



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## January Class III Price Down \$1.28

The January Class III price is \$19.32, down \$1.28 from December, but up \$5.76 from a year ago.

The January Class IV price is \$16.29, down \$2.89 from December, but up \$3.76 from a year ago.

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

### MMPA Morval LaLone BTU

January 2008

- Buning Dairy Farm LLC\*
- Donald Kuehl Sr.\*
- Gross Dairy Farms Inc.
- Matt & Deborah Kampf
- Harold & Ruth Ann Dodde
- Zuiderveen Farms
- Jonathan & Mary Taylor
- Kenneth & Carol Tebos
- End Road Farm
- Kerwin Hamming
- Paul, James & Ruth McClung
- Vanpolen Farms
- Daniel DeZeeuw
- Benthem Brothers Inc.
- Winterfield Dairy
- Pine Ridge Farm

\*scored 100 percent

## NMPF Meets with EPA to Discuss Review of CAFO Rule

At the beginning of January, NMPF met with EPA's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to evaluate a rule that would affect requirements for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The rule, expected to be finalized soon, proposes changes in the definition of CAFOs with respect to their potential to discharge waste, and requires Nutrient Management Plans to be incorporated into the CAFO application.

NMPF believes that the time for compliance must allow for farms to go through the process of nutrient management planning and to make changes to their operations (including capital investments) as a result of this planning. The original CAFO rule provided a three-year compliance time, and NMPF believes this is sufficient for the current rule as well.

In addition, NMPF believes that the rules addressing water and air compliance should be conducted simultaneously to ensure that they do not conflict with each other. A change made because of the current CAFO rule may adversely impact air quality, so any subsequent air quality rules made by EPA should not influence water rules.

The final rule is currently undergoing review by the Office of Management and Budget, which is the last step before publication in the Federal Register. NMPF will notify members when the final rule is published.

## Upcoming Events

### March

- MMPA Milker Training Schools *(see page 21 for complete listing)*
- 17 MMPA Resolutions and Committee Meeting – *Lansing*
- 18 MMPA State Annual Meeting – *Lansing*
- 19 Ag Day at the Capitol – *Lansing*

### April

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

## CWT to Offer Bred Heifer Option in next Herd Retirement Round

*Producers Submitting Bids for Milking Herds May Also Retire Bred Heifers Under New Program*

In the next herd retirement round conducted by Cooperatives Working Together, dairy producers submitting bids to retire their herds of milk cows also will have the option of selling all their bred heifers, CWT officials announced Jan. 28.

A flat rate per bred heifer will be established by CWT to be paid to all producers choosing to include their bred heifers with their herd retirement bid. The producer will get to retain the slaughter value of the bred heifers, so the price per heifer offered by CWT offers will be in addition to the animals' slaughter value, just as the payment CWT makes to producers for their milk cows is in addition to the beef value of the animals.

CWT Chief Operating Officer Jim Tillison said the decision by CWT's operating committee to include a bred heifer option "is the result of many months of work by our members to devise a new program to enhance the effectiveness of CWT's milk reduction activities. Our members asked us to come up with a way to make a bred heifer removal option work for them, and I believe this new initiative will meet their expectations."

CWT has not announced when it will conduct a fifth herd retirement round. The last one was done in February 2007. When the next one is conducted, producers submitting bids for their milking herds will also then have the option of using the bred heifer program. Producers will have to indicate the number of

bred heifers they have at the time the bid is submitted, and the location of the heifers. CWT will pay a flat fee, announced at the time the retirement program commences, for each heifer. Producers will have to sell all their bred heifers, regardless of age.

Tillison said that whether a producer elects to also sell his bred heifers has no bearing on whether the producer's herd retirement bid is accepted by CWT. Also, if the farmer's herd retirement bid is not accepted, the bred heifers he or she offers will not be accepted, either.

Additional details about the terms of the bred heifer program will be posted to the CWT Web site [www.cwt.coop](http://www.cwt.coop) once a herd retirement round commences.

## USDA Releases New Disaster Assistance Information

On January 25, the USDA stated that eligible farmers and ranchers who have experienced livestock, livestock feed, and crop losses that happened before Dec. 31, 2007, can now apply for federal disaster payments.

The payments will be made under the Livestock Compensation and Livestock Indemnity Programs, which are part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. This act also includes Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP - III) Program. The new 2008 DDAP - III program provides compensation to dairy producers who observed losses due to natural disasters that occurred before Dec. 31, 2007, which is a new later date than the 2007 program.

More information about the program and eligibility can be found on the USDA's Web site at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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