

by Dean Letter  
Director, Member Services



# Changes Slated for MMPA Quality Premium Program

For the past couple of years, MMPA members needed to comply with the European Union Somatic Cell requirement of 400,000 cells/mL at the farm level.

While this requirement is more stringent than the Grade A legal limit of 750,000, MMPA members comply with the requirement very well.

For a number of MMPA customers, the somatic cell count continues to be viewed as a key milk quality indicator. Some require a lower SCC than the European Union. In order for MMPA to generate the greatest return to its membership, it is important for MMPA member milk to be of sufficient quality to meet the requirements of the intended market.

SCC (cells/mL)	Premium
50,000 or below	+55¢/cwt.
51,000-75,000	+50¢/cwt.
76,000-100,000	+45¢/cwt.
101,000-125,000	+40¢/cwt.
126,000-150,000	+35¢/cwt.
151,000-175,000	+30¢/cwt.
176,000-200,000	+25¢/cwt.
201,000-225,000	+20¢/cwt.
226,000-250,000	+15¢/cwt.
251,000-300,000	+00¢/cwt.
301,000-400,000	- 30¢/cwt.
401,000-500,000	-\$1.00/cwt.
501,000-600,000	-\$1.50/cwt.
601,000 and greater	-\$2.00/cwt.

The MMPA board of directors recently approved changes to the SCC premium program, (see highlighted sections on chart). The changes provide a disincentive to members with elevated SCC levels. The change will take effect with January 2014 milk production and will be reflected on the February 17 milk check.

Members that may be adversely affected by this change are encouraged to work with their herd veterinarian and member representative to develop a mastitis management plan to reduce their SCC.

## Calf Care Schools Coming This Winter

Member enrollment in the National Dairy FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) Program continues to grow. The goals and objectives of the FARM Program are to bolster consumer trust and confidence in the U.S. dairy industry and demonstrate the industry's commitment to the highest levels of animal care and quality assurance. This is achieved by MMPA member representatives conducting on-farm evaluations of animal care followed by third-party verification on a statistically significant sample of the enrolled farms.

To assist our members in staying current on animal care practices, MMPA and Land O'Lakes Animal Milk Products Co. (LOL AMP) are planning calf care schools for December and January. Information will be sent to members once the plans are finalized.

The National Dairy FARM Program recommends farms document all employee training for new and existing employees on an annual basis. The MMPA/LOL AMP calf care school will help fulfill this recommendation in this area of animal care. The meeting will be classroom style with enrollment limited to 25, so reserve your spot early.

The winter meetings will cover the following items and will also provide input to develop or modify standard operation procedures (SOPs) for calf care.

- Feeding and managing colostrum or colostrum replacer
- Maintaining biosecurity with the newborn calf (dipping navels, separating from the dam, etc.)
- Enhancing calf nutrition until weaned to stimulate rumen development
- Practicing proper water management to maintain proper hydration
- Discussing and reviewing vaccinations for common calfhood diseases
- Maintaining animal identification and animal health records
- Meeting calf housing, bedding and space requirements
- Providing for calves during extreme temperatures

Please contact Marianne Gasiewski at the Novi office if you are interested in attending a calf training care school. She can be contacted at 800-572-5824 ext. 215.