



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

## December Class III Price Down 23 Cents

The December Class III price is \$15.28, down 23 cents from November and down \$5.32 from a year ago. The December Class IV price dropped another \$1.90 in December to \$10.35, which is \$8.83 lower than December 2007.

## USDA Revises Prices Slightly in the Dairy Product Price Support Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced several changes to the Dairy Product Price Support Program.

In a bulletin issued on Jan. 5, USDA reduced the purchase prices for block cheddar cheese from \$1.1314 per pound to \$1.13, and for barrel cheddar cheese from \$1.1014 to \$1.10. The new prices are the minimums fixed by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill. The prices for bulk butter and nonfortified nonfat dry milk are unchanged at \$1.05 and 80 cents per pound, respectively.

However, the offers for the following products under the price support program were cancelled in the same bulletin: vitamin-fortified and instantized nonfat dry milk, butter in one-pound prints, and process American cheese. Such products had been purchased in the past, at a premium intended to cover the additional processing cost, because they are more useful in domestic feeding programs. The cancellation is related to difficulties in accounting at CCC.

Finally, in a separate rule published on December 4, USDA restricted sellers under the price support program to the manufacturer of the offered product. This limits manufacturers' options for selling and financing price support sales. This was done because "the program is not intended to provide a speculative market for third parties."

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

#### **MMPA Defiance Ohio BTU**

*December 2008*

Amos & Mary Stoll Jr.\*

Terry Norden\*

Steven Schrenk\*

Henricks & Krieger LLC

Locust Breeze Farms LLC

Lawrence & Victor Huener

Scott Norden

Kevin Meller

#### **MMPA Van Erk Dairy LLC Ohio BTU**

*December 2008*

Van Erk Dairy LLC

*\* Scored 100 percent*

## Upcoming Events

### February

5-7 Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference – *Grand Rapids*

*MMPA District Meetings*

### March

16 MMPA State Resolutions Committee – *Lansing*

17 MMPA State Annual Meeting – *Lansing*

18 Ag Day at the Capitol – *Lansing*

27 MMPA Young Cooperator Dairy Leadership Conf. – *Frankenmuth*

## Pediatricians Urge Children to Drink Only Milk or Water Between Meals

A new policy statement issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) encourages consumption of only milk or water between meals for children to help decrease the risk of cavities and ensure good oral health. This further positions dairy's role as part of a healthy diet and reinforces the commitment that dairy producers have to child health.

- The AAP's statement, which was published in the December issue of Pediatrics, also urges parents to:
- Give their children no more than 4 ounces of 100 percent fruit juice per day
- Avoid serving children carbonated beverages and juice drinks
- Encourage eating patterns consistent with the MyPyramid recommendations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

"The recommendation that children should only consume milk and water between meals and limit their juice intake provides further support for parents to encourage their children to drink nutrient-rich low-fat or fat-free milk," said Ann Marie Krauthem, a registered dietitian and senior vice president of nutrition affairs for the National Dairy Council—the nutrition research and education arm of the dairy check-off.

For more information, visit [www.nationaldairycouncil.org](http://www.nationaldairycouncil.org).



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