



News & Views

The latest dairy news

June Class III Price Up 24 Cents

The June Class III price is \$13.62, up 24 cents from May and up \$3.65 from last year. The June Class IV is \$15.45, up 16 cents and up \$5.22 from last year. This is the highest Class IV price since August 2008.

Michigan Hosts NMC Regional Meeting in September

This year's NMC 2010 Regional Meeting will be held September 8-9 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Specialized short courses and workshops will be offered on the first day (Wednesday, September 8), followed by the main program on Thursday, September 9.

The conference will focus on practical mastitis control and milk quality information, ranging from on-farm application tips to discussions on milk quality and animal welfare as it relates to consumers.

Representatives from all segments of the dairy industry, including producers, veterinarians, consultants, equipment and pharmaceutical suppliers, dairy plant field staff, extension educators and specialists, and students, are encouraged to attend. For more

CWT Accepts 194 Bids Representing 34,000 Cows, 654 Million Pounds of Milk in 10th Herd Retirement

Cooperatives Working Together announced on July 7 that it had tentatively accepted 194 bids its latest herd retirement, representing 34,442 cows and 653,893,409 million pounds of milk. Farmers submitted a total of 209 herd retirement bids to CWT.

CWT's three herd retirements last year were the primary reason why U.S. cow numbers dropped steeply in 2009, "but cow numbers have leveled off since the end of the year," said Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of NMPF, which administers CWT. "This latest herd retirement will push cow numbers lower still, which is what our industry needs to better align supply and demand."

During July, CWT farm auditors visited the farms whose bids were accepted, checking their milk production records, counting cows, and then tagging each cow for processing. All farmers were notified by July 30 as to whether their bid was among those accepted in this herd retirement round, the tenth that CWT has conducted since 2003.

Once CWT auditors approve the herds accepted during the bid process, farmers had 15 days in which to send their animals to a processing plant. CWT will again provide each farmer the NMPF animal handling guidelines for the proper culling and transporting of dairy cattle, Kozak said.

Producers whose bids are accepted in this herd retirement will be paid in two installments: 90 percent of the amount bid times the producer's 12 months of milk production when it is verified that that all cows have gone to slaughter, and the remaining 10 percent plus interest at the end of 12 months following the farm audit, if both the producer and his dairy facility — whether owned or leased — do not become involved in the commercial production and marketing of milk during that period.

In CWT's three herd retirements conducted in 2009, the program removed a total of 200,000 cows and four billion pounds of milk. Details of past herd retirements can be found here: <http://www.cwt.coop/sites/default/files/pdf/past-herd-retirements-060210.pdf>.

Upcoming Events

August

18-19 MMPA OYDC Conference – *Novi*

September

8-9 NMC Regional Meeting – *Grand Rapids*

29 MMPA Advisory Committee Meeting – *Novi*

MSU Extension's Statewide Transition

Every successful organization routinely asks whether what they're doing is working and working well.

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) is no different. On July 1, MSUE transitioned to a new structure that emphasizes responsiveness and focuses on important issues facing the state.

"Meeting the needs of those in our state through the expertise of MSU and doing so as efficiently as possible is what MSU Extension is all about," said Tom Coon, MSUE director.

The MSUE redesign is meant to capitalize on the expertise that can be offered to the community through Extension's network of educators and specialists and our relationships with local partners, Coon said.

Late in 2008, MSUE started a process to examine its work and how it can focus its resources to better serve the state's residents. The findings of that process, which included more specialized educators in the field, better connections between field staff and campus researchers and a desire to leverage technology to maximize effectiveness, were shared with several audiences around the state.

"The result is a structure that ensures that MSU Extension will remain responsive to Michigan's needs and apply research-based education to contribute to a brighter future for all of Michigan residents," Coon said.

MSU Extension is guided by the following principles:

- Focused and specialized programs
- Reduced administrative overhead
- Increased responsiveness
- Enhanced accountability
- Continued presence across the state
- Adoption of emerging technologies

In that vein, Coon said, MSU Extension programming will focus on four statewide program areas, each represented by an institute. Those areas are Greening Michigan: Leveraging Natural and Human Assets for Prosperity, Enhancing Michigan's First Green Industry: Agriculture and Agribusiness, Preparing Michigan's Children and Youth for the Future, and Improving the Health and Nutrition of Michigan residents.

"These are areas where we know we can make a difference. They align with our expertise and with the needs and opportunities that are appropriate for a land-grant university, like Michigan State University, to address," Coon said.

Institute directors have been named and officially began July 1, however, most have been working toward the transition. They include:

- **Rick Foster** *Greening Michigan*
- **Wendy Powers** *Agriculture and Agribusiness*
- **Julie Chapin** *Preparing Children and Youth for the Future*
- **Dawn Contreras** *Improving Health and Nutrition*

MSU Extension staff members, housed in county offices, are now organized into thirteen multi-county districts, each overseen by a district coordinator. MSU Extension will also consolidate budget and personnel functions in one, on-campus business office for the entire organization.

Extension leadership has been meeting around the state with county commissioners to discuss their ideas and to seek their suggestions on how these changes can help meet needs of residents at the county level.

"We'll continue to offer the services that the people of Michigan have come to rely on," Coon said. Our transition will take place over the next year. At the same time, we remain steadfast to the goal of serving Michigan's needs."

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