



*A series of photos show the delivery and installation of a new silo that can hold up to 600,000 pounds of milk.*



*This series of photos shows progress being made on the plant's new boiler room.*

## Ovid Expansion Construction Update

*Editor's note: the Messenger will periodically feature construction updates on our Ovid manufacturing plant expansion project. MMPA will also keep members informed about the construction progress through other written communications, at various meetings and on our Web site at: [www.mimilk.com](http://www.mimilk.com) in the Member Information section.*

Efforts to expand MMPA's Ovid manufacturing plant are well underway and so far, the estimated completion goal of early 2010 is still on track. Mother Nature has cooperated through the summer and fall and construction has steadily progressed since the cooperative broke ground on the project in late June 2008. Some of the initial projects have already been completed.

Three new raw milk silos have already been installed and were operational before the Christmas holiday surge. The new silos replaced smaller and older silos that were no longer practical to repair. Construction cranes removed the old silos and lifted the new silos up 100 feet in the air over the existing plant areas before they were set into place. The new silos increase Ovid's storage capacity by over 600,000 pounds of milk.

The foundation, walls and roof have been completed for the new boiler room, enabling construction to continue in the interior of the space during the winter. We expect to see a new boiler delivered in January or early February. Demolition work will soon be underway as we make room for two new pre-concentrators that will be added to the existing evaporator lines.

Last month, the MMPA Board agreed to increase the expansion project to include a dryer for milk powders. The new dryer will increase Ovid's drying capacity from two million pounds of milk per day to over four million pounds per day. With the right mix of customer sales, the Director of Manufactured Sales and Operations Clay Galarneau expects the completed dryer project to handle just over five million pounds of milk per day.



## MMPA “Busts Barriers”

MMPA was recently awarded Michigan State University Product Center’s “Barrier Buster Award” for its efforts in making the current expansion of the MMPA Ovid manufacturing plant possible. The annual award is given to an individual or company that’s had to overcome significant problems or barriers to start or expand their business.

An abandoned swath of railroad, encompassing not much acreage, but running directly through the property the plant sits on, proved to be a very large and time consuming barrier to Ovid’s current expansion project. Through countless meetings and cooperation with local, county and state governments, as well as special interest groups, led to a win-win situation for all involved: a 41-mile Rails to Trails corridor that will connect 16 local communities in Clinton, Ionia and Shiawassee counties.

Dairy farmers are hard-working and determined, not giving up easily when faced with what may seem like an impossible problem. MMPA members can rest assured knowing the cooperative they own mirrors that determination, particularly when it comes to fulfilling the mission of the cooperative: *“To market our members’ milk to the greatest possible advantage.”*



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