



News & Views

The latest dairy news

August Class III Price Up \$1.23 from July

The August Class III price is \$11.20, up \$1.23 from July. The August Class IV price is \$10.38, up 23 cents from July. Both prices are the highest so far this year.

CWT Concludes Herd Retirement in September

As CWT wrapped up its third herd retirement conducted in the last nine months and the second-largest herd retirement ever, the program was on-target to have the removal of cows completed by the end of September.

The current herd retirement round accepted 86,710 cows and 1.8 billion pounds of milk. When combined with the previous two herd retirements, CWT's actions will result in approximately 400 million fewer pounds of milk a month going to market this fall.

"These two summer 2009 herd retirements, combined with the USDA's recent price support increases, should result in very positive movement in dairy farmers' milk prices," said Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of NMPF, which administers CWT.

For more information about CWT, please visit www.cwt.coop.

NMPF Insists that Dairy Products Remain Part of a Healthy Diet

In ongoing efforts to ensure that healthy nutritious dairy products are included in all diets, NMPF recently commented on two efforts that could affect recommended dairy product use in diets.

In a letter to the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake, NMPF cautioned the use of blanket recommendations that could have a negative impact on the nutritional composition of a person's diet without addressing the nutrient, caloric, and sodium content of the diet in a moderate and achievable manner that will be the most effective in ensuring the public health.

In a joint letter with the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) to the Center for Disease Control on the report "Recommended Community Strategies and Measurements to Prevent Obesity in the U.S.," which recommends banning flavored sweetened milk from licensed child care facilities, NMPF expressed concern that the report does not consider the science that supports the positive role of milk, including flavored milk, in child health and nutrition or the science-based statements of multiple health and government authorities.



Upcoming Events

November

- 10-12 NMPF/UDIA/NDB Joint Annual Meeting – Grapevine, Texas
- 23 MMPA Leaders' Conference – East Lansing

State Fair Livestock Auction Raises Money for Scholarship Fund

Top bids were received for prize livestock raised by 4-H and FFA members during the annual Youth Livestock Auction on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit. The 2009 youth auction gross sales were over \$69,000.

Meijer, Inc. was the top purchaser—spending over \$16,000 to purchase six lots. Binson Hospital Supplies also purchased six lots totaling \$9,850.

Since 2000, the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund has granted more than \$260,000 in educational awards and scholarships. The 2009 scholarship winners of \$1,500 are Shanna Acker of Middleton; Aaron Balowski of Coldwater; Justin Kennedy of Nashville; Ryan Smoes of Hamilton and Patricia Vaassen of Ann Arbor.

The United Dairy Industry of Michigan purchased the Grand Champion butter and milk; and the Grand Champion cheese was purchased by the Michigan Milk Producers Association.

MMPA's Constantine plant took top honors again this year in the butter category at the Michigan State Fair.



MMPA Constantine's Grand Champion Butter sold for \$700 to the United Dairy Industry of Michigan during the Michigan State Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Don Koivisto (pictured at right), helped with the sale. Also pictured (l-r): MMPA General Manager John Dillard, MMPA Constantine butter churn operator Matt Zietlow, and UDIM Director of Marketing Resources Mitch Smith.

Sand-Manure Separation System Open House at Nobis Dairy Farm, October 21, 2009

Sand-laden dairy manure can be handled with trouble-free, environmentally friendly, and cost saving systems. This will be the theme of an open house at the Nobis Dairy Farm in St. Johns on October 21 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The open house will feature a complete quarry-duty sand-manure separation system that captures 95 percent of the bedding sand for reuse in less than one week after separation. The system also produces separated manure solids that can be more economically transported and applied that to distant fields. Manure liquids, now mostly free of sand and solids, are then irrigated.

MMPA members Larry and Ken Nobis will be recognized for their steadfast determination to solve the challenges associated with handling and storing sand-laden dairy manure. In the early 1990s, Larry and Ken were the first to identify the potential of industrial sand washing equipment for separating bedding sand from manure—a system since commercialized by McLanahan Corporation of Hollidaysburg, PA.

The open house will also recognize Dr. Bill Bickert upon his retirement from Michigan State University for

his contribution to Michigan's dairy industry. Over the span of his career, Dr. Bickert's achievements involve advances in all aspects of

dairy production systems, such as automated milking systems, freestall housing, and young stock housing. More recently, he worked to develop integrated manure systems that included sand-manure separation systems. Dr. Bickert retired in 2007 after 45 years of service with MSU's Department of Agricultural Engineering.

The Nobis Dairy Farm at 5813 West Walker Road, is located west of St. Johns, MI. Take M-21 three miles west of St. Johns and turn north on Lowell Road. Go one mile and turn east on West Walker Road. The dairy is to the south after turning on West Walker Road. For additional information, contact Renee Schrift or Andrew Wedel at 814-695-9807.

