



News & Views

The latest dairy news

November Class III Price Up 52 Cents

The Class III price for November is \$19.22, up 52 cents from October and up \$6.38 from a year ago. The Class IV price is \$20.40, down 91 cents from October but up \$8.29 from a year ago.

Canadian Border Opens Despite Protest

The U.S.-Canadian border opened November 19, allowing all ages of Canadian cattle to enter the U.S. market, including dairy replacements. The move drew criticism from some domestic ranchers, who believed that Canadian cattle may still be contaminated with mad cow disease.

The border was initially closed in May 2003 because a cow from Alberta was confirmed to have mad cow disease. Prohibitions against importation of both beef and live cattle were gradually relaxed, culminating with the change lifting all restrictions.

MMPA 2008 Direct Deposit Schedule

The MMPA direct deposit program provides for the direct deposit of your net milk proceeds to your bank account through the use of an electronic funds transfer system. This system assures the deposit of funds on the dates listed below.

The direct deposit service is free to MMPA members. Members on direct deposit receive their check statement by mail. The statement

is the same as the one attached to the milk check. The direct deposit stub of the statement indicates the amount transferred into the member's bank account.

If you are interested in signing up for direct deposit or desire more information, please contact the MMPA Member Services Department at (800) 572-5824.

Settlement Dates Processed Through Bank One Calendar Year 2008

January 17	Thursday	July 17	Thursday
January 25	Friday	July 25	Friday
February 19	Tuesday	August 18	Monday
February 26	Tuesday	August 26	Tuesday
March 17	Monday	September 17	Wednesday
March 26	Wednesday	September 26	Friday
April 17	Thursday	October 17	Friday
April 25	Friday	October 27	Monday
May 16	Friday	November 17	Monday
May 27	Tuesday	November 26	Wednesday
June 17	Tuesday	December 17	Wednesday
June 26	Thursday	December 26	Friday

Upcoming Events

January

29 MMPA Resolutions and Nominating Committee Meetings
– *Novi*

February

MMPA District Meetings

7-9 Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference – *Frankenmuth*

14-15 UDIM Dairy Product Promotion Seminar – *Lansing*

Survey to Identify Research and Educational Priorities of Michigan Dairy Producers

What are the most important issues facing the Michigan dairy industry today and over the next five or 10 years? Are there opportunities for producers to become more profitable, more efficient or more state-of-the art? Are there challenges peering around the corner that could mean the difference between managing a successful business one day and facing seemingly insurmountable hurdles the next? To help answer these questions, the Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Dairy Area of Expertise (AoE) Team is asking Michigan dairy producers and dairy industry professionals to identify the most important challenges and opportunities facing their industry over the coming years.

Survey results will be compiled to prioritize dairy education programming offered by MSU Extension and funding directives for research projects supported through the Animal Agriculture Initiative at MSU. The last statewide industry survey was conducted in 1997.

“As the dairy industry continues to evolve, it becomes more important than ever to stay current on industry trends, challenges and opportunities,” says Dean Ross, MSU Extension dairy educator. “Producer and industry input is vital to helping MSU Extension focus its limited resources on the programming efforts and issues that most directly affect producers, communities, agribusinesses and the future sustainability of the state’s dairy industry.

“We’re here to work together with the state’s dairy



farmers to identify and put into practice strategies to maximize their short- and long-term profitability, and no one knows better than producers what challenges they face day after day,” he adds. “MSU Extension will rely on the producer-driven input we collect to frame our programming in response to these needs.”


The survey will be mailed during the first two weeks of February to dairy producers, dairy farm employees, and agribusinesses and industry-related professionals including veterinarians, feed representatives, artificial insemination suppliers and consultants. Recipients are asked to complete and return the survey in the accompanying self-addressed and stamped envelope by Feb. 29.

In addition to MSU Extension, additional funding support for the 2008 Michigan dairy industry survey is being provided by Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), Greenstone Farm Credit Services and the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA).


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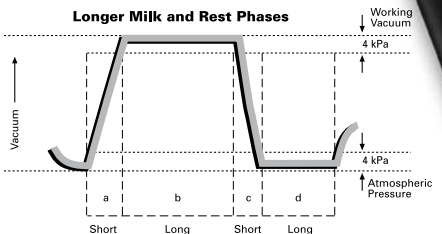
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