



News & Views

The latest dairy news

May Class III Price Up \$1.42

The May Class III price is \$18.18, up \$1.42 from April and up 58 cents from a year ago. The Class IV price is \$15.26, up 70 from April, but down \$3.22 from last May. Both prices are the highest since January 2008.

Producers scoring 95 percent or more on Grade A Surveys and Federal Check Ratings

MMPA Marquette BTU May 2008

- Elizabeth VanDrese*
- Alfred Gareau*
- Maxine Zawada*
- Bosanic Dairy Farm of Manistique Inc*
- Iho Farms
- Robert & Gerald Webber
- Jacob Jahfetson
- Gerald Ledvina
- Herioux Farms LLC
- Gary & Teresa Palasaari

*scored 100 percent

MAEAP Surveys Livestock Producers

The Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is asking livestock producers for assistance in better understanding the challenges and opportunities of MAEAP by completing a short survey that was sent out to many Michigan livestock and dairy farms.

Survey questions center around a producer's knowledge and attitudes about MAEAP and motivations for participating in MAEAP. The responses will be used to improve the design of the livestock component of MAEAP. The survey was designed to answer three research questions:

- What are livestock farmers' attitudes toward MAEAP?
- How does the presence and risk of current and potential environmental regulations influence participation in MAEAP?
- What advice do livestock farmers' have for the improvement of MAEAP?

The Center for Economic Analysis at Michigan State University will process survey responses and provide a summary report. All responses will remain confidential, and no individual respondents will be identified in any results or research reports. Upon completion of the study, survey results will be made available to the livestock industry.

Upcoming Events

July

- 1 MMPA Advisory Committee – *East Lansing*
- 9 Great Lakes Manure Handling Expo – *London, Ohio*
- 15-17 Ag Expo – *East Lansing*
- 21-25 Michigan Dairy Expo – *East Lansing*
- 23 Great Dairy Adventure

August

- 13-14 MMPA OYDC Conference – *Novi*

CWT Program Renewed for 2009

After Five Years of Operation, Members Vote to Continue Program Through Next Year

The members of Cooperatives Working Together voted in mid-June to continue the historic dairy farmer self-help program through 2009.

In a unanimous vote, the committee overseeing the management of CWT endorsed a continuation of the program—at the present membership assessment level of 10 cents per hundredweight—through calendar year 2009.

“In this season of important votes, CWT has won reelection in a landslide, as its members have decided that our industry is better off with this program,” said Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of NMPF, which manages CWT.

Created five years ago, at a time

when farm-level prices were at 20 year lows, CWT used a variety of programs to strengthen and stabilize milk supplies, and improve the economic health of the U.S. dairy producer community. It is currently conducting its latest herd retirement to adjust the size of the U.S. cattle herd, as many dairy farmers suffer from dramatically higher costs of production.

CWT has produced a strong return on investment for its members, generating 75 cents per hundredweight just in 2007, according to an independent economic analysis. That analysis, by Dr. Scott Brown of the University of Missouri, also showed that the cumulative impact of the herd retirement and export

assistance programs, has helped create an enduring positive effect on milk prices.

Kozak said that CWT’s management committee also asked that the respective task forces overseeing its herd retirement and export assistance programs meet this summer to look at new and different ways of positively impacting the dairy economic environment.

“We’ve had a strong record of successful programs that are both cost-effective and efficient in reducing dairy supplies. But we cannot rest on our laurels, and these task forces will convene to see if we can build even better mousetraps going forward,” Kozak said.

MMPA Matters

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off funds on imported dairy products. The goal was to collect the full 15 cents, but in the end a compromise was reached to collect 7.5 cents. Even that compromise is now in question. After passage, International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) said they will fight implementation of the 7.5 cent check-off. Time will tell whether or not they are successful.

The dairy industry, with strong leadership from NMPF and extensive efforts by member co-ops like MMPA, has attained every major goal we attempted in the passage of the 2007 Farm Bill. In Michigan, both of our Senators and all but two of our Congressional delegation voted for passage of the Farm Bill. This bi-partisan show of support deserves our recognition. When you have a spare moment, take the time to thank your legislators for listening to our concerns and voting their support.

This process exemplifies what we can do as a small group of people when our objectives are clear and we work together to achieve an end result. The need now is to stay engaged so that we can build on what we have accomplished and move ahead to define and work on new challenges that are around the next bend. We have passed one mile post on the road, but others will continue to appear on the horizon.

Ken

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