



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## October Class III Price Up 78 Cents

The October Class III price is \$17.06, up 78 cents from September, but \$1.64 lower than last year. The Class IV price for October is \$13.62, down \$1.83 from September and \$7.69 less than a year ago. This is the lowest Class III price since February 2007.

## USDA Publishes Final Rule for Dairy Forward Pricing Program

USDA recently published its final rule establishing the Dairy Forward Pricing Program. Milk producers and cooperative organizations may voluntarily enter into forward price contracts with milk handlers for non-Class I milk; this program exempts those handlers from paying the minimum federal order price for milk under such contracts.

The program was provided for in the latest Farm Bill, and essentially re-establishes the Dairy Forward Pricing Pilot Program, which was in effect from September 2000 through December 2004. It also contains several protections that NMPF fought for:

- Class I milk is excluded.
- Handlers cannot force producers to participate as a condition for buying their milk.
- USDA will investigate all complaints of coercion and take appropriate action.
- The program will sunset at the end of the Farm Bill in 2012.

## “No Lameness Excuses!” Workshop Series Addresses Cow Hoof Health

Dairy producers know cows with sore feet fall short of maximizing their potential for milk production and reproductive efficiency. Regardless of the cause—thin soles, heel warts, hoof rot, ulcers, long toes or lameness—foot problems contribute to already declining profit margins and are often cited as a primary reason for culling animals from the herd. A series of “Healthy Hooves: No Lameness Excuses!” workshops organized by the MSU Extension Dairy Team will address common questions that producers have about hoof health.

Karl Burgi, of Dairyland Hoof Care Institute in Baraboo, Wis., will cover a variety of topics during the session, including hoof anatomy, causes of lameness, strategies for preventing lameness and guidelines for implementing a successful hoof health program. In addition to operating the Dairyland Hoof Care Institute, Burgi is a full-time hoof trimmer, designs upright hoof trimming chutes, and travels throughout the world conducting hoof health and lameness clinics.

A supplemental program will cover assessing on-farm cow comfort, and Janice Swanson, MSU director of animal welfare, will discuss why dairy producers need to be informed about farm animal care GAAMPs (generally accepted agricultural management practices).

Workshops will be held December 15-18 at various locations across the state. Each workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration starting at 9:30 a.m. To register or receive more information about the workshops, please call the MSU Extension dairy educator in the county corresponding with the meeting location. A \$10 per person registration fee includes lunch and all meeting materials. Though people can register at the workshops, preregistration is requested to ensure an accurate lunch count. The dates, locations and contact persons for the workshops are:

• **December 15** at the Franklin Inn Restaurant, Bad Axe; contact Craig Thomas, 810-648-2515.

• **December 16** at Quality Inn Forward’s Conference Center, West Branch; contact Phil Durst, 989-826-1160.

• **December 17** at Smith Hall, Clinton County Fairgrounds, St. Johns; contact Faith Cullens, 989-224-5249.

• **December 18** at the Polkton Township Hall, Coopersville; contact Bill Robb, 616-846-8250.

## Upcoming Events

### December

2 MMPA Advisory Committee – *Novi*  
*MMPA Local Meetings Begin*

### January

28 Agriculture’s Conference on the Environment – *Lansing*  
27 Resolutions and Nominating Committee Meeting - *Novi*

## USDA TB Listening Session Scheduled for December 8 in Lansing

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has scheduled a TB Listening Session on Monday, December 8 at the Holiday Inn South Convention Center in Lansing.

“The challenges facing USDA’s bovine TB program are significant,” according to the meeting release on the USDA’s Web site. “We can improve the TB program so that it can meet these challenges—but only with active participation by as many stakeholders as possible. That’s why we’ve scheduled a series of public meetings on TB—we encourage you and anyone else who’s interested to attend.”

The meeting will be formatted as a listening session, with USDA’s main focus on gathering information. Participants will be invited to break into small groups to discuss innovative ways to address every aspect of the TB program.

USDA says that “nothing is off the table,” and that they are looking for as many perspectives as possible. “The more input we can get from all our stakeholders, the better we can craft a TB program that is responsive and effective.”

The day-long meeting will likely be an important way that Michigan stakeholders can help shape the future direction of the national TB program.

The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn South Convention Center, 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Mich. Registration is from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. The session is scheduled from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. Lunch is not provided.



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