



# Quality Watch

By Gary Trimmer

Director of Member Services/Quality Control

## Looking Ahead to 2010

The year 2010 will likely bring much needed price relief to our members. In addition to the improved milk prices, below is a summary of other issues that MMPA's Member Services Department will be bringing to our members.

### Michigan Department of Agriculture Budget Issues

There will be significant pressure to reduce the Michigan Department of Agriculture budget. We will be working hard to maintain the current Food and Dairy funding level. As you know, permit fees will be increased as a result of the 2009 budget. I will provide more information about the permit increases for the 2009 budget when they are finalized in the first quarter of 2010.

### Animal Care

We will be working with National Milk Producers Federation to provide training to MMPA Member Representatives on the National Dairy FARM Program (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management). Once training is complete, sometime after April 1, we will begin the process of delivering the animal care guidelines and assisting our members in completing the program. This is a voluntary program and those that complete the animal care guidelines can request third party audit verification. Details on covering the cost of the verification have not yet been determined. We will report on that when the process is finalized.

It is important to note that MMPA customers have shown interest in MMPA's animal care program.

### Milking Systems Performance Assurance Program

MMPA Member Representatives will be engaged in continuous training in the Milking Systems Performance Assurance Program (MSPAP). We will be expanding the MSPAP as we receive additional requests from our members. We currently have sufficient trained personnel to extend the program to our entire membership. The program establishes a routine scheduled evaluation of the milking systems for a fee. Members interested in MSPAP should notify their member representative or the Novi office.

### Air Quality

We have not received the final results of the Carbon Footprint survey that many members participated in this past year. When the results become available we will provide the information. There continues to be substantial pressure from Washington D.C. to reduce the national overall carbon footprint. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will require entities with greenhouse gas emissions of 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent to report their emissions. This would require dairy herds of 3,200 or more dairy animals to report emissions. That reporting has been delayed until 2011.

### Energy Conservation

MMPA has several farm energy audits in process. In addition, we currently have a list of 41 members who have requested an energy audit. We have received several inquiries from our finished product customers concerning what MMPA and our members are doing to be "sustainable," and the energy audit program falls into that category. MMPA is committed to continuing and expanding our audit program, so that we may assist members in conserving energy and saving money. We are working through the Michigan Ag Energy Council and the utility companies to take advantage of any energy savings credits offered to our members.

### Environmental Issues

There is increased pressure from Washington D.C. to further regulate animal feeding operations. Currently, all dairy farms with 700 or more dairy cows must be permitted. The CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) permits are being rewritten in most states as a result of the final ruling of the "Waterkeepers" lawsuit. Michigan will issue new CAFO permits this year. MMPA has been involved with other stakeholders in the development of the new permits and will continue to be engaged in environmental regulation discussions affecting dairy farms. When the permits are finalized, we will provide more information at members' request.

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**Owosso Local  
Silver**

Reed Dairy Farm  
Ritter Farms LLC  
Jason Szakal

**Bronze**

David Sovis

**Saline-Ann Arbor  
Local  
Silver**

Breuninger Farms LLC  
Gene and Gary Girbach  
Stanley and Patricia  
Lambarth

**Bronze**

Horning Farms LLC  
Huehl Acres  
Edward Keezer  
Leo Bur Farms  
Brian D. Sweetland

**Sandusky Local  
Silver**

Fred & Candice Inbody

**Bronze**

Roger Markey

**Southern Sanilac  
Local  
Silver**

Noll Dairy Farm Inc.  
John Nunn  
John and Jill Welter

**St. Clair - Macomb  
Local  
Silver**

Lester, Barbara & Susan  
Knust\*  
**Bronze**  
Huron-Clinton  
Metropolitan Authority

**Sunrise Local  
Gold**

Victor Daniels & Sons  
**Silver**  
Clemens Dairy Farm Inc.  
**Bronze**  
Anschuetz Dairy Farm  
Jeremy & Deseriee Beebe  
Bennett Farms  
Derek Brewer  
Cedar Lane Dairy Farms  
Circle K Farms Inc.  
Gallagher Dairy Farm  
Inc.

Joseph E. Kauffman  
Lemajru Dairy Farm  
Poirier Farms  
Salgat Farms LLC  
W-R-L Daniels Farm

**Upstate Local  
Silver**

Denis L. Garvin  
**Bronze**  
Dean and Victoria  
Edgecomb\*\*\*  
Richard J. Fettig  
Marvin J. Rubingh  
Rosendo Oviedo\*  
Clarence A. Stachnik Jr.  
Charles Wm. & Charles  
W. Stanek

**West Huron Local  
Bronze**

Delcath Farms  
Timothy & Debra  
Kubacki  
Darrin Lutz Farms Inc.  
John C. Richmond &  
Sons Dairy Farm  
Starward Farm  
Michael W. Zagata

**West Michigan Local  
Silver**

Wayne Dekleine  
John and Philip Kuyers\*  
Steven and Mary  
Nienhuis  
Arlyn J. Walt\*

**Bronze**

Alfen Dairy Farms Inc.  
Daybreak Dairy  
William & Robert  
Gruppen  
Heritage Farms LLC  
Melridge Farms  
Al Ott Farm LLC  
David and Bertus Pyle  
Dennis Raterink  
Norman Ter Haar  
Delwyn Wedeven  
Dale Welch  
Woodbridge Dairy Farm

**Western U.P. Local  
Bronze**

Iho Farms  
Jacob and Elaine  
Jahfetson & Family

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Keep in mind that environmental regulations apply to all animal feeding operations, not just CAFOs. The penalty for having a discharge is the same no matter what size an operation is.

MMPA will continue to distribute and review the Livestock\*A\*Syst with our members. A scoring system based upon level of environmental protection is being developed for

the Livestock\*A\*Syst. The new scoring system can be used to establish a baseline for a farm and as improvements are made, the farm will be able to be rescored again to measure progress after improvements are made. Once the farm reaches 100 percent, the farm can be verified under the MAEAP Livestock System.

MMPA will provide ongoing training to all member

representatives to keep them up to date on the services MMPA offers. Our newer member representatives will be provided intensive training on a monthly basis in all areas.

All of us in MMPA's Member Services Department wish our members a very happy and prosperous 2010!

