



News & Views

The latest dairy news

March Class III Price Up 97 Cents

The Class III price for March is \$18.00, up 97 cents from February, and up \$2.91 from a year ago. The Class IV price for March is \$14.17, down 50 cents from February, but up 46 cents from a year ago.

CWT Monitors Economic Benchmarks

While attending NMPF member annual meetings, one of the most common questions asked of NMPF staff is: "When will CWT conduct the next herd retirement program?"

Each month, NMPF staff members involved with CWT review a number of economic benchmarks, including but not limited to change in cow numbers, milk production, monthly culling of dairy cows, milk prices and the cash costs of producing milk. The staff reviews those benchmarks for their implications on dairy producer economics.

The primary concern staff has is getting the timing right. This means letting the marketplace work to a certain extent. Should CWT act too soon, the dollars that dairy farmers producing nearly 70 percent of the nation's milk have invested in CWT will not have the maximum positive impact on producers' bottom line. If CWT takes action too late, producers may have been too negatively impacted by the time the herd retirement takes affect.

Producer Input Wanted to Help Improve Johne's Disease Control Program

If you're a dairy producer, then the Johne's Disease Integrated Program (JDIP) is seeking your input, and providing input is as simple as going online and completing a quick survey. The online survey is a duplicate of the survey mailed to approximately 15 percent of dairy producers in each state in late March.

"The survey has two key purposes: to identify barriers that have prevented individuals from participating in the Voluntary Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program and to identify incentives for participation in the Program," states Dr. Ken Olson, JDIP Outreach Coordinator. "The mailed survey and the online survey take about 10 minutes to complete and will provide invaluable information for improving the National Johne's Program. The more information received from producers, the better the program can be adapted to meet future needs."

Producers can participate and provide input by going online to <https://online.survey.psu.edu/johnesdisease/>. Information shared is confidential, and participating producers remain anonymous. The survey, funded by JDIP, was designed and is being carried out by Penn State University, with Veterinary Extension Specialist Dr. Ernest Hovingh at the helm.

Producers seeking information about Johne's disease are encouraged to visit www.animalagriculture.org and click on the "Issues" tab, then the "Johne's disease" tab.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) mission is to provide forums for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages to animal agriculture professionals. NIAA is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of animal diseases that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well being. NIAA members represent producers, veterinarians, scientists, state and federal officials, and business executives. More information is available at www.animalagriculture.org.

Upcoming Events

June

23-24 MMPA/4-H Milk Marketing Tour – *Novi*

July

1 MMPA Advisory Committee – *East Lansing*

Michigan to Receive Nearly \$3.5 Million in Emergency Funding For Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Efforts

Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Don Koivisto announced on April 3 that the state will receive close to \$3.5 million in emergency funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to aid Michigan's bovine Tuberculosis (TB) eradication efforts.

"Michigan has entered a critical phase in the disease eradication program, and the continued support demonstrated at the federal level is paramount to its success," said Koivisto. "Bovine TB prevention strategies will give trading partners and consumers greater confidence that Michigan's dairy and cattle exports are disease-free, which is vital in today's global marketplace."

Bovine TB is an infectious disease that is close to being eradicated in the United States, but still poses a significant risk to domestic livestock, wildlife, companion animals, and humans throughout the world.

"Bovine TB presents an ongoing

threat to Michigan's economy by endangering the livestock our farmers and cattle ranchers need for their livelihoods. We must also protect deer herd and wildlife from this dreaded disease," said U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). "I will continue to work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to ensure our state receives the funding needed to eradicate the threat of bovine TB."

MDA will utilize these funds for stepped up prevention efforts, increased disease surveillance activities, and reimbursement for state farmers who must depopulate a bovine TB-infected cattle farm.

MDA has also implemented bovine TB testing regulations and movement controls—such as electronic identification and movement certificates—designed to detect disease early on and prevent cattle infected with bovine TB from moving to another farm. Michigan tested over one million cattle from

2000 through 2003 and continues to test throughout the state. To date, no TB has been found in cattle outside the bovine TB Zone.

The Bovine TB Eradication Project partners and the Michigan cattle industry have been working on the eradication of bovine TB since it was first identified in free-ranging white-tailed deer in northern Lower Michigan in 1994. To date, the state has spent approximately \$97 million to respond to this disease.

The Michigan Bovine TB Eradication Project involves a multi-agency team of experts from MDA, the Michigan departments of Natural Resources and Community Health, Michigan State University, and USDA.

For more information on Michigan's bovine TB eradication project, visit: www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

Michigan Cow Camps

Youth 9-13 are invited to one of three cow camp clinics

There may not be any roasting of marshmallows at this camp, but kids will get a chance to learn about other kinds of nutrition – specifically for dairy cattle.

A new series of one-day workshops to be held in May and June will provide the chance for youth, interested in dairy, to learn about nutrition, general dairy, fitting, showing and judging. Participants will rotate between stations, which will include some hands-on opportunities.

The workshops are geared toward 9-13 year olds, but are open to any age participant. The registration fee is \$5 per participant. This one-day workshop will be held through-

out the state at three different locations: May 17 in Caro, June 11 in Marshall and June 12 – Lowell.

General Schedule:

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Welcome

10:00 a.m. Educational Stations (Fitting/Showing, Dairy Breeds, Cow's Stomachs)

Noon Lunch (included) followed by "Milk – from Cow to You"

1:30 p.m. Educational Stations (Judging, Dairy Products, Identifying Feeds)

4:00 Wrap up with "Moo-Olympics" and Ice Cream Social

The program will be finished at approximately 6:00 p.m.

To register, information is available at <http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/dairy.html> or e-mail Joe Domecq (517-353-7855) at domecqj@msu.edu or Renee McCauley (616-283-6411) at nugentre@msu.edu. The registration deadline is one week prior to each event.

The purpose of Dairy Youth Cow Camp is to introduce and educate younger aged youth about dairy cattle. The Michigan State University 4-H Dairy Youth Programs are a non-profit organization in Michigan serving the needs of young individuals that desire to learn more about the state's dairy industry.