



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## February Class III Price Down \$2.29

The February Class III price is \$17.03, down \$2.29 from January, but still up \$2.85 from a year ago. This is the lowest price since last April. The Class IV price slumped to \$14.67, down \$1.62 from January but up \$1.96 from a year ago.

## MMPA Delegates Approve Equity Capital Retain

During MMPA's State Annual Meeting on March 18, MMPA delegates approved the re-establishment of an equity capital retain of \$0.10 per cwt., which will begin April 1, 2008. Members will see the first milk check deduction of the equity capital retain on their May 17 milk check.

MMPA members were notified during the cooperative's local and district meetings over the past few months that new equity capital from members is necessary for MMPA to undertake a significant expansion project at its dairy product manufacturing facility in Ovid, Mich.

"The adoption of the 10-cent capital retain program has been very helpful in securing attractive bank financing for this project during a very difficult credit market for many financial institutions," MMPA General Manager John Dilland says.

## MMPA Returns Nearly \$3 million of Cash Patronage Refunds to Members

Michigan Milk Producers Association recently paid nearly \$3 million in cash patronage refunds to its dairy farmer members. This cash allocation represents approximately 25 percent of the \$11.0 million allocated net earnings generated by the cooperative in fiscal year 2007. The cash patronage returned includes 100 percent of the farm supply earnings and 25 percent of the milk marketing earnings. All members who marketed milk through MMPA for fiscal year 2007 will be receiving a portion of the nearly \$3 million.

MMPA members received other cash payments in May 2007 of more than \$4.5 million through retirement of the cooperative's 1998 equities. In October 2007, MMPA members received \$3 million in cash payments in the form of a "13th" milk check. With the current payment of \$3 million, cash payments in the last ten months total over \$10.5 million.

"The continued success of our operations and diverse product mix allow us to make these extra cash payments to our members in the form of equity retirements and cash patronage," says John Dilland, MMPA General Manager.

Cash patronage funds and equity allocations are based on the amount of milk each individual member farm marketed and on the supplies purchased through the cooperative during the year in which the earnings were achieved. Under the current board policy, the non-cash balance of the equity allocation will be revolved back to the members in future years.

Since 1987, MMPA has operated without an equity capital retain, relying on the Association's plant operations, milk marketing and member dues to fund the cooperative.

Michigan Milk Producers Association is a member owned and operated dairy cooperative serving nearly 2,300 dairy farmers in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

## Upcoming Events

### April

- 1 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting – *East Lansing*
- 4 Young Cooperator Dairy Leadership Conference – *Frankenmuth*
- 17 MMPA Dairy Communicator Meeting – *Lansing*

## Johne's Disease Control and Prevention Program Set for April at MSU

It's estimated that nearly 8 percent of U.S. beef herds and 22 percent of U.S. dairy herds are infected with the bacterium that causes Johne's disease, an illness that costs farmers millions of dollars every year in animal mortality, lost productivity and healthcare costs.

An international consortium of scientists has come together to explore control and prevention measures, and they'll share their research findings with farmers, agribusiness reps and other individuals April 18 during "New Horizons in Johne's Disease Control," an educational program at the Michigan State University (MSU) Henry Center. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The presenters are among the scientists from 21 universities and

governmental agencies who have formed the Johne's Disease Integrated Program (JDIP) to conduct studies aimed at preventing and controlling the bacterium that causes Johne's disease in cattle and other ruminants.

During the program, JDIP participants will discuss results of research studies and best practices in testing strategies, and assess recommended management practices, current and future vaccines, and the status of Johne's funding.

Afternoon presentations will look at Johne's diagnostics and strain differences, genomics and proteomics. These will be followed by a preview of a Johne's education program featuring veterinarians and farmers, and a presentation of the upcoming national dairy producer

Johne's survey. The program will conclude with a look at the future of Johne's control in the United States.

The registration fee for "New Horizons in Johne's Disease Control" is \$10 and is due April 11. The fee includes lunch and any educational materials.

To register or learn more, contact Dr. Dan Grooms, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, by calling (517) 432-1494 or e-mailing [groomsd@cvm.msu.edu](mailto:groomsd@cvm.msu.edu).

A brochure with information on the conference was included with members' March 17 milk check.

			
<p>Enhances secondary metabolism, aids in digestion, allowing increased digestive capacity and improved immune response.</p>	<p>Enhances immune system to overcome negative effects of mycotoxins.</p>	<p>Enhances immune system to overcome negative effects of mycotoxins and improves digestion, nutrient absorption and metabolism.</p>	<p>For herds feeding high-energy, high-protein rations; improves rumen efficiency.</p>
<h3>SOLUTIONS FOR THE CHALLENGES YOUR HERD FACES.</h3>			
<p><b>The Bio Cycle family of products are unique, containing proprietary L-form Lactobacillus. Hundreds of millions of doses have been fed to cows from coast to coast and producers have seen stronger heats, improved reproductive performance, lower SCC, better feed utilization and healthier herds.</b></p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p><b>NorthStar Cooperative</b> INC.</p> <hr/> <p><b>DHI AntelBio</b> </p> <p>1.800.631.3510 <a href="http://northstarcooperative.com">northstarcooperative.com</a></p> </div> <p><small>*Select DTX, Select Bio Cycle, Select Bio Cycle Plus and Select Bio Cycle Plus Ultimate are trademarks of Select Sires and manufactured by Agrarian Marketing Corporation, Middlebury, IN.</small></p>			