



## News & Views

The latest dairy news

### August Class III Price down 92 cents

The Class III price for August is \$17.32, down 92 cents, and down nearly \$3 from June. The August Class III price is down \$2.51 from August 2007. The August Class IV price is \$16.64, up 4 cents from July and down \$5.23 from the previous year.

### USDA Proposes Rule to Ban Any Non-Ambulatory Animal from Human Food Supply

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, as expected, moved to formally ban from the human food supply the slaughter of cattle that become non-ambulatory.

The new rule, published the last week of August in the Federal Register, follows the May 20, 2008 announcement that USDA planned to remove the provision that allowed USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service inspectors to determine the disposition of cattle that became non-ambulatory after they passed ante-mortem inspection. Under this new proposed rule, all cattle that become non-ambulatory at any time prior to slaughter will be condemned and disposed of.

Last April, NMPF, along with the American Meat Institute and the National Meat Association, sent a petition to USDA requesting the elimination of the provision that allows certain non-ambulatory cattle to pass into the human food supply. This newly-proposed rule accomplished exactly what NMPF requested in its petition. USDA accepted comments on the proposed rule until September 29, 2008. NMPF submitted comments in support of the proposed rule and encouraged USDA to publish a final rule as soon as possible.

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

#### MMPA Allendale South BTU

August 2008

Anthony & Mary Ellen  
Weber\*

Daybreak Dairy\*

Al Ott Farm LLC

James Jackson

Gary Davis

Thomas & Heather Wing

James Brower

Potgeter Farms

Haveman Farms LLC

John & Philip Kuyers

David & Bertus Pyle

Jacob Mast

*\*scored 100 percent*

### Illegal Shipping of Canadian Milk to U.S. Successfully Stopped

After many months of work by NMPF to put a halt to what was believed to be improper shipping of fluid milk from Canada into the U.S., those efforts appear to have been successful. Imports of fluid milk from Canada have stopped, hopefully permanently.

NMPF has long stated its preference to have a true free trade agreement with Canada that would allow all dairy products to move freely between the two countries. The North American Free Trade Agreement excludes dairy from its trade provisions between the U.S. and Canada.

### Upcoming Events

#### October

28-30 NMPF/UDIA/NDB Joint Annual Meeting – *Nashville, Tenn.*

#### November

24 MMPA Leaders' Conference – *East Lansing*

## Chronic Wasting Disease in Michigan Prompts Ban on Deer and Elk Baiting

In the wake of the August 25 announcement that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was confirmed in a three-year old privately-owned white-tailed deer in Kent County, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is acting immediately to implement provisions of the state's Surveillance and Response Plan for CWD.

The Kent County facility was depopulated on Aug. 26; and the deer were tested and all were negative for CWD.

"We are narrowing the investigation and at the same time clarifying the statewide quarantine requirements for POC (privately owned cervid) facilities. Getting results back in a timely manner assists us in eliminating some facilities that received deer from the index herd and additional facilities that sold to the index herd," said Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) State Veterinarian Steven Halstead. "Good records are essential in a speedy investigation and the owner kept excellent records. We want to make sure these businesses have complete awareness of what is required of them."

At this time, no live cervid may be transported from a quarantined facility. Whole carcasses must either go to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspected slaughter plant, under official seal, or the meat must be removed from the carcass and no head, spinal tissue, or bones may leave the premises. Violation of quarantine is a felony and may be punishable by up to \$50,000 in fines and may include prison time.

Shooting ranches are required to provide a consumer warning to clients taking de-boned meat off the premises. A clarification of the statewide quarantine is available on

the Michigan Emerging Diseases Web site at [www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease](http://www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease)

To control the potential spread of this devastating disease, the DNR banned the feeding and baiting of free-ranging deer and elk in the Lower Peninsula; and MDA issued a statewide quarantine banning the movement of deer from all POC facilities. The DNR will increase testing on animals harvested from the region surrounding the CWD positive Kent County facility this fall, and will greatly expand statewide testing efforts as well.

DNR conservation officers have stepped up surveillance and enforcement efforts on baiting. Baiting and feeding unnaturally congregate deer into close contact, thus increasing the transmission of contagious diseases such as CWD and bovine tuberculosis. Bait and feed sites increase the likelihood that those areas will become contaminated with the feces of infected animals, making them a source of CWD infection for years to come.

DNR officials reminded citizens that, to date, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans, nor has there been verified evidence that the disease can be transmitted to humans.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk and moose. Most cases of the disease have been in western states, but in the past several years, it has spread to Midwestern and eastern states. The disease is transmitted by exposure to saliva of infected animals. Susceptible animals can also acquire CWD by eating feces from an infected animal, or soil contaminated by them. Once contaminated, soil can remain a source of infection for many years, making CWD a particularly difficult disease to manage.

The Michigan CWD response team is a multi-agency team of experts from the Michigan departments of Agriculture, Community Health, and Natural Resources. Michigan State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture also participate in the disease investigations.

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