



# News & Views

The latest dairy news

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

### MMPA Flint BTU

March 2009

James Adler\*  
V. Robert & David Varosi\*  
Haubenstricker Dairy Farm LLC\*  
Chester Petzold\*  
Mohr Valley Dairy Farm Inc.\*  
Alfred, Doris & Duane Stuever\*  
RDR Farms\*  
Duane & Barbara Jurn  
Terrance & Helen Wilson  
Krafft Farms LLC  
Steven Boice  
Lee's Dairy Farm LLC  
Goma Dairy Farms LLC  
David Barber  
Richard & Susan Noake  
Siegler Dairy Farm  
Lester, Barbara & Susan Knust

### Organic Valley BTU

March 2009

Toby Yoder\*  
Mervin Hochstetler  
Steven Yoder  
Dennis Yoder

\* Scored 100 percent

## March Class III Price Up \$1.13

The March Class III price is \$10.44, up \$1.13 from February but down \$7.56 from March 2008. The March Class IV is \$9.64, up 19 cents from the prior month but down \$4.53 from last year.

## \$4.6 Million Paid to MMPA Members

Michigan Milk Producers Association made cash payments of \$4.6 million in equity retirements in April. These cash payments represent the retirement of the 2000 Equities. This is in addition to the \$1.7 million in cash patronage from 2008 earnings paid to members earlier this year. Combined, MMPA has paid \$6.3 million in addition to the monthly milk check to its dairy farmer members in the first four months of 2009.

"The continued success of our operations and diverse product mix allow us to make these extra cash payments to our members in the form of equity retirements and cash patronage," says John Dilland, MMPA General Manager. "The early April payment was important to our members to supplement cash flow during this low milk price period."

During the past fiscal year MMPA returned extra cash payments in the form of equity payments, cash patronage refunds and a "13th" check in October. These payments totaled over \$8.9 million or about 24 cents per hundredweight on all the milk produced by MMPA members.

MMPA has achieved these benchmark goals through earnings from the Association's plant operations and from its bulk milk marketing operations.

## Upcoming Events

### June

17-18 4-H Milk Marketing Tour – *Novi*

30 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting – *East Lansing*

### July

7-9 NCFC Washington Conference – *Washington, D.C.*

20-24 Michigan Dairy Expo – *East Lansing*

21-23 Ag Expo – *East Lansing*

## MSU to Offer Series of Cow Camp Clinics in June



Dairy Youth Cow Camp is a series of one-day “summer camp” workshops that will be held at various locations across the state during June to introduce and educate young people about dairy cattle.

Though geared toward 9 to 13 year olds, youth of any age are invited to participate. The only qualification is that participants are interested in learning about dairy cattle and the dairy industry. Participants will be divided into groups and rotate between learning stations where they will be introduced to a variety of topics, including comparing dairy breeds, dairy products, fitting and showmanship, dairy judging, and the basics of dairy animal health. The event ends with a game of “Moo Olympics” and an ice cream social.

The \$10 per participant registration fee includes activities, lunch, t-shirt and is due June 1. Space is limited, so register early! To register, send your name, address, telephone number, age and t-shirt size to: Dairy Youth Programs, 1287 Anthony Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., 48824. Registration

costs \$10 per person, checks can be made payable to Michigan State University. A complete registration form may be obtained on the Web at: <http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/events.html>

Each program begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m.

### Cow Camp Locations & Dates

**June 9 {Tuesday}** - Tuscola County Fairgrounds, 362 Green Street, Caro

**June 10 {Wednesday}** - Isabella County Fairgrounds, 500 N. Mission Rd., Mt. Pleasant

**June 13 {Saturday}** - U.P. State Fairgrounds, 2401 - 12th Avenue North, Escanaba

**June 15 {Monday}** - Calhoun County Fairgrounds, 720 Fair Street, Marshall

**June 16 {Tuesday}** - Kent County Fairgrounds, 225 S. Hudson Street, Lowell

## In Congressional Testimony, IDairy Urges Action to Implement Mandatory Animal ID

At a Congressional hearing on March 11, the dairy industry renewed calls for a mandatory National Animal Identification System (NAIS) to serve as a collective insurance policy in the event of an animal disease emergency.

Dairy producer Karen Jordan, DVM, from Siler City, North Carolina, testified that the dairy industry “collectively believes that our industry will be best served when all dairy operations, and ultimately, all dairy cows, are identified in a national central database.”

Jordan serves as chairperson of NMPF’s Animal Health & Welfare Committee.

Since 2005, IDairy has worked to make NAIS a reality for the dairy industry. Today, nearly 75 percent of dairy producers participate in NAIS by having their

premises registered. In many states, including *Michigan, Wisconsin, Idaho, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Utah, Nevada, and South Carolina*, more than 90 percent of their dairy producers have participated in premises registration. However, until animal ID becomes mandatory, obtaining the last 25 percent participation will be difficult.

While USDA has pursued a voluntary NAIS program for nearly a decade, the dairy industry has been a prominent supporter of mandatory animal ID. In an animal disease emergency, Jordan said, “the system is only as strong as its weakest link. Now is the time for Congress and USDA to work together to make mandatory animal ID a reality.”

### Quality Watch - *Continued from page 6*

some of the services it provides to it members. Our goal is to provide our members with effective tools to maintain or improve milk quality in a cost effective manner. We are currently looking into how we can assist our members with on-farm culturing as well as how we can better serve our members in our Novi culture lab. We think this can be a good tool for managing mastitis. Additionally, we are developing an on-farm pasteurizer monitoring program that we hope to have available to our members by this summer. Feel free to call me at 989-289-9251 or e-mail me at [letter@mimilk.com](mailto:letter@mimilk.com) to provide constructive input toward MMPA’s services.