or her daily responsibilities to positively promote dairy products and the industry? If so, nominate that person for the Excellence in Dairy Promotion Award by October 1, 2007.

The Excellence in Dairy Promotion Award, sponsored by the Dairy Diplomats of Michigan, annually recognizes one outstanding Michigan dairy farm family member for his or her dedication to promoting dairy products. Qualified individuals will possess extensive dairy promotion accomplishments and volunteer service to the industry and his or her local community.

The award recipient will be announced during the Annual Dairy Product Promotion Seminar. The outstanding dairy promoter wins a free trip to the UDIM Annual Meeting and the Dairy Product Promotion Seminar, where they will be honored for their dairy promotion efforts.

Written nominations are accepted annually through October 1. Nominations must be postmarked by October 1 for consideration.

For more information, or to download an application, visit www.udim.org or call Staci Garcia at 800-241-MILK (6455).

MMPA Matters

Continued from Page 5

my contribution to the MMPAC, because I know it will be put to good use. It is too difficult for me as an individual to fully evaluate where my contribution will have the most impact. But, even though I am now a supporter, I did check my records as I wrote this column to confirm that I had indeed sent that check every year, and found that I had missed two out of the last six years. The oversight has

been corrected and my check has been cashed.

Don't be like me and forget to make your contribution to the MMPAC. If you have any questions concerning PAC contributions, please contact me or Sheila Burkhardt in the MMPA Novi office at (248) 474-6672.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.