

# FARM SHINE

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April 5, 2024

## 'Bird flu' detected in 13 dairy herds

By SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cows -- HPAI A(H5N1) -- have expanded to 13 herds in six states as of Wednesday, April 3: Texas (7), Kansas (2), Michigan (1), New Mexico (1), Idaho (1), and Ohio (1).

USDA's APHIS will post daily updates by 4 p.m. ET at the new landing page <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock>

In addition, the CDC reported on April 1 that a worker on a Texas Panhandle dairy, where HPAI was detected, has tested positive with mild flu symptoms, mainly conjunctivitis (pinkeye), and has recovered.

According to the CDC, their "human health risk assessment for the general public remains low. There continues to be no concern that this circumstance poses a risk to consumer health, or that it affects the safety of the commercial milk supply because products are pasteurized before entering the market," and milk from infected animals is to be discarded.

New detections of the virus have not changed the primary belief that HPAI A(H5N1) is 'seeded' by migratory wild birds (emphasis on waterfowl and by association, cullures).

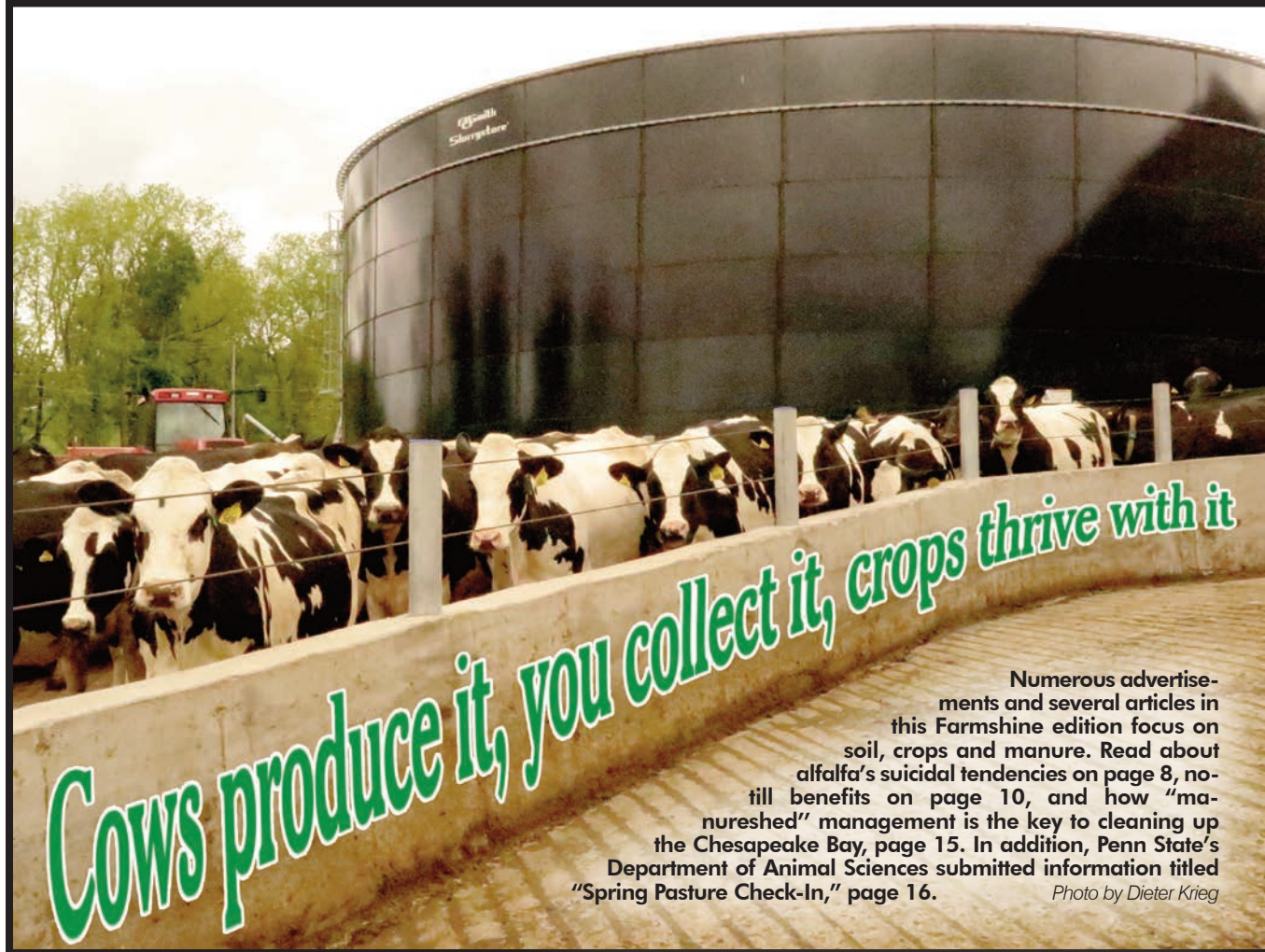
### Cow-to-cow transmission questioned

Complicating the question of potential cow-to-cow transmission, it was reported that the two confirmed herds in Idaho and Michigan had recently received cattle from other states where HPAI A(H5N1) was detected.

APHIS officials stated on March 29 that, "Spread of symptoms among the Michigan herd also indicates that HPAI transmission between cattle cannot be ruled out; USDA and partners continue to monitor this closely and have advised veterinarians and producers to practice good biosecurity."

During the April 3 Center for Dairy Excellence (CDE) industry call attended virtually by 189 people -- the first such call to occur weekly on Wednesdays at noon -- the Pennsylvania State Veterinarian Dr. Alex Hamberg was asked: How is it being transferred?

Just minutes before the call, he had received word that a western Ohio dairy herd had tested positive, which he said "is a little



Numerous advertisements and several articles in this Farmshine edition focus on soil, crops and manure. Read about alfalfa's suicidal tendencies on page 8, no-till benefits on page 10, and how "manureshed" management is the key to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, page 15. In addition, Penn State's Department of Animal Sciences submitted information titled "Spring Pasture Check-In," page 16.

Photo by Dieter Krieg

too close for comfort."

Still, his overall calm and practical demeanor comes from having dealt with Pennsylvania's poultry industry that is well-acquainted with avian influenza at times through history since the early 1990s, and most recently in 2022-23.

"We're operating under the bird-to-cow, largely waterfowl, migrating ducks and geese, and focusing on using biosecurity measures to keep them away from cattle," said Dr. Hamberg. "They excrete virus in large amounts."

He talked about the poultry farm pattern in Pennsylvania in 2022-23, which also suggests wild bird to farm transmission vs. farm-to-farm spread.

"There is some evidence that could suggest this could be cattle-to-cattle, but this would be novel and relatively new to the world," said Hamberg, airing his doubts. "As we build a better picture of what it looks like and how it moves through a population, we

can do more to protect our cattle. Either way, brush up your biosecurity plans."

On transfer to people, Hamberg said: "What we know with this virus -- as seen in birds -- it can infect people, but rarely. Several dozen have been infected worldwide (over time), but what we don't see is person-to-person transmission or concern for consumers."

He noted that the Texas dairy employee confirmed positive this week makes two farm workers in history: "one from cattle and one from poultry."

### Wild waterfowl still the focus

The investigation so far has looked at a wide variety of data and didn't find any common links, other than wild migratory waterfowl, he said, and it's the same strain of the virus in these waterfowl in the Pacific and Central Flyways.

He also noted that the poultry industry's experience has been that songbirds and starlings "are not effective transmitters. We're focused on waterfowl."

### Dr. Hamberg advised:

- 1) Keep a close eye on your cattle,
- 2) Ramp up your biosecurity,
- 3) Keep wild waterfowl away from ponds and standing water,
- 4) Keep cattle fenced off from water where wild waterfowl congregate,
- 5) Keep outdoor waterers clean and free of wild waterfowl,
- 6) Clean up roadkill; manage mortalities.

Penn State extension veterinarian Dr. Hayley Springer also mentioned roping off areas where wild bird feces proliferate to keep tractors from running through it between feed commodities and barn entry.

"There is no definitive evidence that this can move from cow to farm birds or vice versa, but still work on biosecurity to keep those populations separate on the farm," said Hamberg. "If we get a case in cattle in Pennsylvania, we would quarantine that farm, with a minimum set of standards to ensure

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## 'Toast to Dairy' tickets discounted; purchase by May 1

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Dairy Excellence Foundation will host its annual farm-to-fork celebration, "A Toast to Dairy," on Thursday, June 13, from 6-9 p.m. at Melhorn Manor in Mount Joy, Lancaster County. The event includes meal stations sourced with Pennsylvania Preferred ingredients, a selection of artisan cheeses, and locally crafted wines, brews and ciders. Individuals who purchase tickets by May 1 will receive an early-bird discount with \$10 off each ticket.

The event will also include raffles, live music, a caricature artist, an outdoor courtyard, and opportunities to network with individuals from the dairy community and beyond.

"A Toast to Dairy" benefits the next generation of dairy and supports the scholarships, internships and curriculum our Foundation provides to agriculture students and educators across the state," said Emily Barge, communications and marketing manager at the Dairy Excellence Foundation. "We'll have some new businesses and faces at the event this year — many with strong roots in dairy farming and local agriculture — and a lot of delicious food stations. We hope to see you there."

Approximately 300 people attended the event last year and helped support the Foundation's efforts to expose students of all ages to agriculture and dairy farming.

- Cost: \$85 per person. Individuals who purchase tickets by May 1 will receive \$10 off each ticket. Additional discounts are available for group purchases of eight or more tickets.

- How to purchase tickets: Visit [centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy](http://centerfordairyexcellence.org/toasttodairy) or call the Foundation at 717-346-0849.

"This is one of the 'must attend' events of the year, and it supports a great cause. It's a great event to meet with other folks that have similar interests in supporting our agricultural community, and specifically, the Dairy Excellence Foundation. It's a very enjoyable evening with great activities. Of course, the food is excellent as well," said Frank Campbell who regularly attends the event.

All proceeds from the event will support the scholarships, internships and curriculum provided through the Dairy Excellence Foundation. Those who are unable to attend the event can still support the Foundation at [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/donate](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/donate).

To sponsor the event, email Jayne Sebright at [jsebright@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:jsebright@centerfordairyexcellence.org) or call 717-346-0849.

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## Bird flu \_\_\_\_\_ from page 1

movement on and off farm does not cause increased risk to other farms in the community.”

For example, a quarantine may mean milk off farm might be permitted to go to a specific plant following specific biosecurity restrictions such as last stop on a run for the milk truck or feed truck – things of that nature. A quarantine would permit milk off the farm only for pasteurization. Such permits would be case by case IF a dairy herd in Pennsylvania would have detected HPAI A(H5N1).

Bottomline, said Hamberg, this virus deemed to be affecting cows is “remarkably unremarkable, and there is no evidence that it has become mammalian-adaptive,” he said. “Usually when we see spillover events, the transmission between animals tends to be very poor. There is no specific mutation identified in this strain to be mammalian adapted, and it is still unclear what that looks like going forward.”

Hamberg said department guidelines for cattle movement and biosecurity would be forthcoming for Pennsylvania and to find them at the [www.centerfordairyexcellence.com](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.com) website along with other resources, including advice from Dr. Hayley Springer, who gave practical tips for minimizing waterfowl risk on dairy farms.

Two days earlier, in the April 1 webinar put on by NMPF and attended virtually by around 1000 people, veterinarians noted that while HPAI is believed to be introduced by migratory wild birds, veterinarians do not yet understand the mode by which it entered dairy cattle systems for the first time in history, nor do they know how it may or may not be transferred between cows.

### Looking for multiple 'pathways'

It's important to note that veterinarians are operating off the premise that they want to understand the entirety of the situation to be sure other pathways are not involved in the underlying illness in dairy cows causing decreased lactation, low appetite, and other

clinical signs. Toward that end, federal and state agencies continue to conduct additional testing in swabs from sick animals and in unpasteurized clinical milk samples from sick animals, as well as viral genome sequencing, to assess whether HPAI or another unrelated disease may be underlying any symptoms.

Dr. Mark Lyons, National Incident Health Coordination Director at USDA's Ruminant Health Center, noted on the NMPF webinar that while HPAI A(H5N1) has been detected through the sampling, he suggested that it might not be the only disease or factor at play.

“I don't think we have a clear picture to say that HPAI is causing the illness we're seeing displayed in these cattle. I think there's still a chance that we might be seeing multiple different pathways playing out,” said Lyons, adding that additional sampling needs to be done with the expertise of producers, industry persons, and veterinarians.

Because lateral transmission has been recognized, but the mode of transmission is unknown, biosecurity measures are the most proactive approach producers and industry personnel should be focusing on to protect herds, said Lyons.

When asked if the disease is being found in non-lactating animals, Lyons said that he was unsure of how much testing, if any, had been done on non-lactating cattle because it has been lactating animals that have exhibited clinical signs.

### On movement and biosecurity

While Dr. Lyons said USDA has no plans to ban or restrict cattle movement at this time, it is recommended to limit movements as much as possible and to test any animals destined for movement to be sure they are clear of HPAI at the time of movement. Animals moved should be quarantined.

USDA and its partners are now advising veterinarians and producers to:

- 1) Practice good biosecurity,
- 2) Test animals before necessary movements,
- 3) Minimize animal movements, and
- 4) Isolate sick (and new) cattle from the herd.

In the NMPF webinar, veterinarians said

the focus of biosecurity should be protecting the dairy, preventing exposure to cattle and calves, and precautions for caretakers and veterinarians, including:

- 1) Manage birds and wildlife on the dairy,
- 2) Delay or stop movement of animals,
- 3) Quarantine animals for 21 days because the incubation period is unknown,
- 4) Clean and disinfect trailers and equipment,
- 5) Delay or stop non-essential visitors,
- 6) Those who do come into the operation should wash hands, change clothes, clean boots, or use disposable boots,
- 7) Any equipment coming onto the farm should be disinfected before entering,
- 8) In “abundance of caution”, on farms where HPAI A(H5N1) has been confirmed or is suspected, milk intended to be fed to calves or other livestock (including pets) should be pasteurized or otherwise heat-treated,
- 9) The recommendation for caretakers and veterinarians working with confirmed or suspected animals is to wear gloves, N95 masks, eye protection and monitor themselves for respiratory or flu-like symptoms.

When asked about the safety of infected cows destined to be culled, Dr. Lyons said cows exhibiting signs should not be sent to slaughter. He noted that, “in an abundance of caution,” milk samples should be used to screen animals from affected herds before moving a cow to slaughter, whether or not signs are being shown.

With the strength of the federal meat inspection process, “we have no reason to believe the meat would be unsafe, and we have not found any virus presence in meat tissue. But, out of extreme caution, we want to do testing or limits. There are already parameters and buffers in place not to send sick animals into the slaughter system,” said Lyons.

### Experiences on affected dairies

APHIS reports that affected animals have recovered after isolation with little to no associated mortality reported.

Dr. Brandon Treichler, quality control veterinarian for Select Milk Producers has witnessed infected herds and has been in

contact with others dealing with the disease firsthand. He shared the signs and symptoms of what they have experienced.

Initial signs are consistent among all the herds. Farms that have the monitoring capability to test conductivity in overall milk will see a spike because of the immune response occurring, he said.

Initially cows rapidly go off feed, stop ruminating or stop showing signs of chewing their cud, and their milk production is suddenly gone, he explained, noting that what milk they do have is thick and resembles colostrum. Not all four quarters are always affected this way, which is a curious finding in how the disease presents.

Other symptoms vary. Some cows have firm, “tacky” manure, which could be a secondary issue from dehydration or cows not being able to regulate fluid. Other cows exhibit systems of diarrhea. Various respiratory symptoms have been reported with the most common being clear nasal discharge and increased respiratory rate. Fevers have been reported in some herds while others have not.

Secondary infections are also coming in behind the original HPAI A(H5N1), perhaps accounting for variability in reported symptoms.

Most severe cases are shown in older and mid-lactation cows, with some severe cases happening in first lactation or in fresh cows. There has been very little evidence of it impacting dry cows or young stock.

“That's not to say they aren't being affected, but the most obvious signs are decreased rumination and loss of milk production, so the signs might not be observed in non-lactating animals,” said Treichler.

This could also be why it doesn't seem to be affecting beef animals whether cow/calf or feedlot. “It's not to say they aren't being affected at all, but it's hard to see these severe cases in these (non-lactating) groups,” he said.

“When people are talking about the 10-20% of the herd involved they're talking about these severe cases. My personal clinical impression is that much of the lactating herd

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# Farmshine Editorials

By Dieter Krieg  
Farmshine Editor



*“To love what you do and feel that it matters - how could anything be more fun?”*  
- Katharine Graham

## When you grow up with cows, you grow up with more

Does anyone have statistics about what percentage of “farm kids” stay on the farm? Many of them leave we know, as I did 50 years ago this month. Ironically, I left in order to find an opportunity to farm on my own.

God truly had other ideas. Needless to say, He knew me better than I did.

So did my quickly-found new employer, to whom I was a complete stranger. But, nevertheless a farm kid. And farm kids — whether they stick around the cows or not — have a pretty good reputation as reliable workers. Indeed, when you grow up with cows, you grow up with more.

Back to that desire to farm on my own: I had a most unusual idea in mind to find the perfect opportunity. Here’s how:

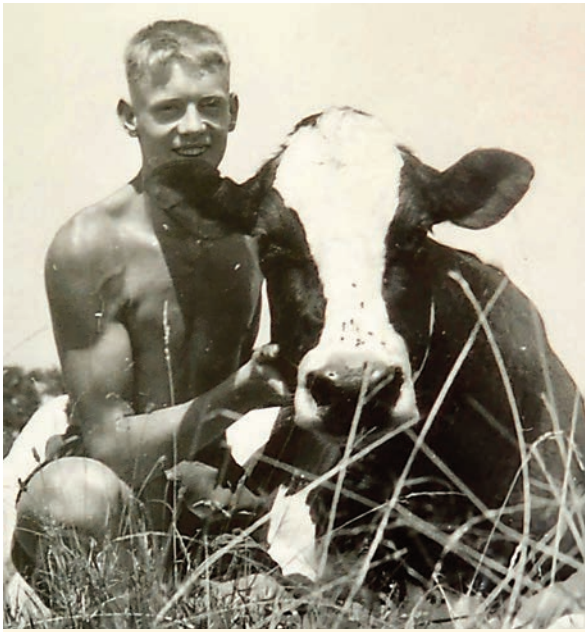
I applied for a job as a farm editor through a state-wide newspaper organization based in Harrisburg, Pa.

Farm editor? How does that make sense to find an opportunity to work with cows? It actually made perfect sense to me.

You see, as a farm editor you get to attend all sorts of farm meetings, shows and other events. What a great way to meet that retirement-minded dairyman who’s looking for a younger fellow to join his operation.

I have no doubt at all in hindsight, that I would have been more successful finding such an opportunity had I made my ambitions directly known via a dairy or breed publication. As it turned out, I received just one call in response to my “ad”.

One is all you need. Right?



Self-portrait of Dieter and his first Registered Holstein, Benbrook Admiral Pride.

The phone rang one afternoon as I was making my way from the milk house to the cow stable with a bucket milker in each hand. Back in those days you could answer the phone every time. No sales calls; no robo-calls. No waste-of-time calls.

So, I put the milking machines down and lifted the receiver from the wall-mounted phone.

I heard a woman’s voice, asking for me and explaining who she was and why she was calling.

Honestly, it took me a while to “catch up” because it had been a while since I had placed that “ad” and never expected anyone to respond to it anyway. I’m lucky she didn’t hang up, thinking “this kid has been milking cows for too long.”

The woman, a Mrs. Hesel, if I remember correctly, was the secretary for Mr. J.E. Holtzinger, owner of the *Altoona Mirror* in Altoona, Pa. and the *Pennsylvania Mirror* in State College, Pa. He was looking for a farm editor for the latter.

Oh boy! I quietly sighed to myself, hoping that Mrs. Hesel hadn’t heard it. What had I gotten myself into? My one and only qualification for the job was that I liked to write. Or so I thought.

Nevertheless, an interview was scheduled and I met with J.E. Holtzinger face-to-face in his corner office that was dominated by an impressively large conference table. We talked all afternoon and then some more over dinner at his home.

I was offered the job as farm editor. Now all I had to do was wait for that retirement-minded dairy farmer to attend a meeting that I would be reporting on.

I never met that farmer.

I was introduced instead to a new career which included meeting many of the very best farmers / dairy farmers in the state. It was absolutely love at first sight and I still love it. Why else would I still be doing this at age 79?

Seriously, being a writer and farm editor was never my long-term intention when I left the farm. It was not my plan; it was God’s plan. As noted earlier, He knows me better than I ever will. Without me even realizing it at the time, He had opened a door which led to the use of a talent I hadn’t really recognized; much less considered as a way to earn a living.

As for Mr. Holtzinger, for whom I have eternal respect and gratitude, he hired me for one main reason.

I was a farm kid. I can still hear him assuring me: “I’m not looking for someone with a journalism degree. I’m looking for someone who knows and understands farming.”

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# Bird flu \_\_\_\_\_ from page 3

is impacted by this because when you look at things like rumination and milk production, they're down overall on a herd level," said Treichler. "At some point most of the cows in the herd are being impacted by this, so you'll have mostly subclinical cows."

The reported production loss estimates range from 4 to 20 pounds/cow/day to 10 to 30 pounds/cow/day.

The worst of the cases appear to be within the first week of the outbreak. Affected cows begin to go back on feed within a few days, and herds go back to pre-infection milk production and SCC levels within a month of the initial outbreak. Some cows will recover, but there are some that will not recover, especially if secondary infections follow.

While cows might show clinical signs of mastitis or abnormal milk, it is not a mastitis pathogen that can be treated traditionally. It does not respond to antibiotics. Additionally, abortions are being observed in herds that have been through the process, probably not due to the virus, but most likely from high fever in the immune response or metabolic stress that the cows went through. Future fertility or

cyclic problems could be expected.

"Please don't hesitate to report to your veterinarian. I know it's scary, but it will help the whole industry if we can find out about it and learn from each case," said Treichler.

Responding to a question about what

treatment plans are working for sick cows, Dr. Treichler said supportive care includes keeping them hydrated and treating any obvious symptoms from secondary issues, and treating for fever if there is fever.

There is much yet to learn in this rapidly

evolving situation. Biosecurity efforts are the best course to follow as more testing and epidemiological study is underway to understand all that is a part of it.

**Editor's Note:** Renee Troutman contributed to this reporting.

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# Auction Guide

**APRIL 6,** 11 a.m. Ovaltop Holsteins Herd Reduction Sale, Richfield Springs, N.Y. Sale managed by Hosking Sales.

**APRIL 8,** 9 a.m. Annual Spring Auction, Archbold, Ohio. Sale managed by Yoder & Frey.

**APRIL 8-15,** 10 a.m. Online Only Equipment Auction, Brookville, Pa. Sale managed by KIKO Auctioneers.

**APRIL 9,** 12 p.m. Dairy Sale & 21st Annual Haiti Benefit Sale, Middleburg Livestock Auction, Middleburg, Pa. Sale managed by Middleburg Livestock Auction.

**APRIL 10,** 10:30 a.m. Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

**APRIL 10,** 12 p.m. W.K. Kellogg Dairy Farm Complete Online Herd Dispersal, Hickory Corners, Mich. Sale managed by Kreeger and Associates.

**APRIL 12,** 9 a.m. Hall Family Dynasty Trust Equipment & Real Estate Auction, Hughesville, Pa. Managed by Fraley Auction Co.

**APRIL 12,** 11 a.m. GTPI-Type Sale, Lancaster, Pa. Sale co-managed by Daniel Brandt Pedigrees & Marketing and Landis Marketing.

**APRIL 12,** 6:30 p.m. 53rd Annual Public Livestock Auction, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by John C. Diehl Sons.

**APRIL 12,** 7:30 p.m. Reg. Holstein Public Auction, Fraley Dairy Complex, Muncy, Pa. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Company.

**APRIL 13,** 9 a.m. Spring Consignment Auction, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

**APRIL 13,** 11 a.m. Indiana Holstein Association Multi-Breed Sale, Columbia City, Ind. Managed by Indiana Holstein Assoc.

**APRIL 18,** 7:15 p.m. Annual Heifer Turn-Out Sale, Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by

Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales.

**APRIL 19,** 10 a.m. Best Of Luck-E, Hampshire, IL. Sale co-managed by Luck-E Holsteins and Fraley Auction Company.

**APRIL 19,** 4 p.m. Special Horse Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

**APRIL 20,** 10 a.m. Bradford County Calf & Heifer Sale, Troy, Pa. Sale managed by Bradford County Holstein Association.

**APRIL 20,** 7 p.m. Franklin County Youth Dairy Club Calf Sale, Chambersburg, Pa. Sale managed by Franklin County Youth Dairy Club.

**APRIL 25,** 6:30 p.m. 40th Annual Gospel Express Ministries Benefit Cattle Auction, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by Gospel Express Ministries.

**APRIL 26,** 7:30 a.m. Horse Consignment Sale and Special Driving Horse Sale, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

**APRIL 26,** 7 p.m. Annual Haiti Heifer Sale, Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales, Lancaster, Pa. Sale managed by Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales.

**APRIL 27,** 10:30 a.m. Pa. Ayrshire & Milking Shorthorn Sale, Shippensburg, Pa. Managed by the Pa. Ayrshire Breeders Association.

**APRIL 27,** 12 p.m. Emerald Farms 75th Anniversary Celebration Sale, Winchester, Ohio. Sale managed by Emerald Farms.

**MAY 4,** Public Real Estate Auction, Blairs Mills, Pa. Sale co-managed by Ron J. & Ron S. Gilligan & David C. Zentner.

**MAY 25,** 11 a.m. Special Riding Horse Sale, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

**MAY 31,** 7:30 a.m. Horse Consignment Sale, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

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# Dairyman's Datebook

**APRIL 5,** Lebanon County Holstein tour, drop-in style, to the farms of Eric and Audrey High, Clifford Oberholtzer, Glen Martin and Diamond Valley Dairy.

**APRIL 13,** 9:30 a.m. Maryland Holstein Spring Show, Howard County Fairgrounds, off of I-70, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship.

**APRIL 25,** 9 a.m. Pennsylvania Holstein Spring Show, Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, Pa.

**APRIL 26-27,** Pennsylvania Ayrshire Convention, Shippensburg, Pa.

**MAY 4,** 1:30 p.m. Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant at the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren, 1542 Shoey Road, Mohrsville.

**MAY 11,** Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant at Wasson Farm, 2545 Shingletown Road, State College, Pa.

**JUNE 13,** 6 p.m. Annual Toast to Dairy Celebration, Melhorn Manor, 977 West Main St., Mount Joy, Pa.

**JUNE 18-21** National Ayrshire Convention, Comfort Inn & Suites, 840 Sean Drive, Fremont, Ohio.



Lolly Leshner



Audrey Donahoe

## Donahoe and Leshner re-elected to lead

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Audrey Donahoe of Clayville, N.Y., was re-elected to serve a fourth year as president of American Dairy Association North East (ADANE) while Lolly Leshner was tapped to serve as chair of Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program for the second year.

Both Donahoe and Leshner have served on the dairy promotion boards of directors for more than two decades each. Donahoe also serves as chair of the National Dairy Council.

Leshner also serves as Donahoe's first vice president of ADANE, working together to execute checkoff programs for the benefit of the entire six-state region. In addition, she is the secretary of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board that carries out coordinated promotion and research programs to help build demand and expand domestic and international markets for dairy products.

• **ADANE officers are:**

President: Audrey Donahoe  
 1st vice president: Lolly Leshner  
 2nd VP: Kris Brock, Schaghticoke, N.Y.  
 Sec.: Barb Hanselman, Bloomville, N.Y.  
 Treasurer: Dina Zug, Mifflintown, Pa.

• **PDPP officers:**

Chair: Lolly Leshner, Bernville, Pa.  
 1st vice chair: Louie Diamond, Masontown, Pa.  
 2nd vice chair: Doug Harbach, Loganton, Pa.  
 Secretary: Marie Canon, West Middlesex, Pa.  
 Assistant sec.: Elizabeth Cashell, Towanda, Pa.  
 Treasurer: Elaine Noble, Gillett, Pa.

Assistant treas.: Laura Paxton, Grove City, Pa.  
 • Representatives to the ADANE Board: Louie Diamond, Lolly Leshner and Dina Zug.



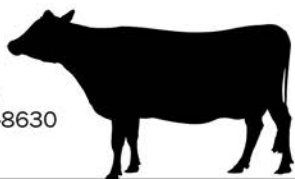
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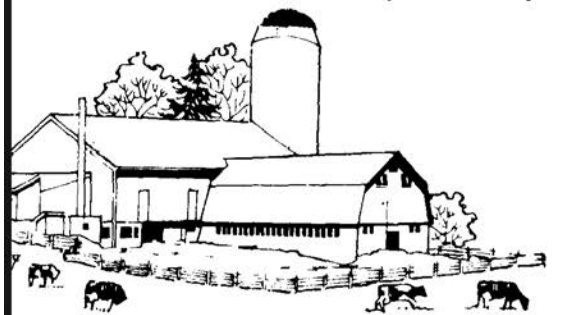
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Ninety-one year old Arden Tewksbury of Meshoppen, Pa. has been a vocal and persistent advocate for whole milk ever since it became necessary to do so in 2012 when the U.S. government banned all but skim milk in the nation's schools, as well as many institutions such as the military, hospitals homeless shelters and more. He practices what he preaches. The long-time manager of Pro-Ag was pictured in the Gap Diner in Wind Gap, Pa. on Easter Sunday, March 31, where workers Chad and Desiree said that they only serve whole milk.

Photo submitted

## Purdue Forage Field Guide provides essential information on forage management

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – The fourth edition of the Forage Field Guide from Purdue University Extension is available for purchase on the Extension Education Store website. The 324-page pocket guide is a valuable resource on navigating forage management.

Notable guide updates include higher quality photographs, added information to the soil fertility section, new information related to corn production and when it is to be used as silage, and new pages on tar spot disease and the sugarcane aphid.



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# Alfalfa's suicidal tendency is under investigation

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Alfalfa autotoxicity is being explored by multi-institutional research teams led by Michigan State University, thanks to a \$946,349 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, alfalfa is the nation's third most valuable field crop at roughly \$8.7 billion per year. While alfalfa has many uses, it's most often grown for animal agriculture forage due to its nutrient-rich profile.

Like any other crop, alfalfa faces insect and diseases challenges, but current varieties are exceptionally hardy and able to withstand a variety of environmental pressures. Its most significant threat may be itself.

Alfalfa exhibits autotoxicity, a phenomenon in which the plant inhibits germination and development of seedlings of its own species. The cause is believed to be chemical compounds released by the plants, but researchers are unsure which compounds are to blame.

"We've known about this issue for a long time, but there

haven't been any concrete solutions generated," said Kim Cassida, an associate professor in the MSU Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences and MSU Extension forage specialist. Her work is also supported in part by MSU AgBioResearch.

"Alfalfa is a tremendously valuable crop for Michigan, the U.S. and beyond, so finding answers to the problem of autotoxicity is extremely important. In my role as an MSU Extension specialist, I work directly with farmers, and I want to be able to give them more prescriptive recommendations."

Cassida said managing autotoxicity in the field can be tricky. Alfalfa stands are typically productive for four or more years, but as the plants begin to age and thin out, growers can't simply add new seedlings to fill the gaps.

Current recommendations are to rotate with other crops, waiting to let toxins dissipate before replanting alfalfa. But the risk of lingering autotoxicity varies greatly by conditions such as precipitation and soil type, as well as management decisions such as tillage.

"When I talk to growers, one of the most common questions

I get is, 'Has it been long enough to replant alfalfa?'" Cassida said. "We tell growers to wait at least six months to two years depending on all the contributing factors, but that uncertainty is frustrating.

"To bring more certainty into the fold, we are developing a soil bioassay that will eventually be available through MSU Plant & Pest Diagnostics that can let a grower know whether the soil is ready to plant alfalfa again. At this point, we still can't tell them exactly how long it will take their field to recover if it's not ready, but we're looking to improve the bioassay through this work."

Researchers have four primary objectives:

- Identify the compounds responsible for autotoxicity.
- Determine how root function and soil microbiology interact with factors such as soil fertility to influence chemical development and release.
- Begin the process of breeding alfalfa varieties that do not cause this problem.
- Communicate with growers via MSU Extension education.

The end goal is to pave the way for developing new varieties that either produce less toxins or are able to tolerate them more effectively. Cassida said this research could also serve as a framework for other crops with autotoxicity issues.

"We need to do greenhouse work to identify the mechanisms of autotoxicity before we can take this to field scale," Cassida said. "Once we do that, we can start to examine things like the effects of nutrient stresses in test plots. The bioassay gives us the ability to definitively identify research plots or production fields that exhibit the problem and focus on differences between those and non-toxic plots or fields. This should improve our ability to conclusively identify causal compounds and interactions among environmental or management factors that impact the severity of the problem."



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# Applications invited for Student Leader Scholarship program

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The annual Student Leader Scholarship program is now open for undergraduate students, including college students and high school seniors, who are pursuing a career in a dairy-related field. Twelve \$3000 scholarships are available through a partnership between the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association and the Dairy Excellence Foundation for the 2024-25 academic year. The scholarships opened for applications on March 1 and must be submitted online by May 1.

The Student Leader Scholarships are offered annually to provide recognition, encouragement, and financial assistance to outstanding students enrolled in academic programs that support the dairy industry. Undergraduate college students and high school seniors entering college in the fall are eligible for the scholarships. One scholarship is specifically designated for an incoming freshman.

To qualify for the scholarships, students must demonstrate a commitment to working in the dairy industry. Recipients are selected based on academic performance, interest in a dairy-related career, evidence of leadership, character and integrity, and application compliance.

Students can receive the \$3000 scholarship twice during their undergraduate aca-

demical career. Students employed by the Center for Dairy Excellence as an intern or in another capacity are not eligible to apply during the pe-

riod in which they are working for the Center. Visit [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/scholarships](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/scholarships) to submit an online application.

Or call Michelle Shearer at 570-768-8316 or email her at [mshearer@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:mshearer@centerfordairyexcellence.org)

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# Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance will ‘pay’ you to join in 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance Board of Directors has announced three new benefits to becoming a member. First, is that all members will receive — free with their membership, a Premium + Print subscription (\$59.95 value) to *The No-Till Farmer* magazine.

Included in the subscription are 12 print issues of the magazine; 8 issues of the No-Till Farmer newsletter; 4 issues of Conservation Tillage Guide magazine; Digital access to all current magazine content; plus 20 years of the No-Till Farmer magazine archives and access to podcasts, webinars, eGuides, etc. All available 24/7. Again, this \$59.95 value will be free with your 2024 PA No-Till Alliance membership.

The Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance, a non-profit membership organization of no-till farmers, advocates soil health

through no-till farming by presenting winter soil health meetings, summer field days and smaller local workshops across the state. Established in 2005, its motto from the beginning has been “Farmers Improving Soil Health.” The Alliance also provides individual farmer-to-farmer mentoring to assist other no-till farmers by answering questions, giving advice and providing hands-on assistance when needed.

Also this year, only members will receive free registration to the PA No-Till Alliance Summer Field Days and winter meetings. Non-members will be required to pay a \$20 registration fee. So, if you attend only two meetings out of the four offered, that’s another \$40 savings.

To keep members up to date on activities and events

within the Alliance, PA No-Till keeps in touch with its membership via e-Newsletters and printed newsletters distributed throughout the year. Each document combines recent news and information on upcoming events with articles and web links of timely interest.

What’s the cost of membership? With these added benefits, the individual fee to become a member of the PA No-Till Alliance is \$50, which includes the \$59.95 added value of the No-Till farmer magazine, plus \$40 in meeting registration fees for a total value of \$99.95.

Use the form below to pay your 2024 membership. Please contact Jay Howes, Alliance administrator, at [jhowes@pennag.com](mailto:jhowes@pennag.com) with any questions or for further information.



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## 2024 Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance Membership & Registration Form

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## Packaged fluid milk sales up 2.4% YOY, 3rd increase in past 4 months

Good news! According to the most recent USDA Estimated Packaged Fluid Milk Sales Report last week – whole milk sales were up year-over-year (YOY) by a whopping 5.2% in January 2024. This helped push **total fluid milk sales above year ago by a whopping 2.4%**! Whole milk sales have been increasing for several years. No surprise there. But to see this amount of YOY increase and to see total fluid milk sales up YOY in October and November 2023 and now January 2024 – that's NEWS! This means 3 of the last 4 reported months are higher than year-earlier. Let's hope this trend keeps MOOVING, thanks to volunteers spreading the good word about whole milk.

### Now... if we can just get S. 1957 mooving!

Ask your U.S. Senators to cosponsor S. 1957 Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. The map (right) is stuck at 17 sponsors from 13 states. By the way, Wisconsin, where is Senator Tammy Baldwin? No. 2 Wisconsin should surely have two milk jugs on this map. And what's up with No. 1 California? Zero cosponsors? No. 3 Texas, growing South Dakota and other top-24 states – along with the high fluid milk states of the Southeast – all could use a boost on this map. Find your state. Call your U.S. Senators. Ask them to cosponsor a quadruple win for kids, cows, farms and rural communities. Learn how at <https://www.97milk.com/take-action/>

### Raise a Glass of Whole Milk... Congrats to The Volunteer State!

#### Tenn. 1st state to send 'whole milk bill' to Governor

It was April 1st and no joke! The Volunteer State became the first state in the nation to pass its own whole milk bill in both chambers and send it to the Governor!

Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation reports: "The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act (HB2480) passed in the House (after SB1914 previously passed the Tennessee Senate). This bill would allow for local school districts to adopt policies that allow whole milk to be served in schools. It now heads to Governor Bill Lee's desk for approval."

The text of the bill regarding other dairy product titles, including license reports to the Ag Commissioner includes the following:

"WHEREAS, the nutritional benefits of whole milk that are critical for children to obtain include the necessary levels of vitamin D, potassium, high-quality protein, calcium, vitamin A, vitamin B12, and other key dietary nutrients; and

"WHEREAS, it is fitting that public school students be afforded the opportunity to obtain the nutritional benefits of whole milk during school mealtimes; now, therefore,



"BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

"SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 23, is amended by adding a new, appropriately designated section: (a) Notwithstanding § 49-6-2301, this section is known and may be cited as the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act." (b) Notwithstanding another law to contrary, each local board of education and public charter school governing body may establish policies for its public schools to offer students whole milk options, which are pasteurized dairy products as defined in § 53-3-103, through bulk milk dispensers.

"SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it."

Pennsylvania and New York had state measures tied to state-produced milk seeking to avoid federal jurisdiction of interstate commerce in what fat content of milk may be offered at schools. Those bills are stuck in committees or passed one chamber and not the other. The Pa. Senate failed to pass the bill last session after the House did so overwhelmingly, but the Pa. Senate did manage to send a resolution seeking federal changes to the U.S. Senate, USDA Secretary Vilsack, and the Dietary Guidelines Committee.

Congratulations to The Volunteer State, Tennessee!

### March Class prices higher, Protein lower

USDA announced higher class prices for March milk this week, but Protein lost ground. Class II and IV at \$21.12 and \$20.09, respectively, were higher than the previous month and \$1 to \$2 higher than the March Class I mover price of \$18.80. Class III at \$16.34 was higher than February by 26

Farmshine, Friday, April 5, 2024 – 11

cents, but still the lowest class for the month by a wide margin. Protein and solids nonfat moved lower, but Fat and other solids moved higher: March Protein is \$1.13/lb; Butterfat \$3.24/lb; solids nonfat \$1/lb, and other solids 29 cents.

### Feb. All-Milk \$20.60, DMC margin \$9.44 Signup ends Apr. 29 for 2024 coverage

USDA announced the All-Milk price for February at \$20.60, up 50 cents from the January price and fully \$1.00 below year ago. The DMC margin for February at \$9.44/cwt, is up \$1.04 from January, but triggers a 6 cents/cwt DMC payment for 90% of Tier 1 production history for producers enrolled in the top Tier 1 margin coverage level of \$9.50.

2024 DMC signups through FSA end April 29 for farmers to enroll production history and supplementals using 2019 production data and to select coverage levels. Payments will be retroactive to include the Jan-Feb 2024 payments.

### Class IV up, Class III down, spread widens

As final arguments by attorneys were filed this week on all sides of all proposals in the 5-month FMMO hearing that ended Jan. 30, USDA AMS staff would do well to look at the widening Class IV over III spread and its impact on the Class I mover under the 'average of' vs. the 'higher of'. On Wed., Apr. 3, the futures board painted a stark picture of what has been forecast. This wide divergence will continue, and may worsen, costing dairy farmers and creating disruptions.

Class III milk futures were fully 20 to 40 cents lower than a week ago across the board Wednesday with the next 12 months (Apr24-Mar25) averaging \$17.38, down 17 cents compared with last week's average for Mar24-Feb25.

Class IV futures were fully 20 cents to 40 cents higher through yearend, 15 cents higher for Q-1 2025. The 12-month average for Apr24-Mar25 is \$20.56 up 22 cents from the previous Wednesday's Mar24-Feb25 average.

The projected divergence of Class IV over III now ranges fully \$3 to \$4.50 through yearend – fully \$2 to \$2.50 in Q1 2025, according to the April 3 CME futures board.

### CME spot dairy product markets higher

On CME daily spot markets, all products moved higher, except dry whey slipped lower; trading was active with volume at midweek. In daily spot cash trade, Wed., Apr. 3, butter at \$2.94/lb, was up a dime with 11 loads trading. Grade A nonfat dry milk, pegged at \$1.14/lb gained 2 pennies with one load changing hands. The cheese market seasawed 3 to 4 cents higher with 40-lb blocks at \$1.44/lb, 7 loads trading, and 500-lb barrels \$1.45/lb, 2 loads trading. The dry whey spot price at \$0.38/lb was 2 cents lower, one load traded.

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# ADANE training dairy farmers for public relations

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — To help dairy farmers communicate with consumers, American Dairy Association North East developed a new training called Customized Communications Coaching. “We are often called upon by dairy farmers in our six-state region to offer training to help build trust in dairy,” said ADA

North East CEO John Chrisman. “If you don’t tell your story, someone will tell another story, and no one knows what happens on a dairy farm better than a dairy farmer. “Customized Communications Coaching provides consistent, accurate information to help hone your skills and tell

people what you want them to know about dairy.” The unique training experience allows participants to choose specific topics that are of interest to them. Engaging sessions feature the latest communications tools, trends and data and focus on key messages, social media, traditional

*Penns Valley Livestock*

## Spring Consignment Auction

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024**  
**9:00 A.M. START TIME**

2925 Penns Valley Pike, Centre Hall, Pa. 16828

**Consignments welcomed the week of the sale**  
**9 a.m. until 7 p.m.**

**With questions, call:**

<i>David Bierly</i> 814-571-1167	<i>Gabe Allegar</i> 814-933-2581	
<i>Samuel Stoltzfus, Auctioneer</i> AU005760		



Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program board member Doug Harbach of Schrack Farms, Loganton, Pa., talks with consumers about dairy farming at the 2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show’s Calving Corner. Schrack Farms provided cows for the live dairy cattle birthing center.

media, hosting farm tours, tough questions, and crisis preparedness.

Key messages address animal care, environmental stewardship, and the nutritional value of dairy and are packaged to provide easy talking points. Participants will receive tips to handle all situations and to find the right words that will resonate best with consumers.

“Our highly skilled team brings a combination of practical on-farm experiences coupled with decades of consumer-facing communications backgrounds,” said Chrisman. “They look forward to working closely with farmers and dairy groups who are ready to step up and advocate for dairy.”

Groups of all sizes are welcome – maybe employees from your farm or an organization. Please request a training session at least four weeks in advance to allow time for scheduling and customization.

For more information or to request a Customized Communications Coaching session, contact American Dairy Association North East at 315-472-9143.

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## Entries invited for Pennsylvania Holstein show

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Holstein Spring Show will be held on Thursday, April 25, starting at 9 a.m. at the Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall. Kevin Doebriner of

Ohio will be placing all entries.

Early check-in of entries through the *Showman* app starts on Monday, March 25, for \$25 per entry. Latest entry is by noon on Wednesday, April 24, for \$100 per animal. All animals must be on site by noon on April 24; set-up at the fairgrounds

is permissible after 9 a.m. on Monday, April 22nd.

A chicken BBQ meal sponsored by Purina Feeds and four Purina mills will be offered on Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m. for a contribution of \$5 per meal. Reservations are required by Friday, April 19, to Laura at (570) 560-0324.

A showmanship contest will be held on Wednesday, April 24, starting at 6 p.m.

### Reservations are due April 15th

## Pa. Ayrshire breeders slate annual meeting

CARLISLE, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Ayrshire Breeders Association will hold its annual Spring Convention, including a dinner buffet, at the Shippensburg Fairgrounds on April 26, beginning at 7 p.m. Award presentations and a business meeting will follow. Reservations are required. Please use the form below to request your tickets.

#### Meal Reservation Form

Farm name: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of ham and turkey meals @15/adults: .....

No. of ham and turkey meals @12/ children 6-12: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of children 5 and under (free) .....

Total enclosed: .....

Please make checks payable to:

PA Ayrshire Breeders Association and mail form & payment

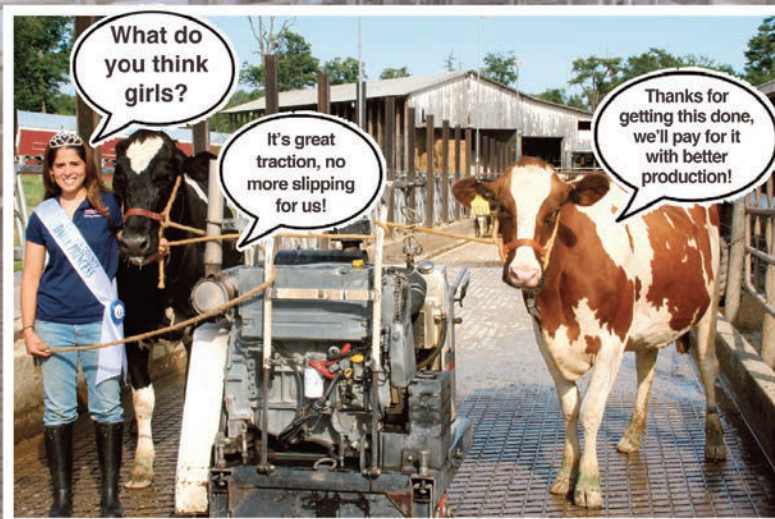
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Janel Fogelsanger, 115 Shady Road, Newburg, PA 17240

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**Centre County, Pa.**

**Dairy royalty contestants sought**

BOALSBURG, Pa. — The Centre County Dairy Promotion Committee is seeking individuals between the ages of 4 to 24 who are interested in promoting the dairy industry. Individuals between the ages of 4 to 16 (female or male) are eligible to serve as junior representatives. Young ladies between the ages of 16 to 24 are eligible for the title of Centre County Dairy Princess or Alternate Dairy Princess.

Eligible entrants must have a connection to the dairy industry, which means that either they or a member of their close family must work full-time in a dairy-related job and

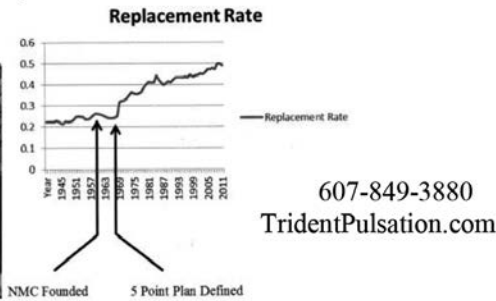
have a desire to promote the dairy industry. They must have knowledge of the dairy industry and dairy products to effectively promote at the many events required of them.

Please contact Candy Wasson, princess coordinator, by email [wassonfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:wassonfarm@yahoo.com) or call her at 814-237-2339. Applications are also on the Centre County Dairy Promotion Facebook page and website. The deadline for applications is April 12th.

The Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant will take place at 6 p.m. on May 11th at Wasson Farm, 2545 Shingletown Road, State College, Pa.

**Keep on dreaming!**

Keep dreaming??? Making mastitis management easy??? How possibly after more than 60 years is the NMC having a meeting this summer with this agenda? After 60 years of little real progress other than the slaughter of cows after a couple lactations. Since the NMC founding the US replacement (slaughter) rates have doubled. Does anyone think that in any meeting today at Boeing they are talking about dreaming? The NMC and your dealer have sold you a dream for decades and your cows and wallet have paid the price. How much longer will you continue to dream? **Call us when you are ready for the dream to become reality.**



National Mastitis Council Regional Meeting  
De Biltoven, Gent, Belgium - August 12-14, 2024



Centre County's current dairy royalty team includes, in front, from left: Madalyn Wolfe, Madalyn Brooks, Princess Remington Weaver, Alternate Gabriella Coffman, Emberlii Diebler and Sadee Dreibelbis. In back are Frances Weaver, Kimber Hough and Libertee Bumbarger.

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# 'Manureshed' management is key to Chesapeake Bay cleanup

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — A study by a Penn State-led research team suggests that "manureshed" management in the Susquehanna River basin could make a big difference in the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Susquehanna delivers half the fresh water in the Chesapeake Bay and about 40% of the nitrogen pollution, 20% of the phosphorus pollution and a heavy load of sediment pollution. The majority — more than 60% — of the river's pollution, according to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is attributable to excess manure, agricultural runoff, and urban and suburban stormwater.

"We believe that the manure runoff problem can be greatly diminished by managing the Susquehanna River as a manureshed," said Cibin Raj, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering at Penn State. "Manureshed management guides the sustainable use of manure resources by matching areas of crop demand — nutrient sinks — with areas generating livestock manure — nutrient sources."

At the heart of the Chesapeake Bay's long-standing pollution problem is a severe nutrient imbalance that stems from corn and other feed transported primarily from the Midwest into the lower part of the watershed and fed to livestock. The manure those animals produce is mostly applied to a limited amount of land in the lower Susquehanna River basin.

Much of the nitrogen and phosphorus in that manure washes off the land and into streams and flows into the Susquehanna. It ends up in the Chesapeake, fueling the growth of harmful algae blooms that block sunlight from reaching underwater grasses. When the algae decompose, the process creates low oxygen "dead zones" that rob the water of oxygen and suffocate marine life.

The lower Susquehanna's nutrient prob-

lems have only gotten worse in recent times, according to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Over the last 30 years, in livestock-intensive counties of south-central Pennsylvania, annual hog manure production has nearly doubled from 635,029 tons to more than 1.2 million tons. During the same period, broiler chicken litter has increased 75% to over 102,000 tons each year, and manure from dairy and beef cows has risen 16% to 3.5 million tons annually.

Livestock-intensive regions with limited cropland availability, such as Lancaster and Lebanon counties, Pennsylvania, experience long-term excess application of manure nutrients, causing build-up of legacy phosphorus in the soil and higher losses of agricultural nitrogen, Raj explained.

"If that manure would be transported to land higher in the watershed where crops need to be fertilized, the lower river and the bay would be healthier," he said. "Pennsylvania is very much behind on meeting water-quality demands for the Chesapeake Bay, and we think managing the Susquehanna River as a manureshed is the way to move forward. However, presently there is no system or logistics for transporting manure higher in the Susquehanna River basin."

To gain a better understanding of the impacts of manureshed management on water quality in the Susquehanna, the researchers developed a watershed simulation model of the river's basin over the past few years in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, using the computer modeling program called the soil and water assessment tool — often referred to as SWAT. They used it to quantify the potential water-quality benefits of manureshed-oriented management through scenario-based analyses in the basin.

Five manureshed-management scenarios were developed and compared with a baseline "business-as-usual" scenario. The base-

line assumes manure is less transportable, which means some locations have manure application far in excess of crop demand. The "watershed nutrient balance" scenarios assume excess manure from surplus locations is transportable and that manure is applied around the Susquehanna River basin, based on crop-nutrient demand.

In findings published earlier this year in the Journal of Environmental Quality, the researchers reported that the "watershed nutrient balance avoiding runoff-prone areas" scenario — which assumes that manure is transportable but never applied in vulnerable landscapes in the basin (steep slopes mainly) — showed the largest potential water-quality gains.

The researchers found that phosphorus-based manureshed management — only applying the amount of manure crops need to supply their phosphorus demands — resulted in bigger water quality improvements

than nitrogen-based management. In the scenario that avoids steep slopes for manure application, phosphorus-based nutrient balance scenarios simulated reduction in total phosphorus loss in excess of 25%.

With so many streams in the Susquehanna River basin under significant pressure to reduce nutrient loads to achieve the Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load goals, manureshed management offers a way to achieve real progress for the bay, Raj pointed out.

"Our modeling results indicate improved manure nutrient-use efficiency and significant water quality benefits with manureshed management," he said. "The concept provides a new dimension to land management because it integrates crops and environmentally sustainable livestock development. It can be a successful strategy to reduce the agricultural nutrient contribution from the Susquehanna River basin to the Chesapeake Bay."






## Manatee County, FL Dairy Farm & Operation

Turn-key, income-producing operation currently housing a herd of up to 3,000 lactating cows. The 350.2-acre farm has all of the necessary infrastructure including six free-stall barns, a milking parlor, production areas, commodity storage, silage storage, milk processing plant capable of processing and packaging all milk produced onsite. Dry cows and heifers are typically housed offsite. Potential to expand herd size to 4,000 in the future with additional free stall barns accommodating an additional 1,400 lactating cows.



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- ★ Several breeding age heifers from one farm, AI sired with dam records.
- ★ We are also expecting a good selection of Fresh and Fancy, 2 and 3 yr. olds out of local overstocked herds and heifer growers. Mostly AI sired including several good Registered cows, with most on test w/ low SCC and a good selection milking over 100 lbs.!!
- ★ **Brandt-View** sends 5 fresh and fancy cows w/ deep pedigrees & genomics, and milking well!!
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**Friday, April 26th, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**



PENNSTATE

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Sciences

# Department of Animal Science



Cattle grazing in a pasture.  
Photo Credit: Zack Curtis

## Spring pasture check-in

By Zachary Curtis  
Penn State Extension Field and  
Forage Crops Educator, Wayne County

Springtime pasture greenup represents a critical time of year for Pennsylvania producers. Management considerations must be made to balance soil fertility, plant growth, weed control, as well as optimizing animal performance throughout the grazing season. An 'ideal' pasture system will provide: a) the highest quality forages b) for as long as possible throughout the year c) with the greatest amount of economical return to our operation. If we expect our pasture to provide a high-quality crop for our livestock, we must be ready to manage them as a high-quality crop.

Several grazing management techniques are available to choose from, offering a range in convenience, seasonal yields, parasite loading, species adaptation, and animal performance. You may want to work with a trusted advisor to discuss which grazing technique is best suited to your labor constraints, land availability, forage species, and animal production goals. For information on creating paddocks to rotationally graze, consult the Penn State Extension publication "Four Steps to Rotational Grazing," available online or at your local Extension office. Let's explore some key management areas:

### Soil Fertility

Soil fertility management begins with representative sampling across the area to be grazed. Begin by identifying your paddocks and pasture area. Keep sampling areas below 12-15 acres in size, mixing 15-20 cores per sample, and avoiding areas that are excessively wet, dry, or prone to heavy animal traffic and manure deposition. For long-term perennial pasture systems, sample to a depth of 3-4 inches. Upon receipt of sample results, assess the results and provided recommendations. Does the lab



Taking a soil sample in a pasture.  
Photo Credit: Zack Curtis

recommend adding lime to correct low pH? Would you benefit from some addition phosphorus or potassium? Also consider the application of nitrogen; we see the greatest economical return from supplemental nitrogen if the stand contains less than 30% legumes. Penn State research supports the addition of up to 50 pounds of actual nitrogen at greenup to drive cool-season grass production. But be judicious in the application of nitrogen - if you have had issues with getting forages grazed or harvested before they mature, your nitrogen investment probably won't be recognized during that growing season.

Be cautious of how potassium and magnesium deficiencies can lead to metabolic disorders in high-production cattle systems. Pasture fertility levels remain fairly stable compared to row-cropped or hayed forage crop systems because manure is deposited during grazing. However, you should expect pH

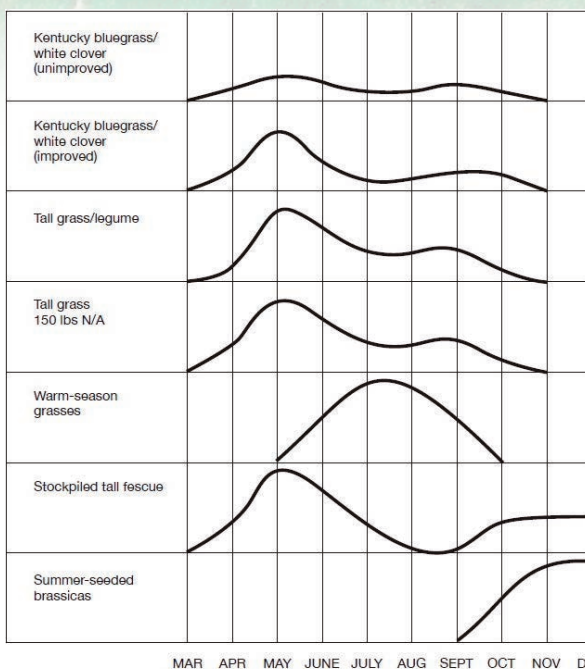


Figure 1.8-1. 2023-2024 Penn State Agronomy Guide.

and potassium levels to slowly decline during a 4-year interval as those nutrients leach from the soil profile.

### Plant Growth

Plant growth is variable depending on the forage species used, season of growth, soil limitations, and animal grazing habits. Maximum plant growth is driven by matching your farm's soil characteristics to plant growth characteristics and animal traffic. Figure 1.8-1, an excerpt from the Penn State Agronomy Guide, represents how various forages species' production can change throughout the growing season. In many cases, an intensively managed grazing system will benefit from adding warm-season grass species to some paddocks to provide consistent forage production during the "summer slump."

When applying nitrogen to stimulate grass growth, try to apply it just prior to the crop's period of greatest need. For cool-season grasses, one application in mid-April and again in late August may be a good approach. For warm-season grasses, one application in early June might be the best approach.

### Weed Control

Assess weed populations throughout the growing season in your pasture systems. Simply checking for weeds once or twice per year will not give you an accurate representation of weed populations, because different weed species are present at different times of the year. Properly identifying weeds is the first step to effective weed management. Several resources, including online (Extension-based website), print (Weeds of the Northeast), or local (a trusted farm advisor or Extension Educator) can help you properly identify pasture weeds and create an effective management plan. These resources can also help identify which weeds may be toxic or poisonous to grazing livestock.

Remember that effective weed management involves an integrated approach. We combine cultural control practices (such as proper soil fertility management and appropriate rest periods between grazing), physical control practices (such as tillage or periodic mowing/clipping), biological control practices, and chemical control practices (herbicide selection and application). Controlling weed infestations should include preventing the introduction of weed seeds in hay or manure, clipping pastures after every 30-40 days to minimize weed seed production, controlling animal grazing habits to reduce bare spots, and consulting the Penn State Agronomy Guide for updated herbicide efficacy tables.

### Animal Management

Depending on the livestock species (and breed) you raise and the animal product your farm produces, you will find that your forage requirements may look completely different from your neighbor's. Working with a nutritionist and an agronomist is a great way to identify nutritional needs by animal group, and then be able to create a pasture system to supplement those nutritional needs. Try not to get caught up in one 'perfect' forage species. An old saying states: "You can't fit a square peg in a round hole," and that principle also applies to forage species selection. Understand your animal's needs, identify your farm's limitations, and select forage species to build a pasture system based on that.

### Other Things to Consider

Make it a point to get out on foot or ATV and actively scout your pastures. As you check things like your fences, watering systems, and access lanes, make note of how your livestock treated your pasture this past winter or fall. In many parts of Pennsylvania, we did not see a serious freeze for most of the winter. How did that impact your pasture? Were you able to feed animals in an animal concentration area or sacrifice lot? Look for bare areas that were damaged by hoof traffic or late-season grazing. These are the areas that weeds will try to fill in first if you don't address them early in the spring.

Remember one of our opening points: An 'ideal' pasture system will provide a) the highest quality forages b) for as long as possible during the growing season c) with the greatest amount of economical return to our operation. A producer I recently surveyed was surprised to find his cost of production for pasture-raised cool season grass was approximately \$1.52 per head per day, compared to feeding cool-season grass baleage at approximately \$2.03 per head per day - you can quickly calculate how his cost savings could add up for a 70-cow herd throughout a 125-day grazing season!

There certainly is a lot to consider, but thorough planning can ensure we have a productive pasture system to maximize our animal performance.



### About the Author

Zack is a Field and Forage Crops educator based in Wayne County. He studied animal science and agronomy at Penn State, graduating in 2019. After spending several as a sales agronomist in southeastern PA, working with dairy producers, cash crop farmers, and various livestock-based enterprises, he joined Penn State in 2022 and provides agronomy extension programming to northeastern PA.

### Online resources

Department of Animal Science: [animalscience.psu.edu](http://animalscience.psu.edu)  
College of Agricultural Sciences: [agsci.psu.edu](http://agsci.psu.edu)  
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### Contact information

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# Consignments invited for Triple-Hil's Progeny Classic II

SMITHSBURG, Md. — The Triple-Hil Sires Progeny Classic II Sale is scheduled for Friday, June 14, Lord willing. Over 100 lots will sell, including milking cows, heifers, calves, choices

and embryos. Sale selectors will begin finalizing selections this month.

Consignments must be sired by a bull that has been owned or marketed by Triple-Hil Sires. The maternal line should have multiple generations of VG or EX cows, ideally with high pro-

duction records and good components.

A few more consignments are being welcomed. If you have a cow or heifer that you think fits the above criteria, and would like to consign, please call 1-855-955-2100 or email sales@triplehilsires.com

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**\*\*Please have all consignments in by 10:30 a.m. Friday.\*\***

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## 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SALE PUBLIC AUCTION 200 Head of Livestock

6761 Molly Pitcher Highway, Shippensburg, PA 17257  
 Located 5 miles North of Chambersburg, Pa. and 5 miles South of Shippensburg, Pa. on Route 11 (Molly Pitcher Highway).

**Friday Evening,  
 April 12, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

### 100 HEAD OF OPEN HEIFERS

90 HOLSTEIN HEIFERS. A few Jersey-Cross and Red & White heifers. Heifers range from six months of age to breeding age.

### 100 HEAD OF BRED HEIFERS

Bred heifers consist of 90 Holsteins, some Jersey, Jersey-Cross and Red & White. Heifers will be fresh from sale through summer and fall. This is a fine group of young cattle out of good breeding.

**All cattle are dehorned and wormed.  
 All heifers are VET CHECKED.**

**Terms: Cash or approved check.  
 Not responsible for accidents.**

**Auctioneer:**  
 Lyle Reed  
 PA AU 746L  
 Phone: 240-329-7536

John C. Diehl Sons  
 Phone: 717-263-0361

**Clerk: Dean Wickard**

**Cattle Sold in Tent  
 Food Available**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20 | 10:30 A.M.**  
**FREDERICK FAIRGROUNDS | FREDERICK MD**

*Selling outstanding heifers from the  
 Who's Who of the Brown Swiss breed!*



Wanda      Wizella      Fenny      Gibson      Ramrod      T-Bone

**TOP ACRES GARBRO WANDA ET 'E91/92MS'** | 2X AA Nom. | 1190F | 5th gen. 'EX' Her 12/23 Foremost sells! Cindy Warner, MD A Spring Yearling gr'dtr by Tank sells. Greg Harrison, VA; And a 12/23 Rasta sells from a 90-point Braiden from Wanda's HMAA 'EX' mat. sister. Jonathan Hubbard, MD; Maggie Toothman, VA sends a 3/24 Top Gun from the Wandas; Billie Jo Rhodes, VA offers sexed Deluxe embryos from Wanda's Cadence; **TOP ACRES PEPPY WIZELLA '3E94'** | All-American | 30,990M 1317F 1071P. A 12/23 Collaps granddaughter sells with PTAT +0.8 UDC +1.2 PL +1.9. The dam is a 'V88/88MS' Dynamite! Edge View Genetics, NY; **ROUND HILL BRAIDEN FENNY 'E93/93MS'** | 3X AA Nom. | 35,040M 1311F 1071P. A stylish 12/23 Rampage sells from Fenny's Mr. Dependable daughter. Larry & Josh Geiwitz, PA; **GRAYSTONE OSBORN TOTAL GIBSON '2E92'** | 26,490M 1094F. From the Gretchen family - Gibson's potential 5th generation Excellent Summer Yearling by Carter sells. Dylan Fry, NJ; A 6/23 Foremost from a '2E93' Kingpin from Amelia Somers, NY; A Desperado Fall Calf from Brody Geiwitz, PA all from the Gretchen family sells; **JO-DEE KINGPIN RAMROD 'E92/92MS'** | AA Nom. | 800F. A 12/23 Collaps daughter sells. Granddam is '2E91' Flame back to 94-point Risky. Travis Richardson, TN; and a 9/23 First Choice from the AA Risky herself! Don Graft, IN; **BRITTCOS CARTER TBONE 'EX92'** | 29,020M 1363F 1011P. Her Diego Spring Yearling sells ready for the tank! The Diego's maternal sister was 2nd Fall Calf WDE and Nom. All-American. Brittany Heizer, NC.



**BLESSING GARBRO C PENNY 'E91/92MS'** | 30210M 1320F 1052p  
 Her fancy 9/23 mat. sister by Woody sells from Pretzel '3E93' then 6 more gen. of EX dams! Blessing/Garrison, IN

**OLD MILL E SNICKERDOODLE OCS '5E94'** | 8X All-American | 261880M 12665F 9895P LT  
 A Kickstart Spr.Yrlg gr'dtr from a 3E94 dam sells and a 9/23 Collaps from an EX dam then 2E92 Sizzle. Harrison, VA | Morell, PA

**DUBLIN-HILLS TREATS '2E94'** | AA | WDE Gr. Ch. | 33,430M 1657F 1242P  
 A fancy Foremost 6/23 gr'dtr sells from a '2E92' Bonanza. Amelia Somers, NY

**KAR-LINN WONDERMNT REESE '2E93'** | All-American | Eastern Nat'l Gr. Ch.  
 A Collaps 12/23 gr'dtr sells from a 3E93 Braiden. 5 more EX dams behind Reese. Siegerts Swiss/Claimed Swiss



**WIND MILL SVEN PALOMA '3E94/95MS'** | 5/01 365d 2X 32,308 4.0 1327 3.0 974  
 Her Blessing Nemo Noble September daughter sells! Paloma is from a 'V88' | 36,170m dam thend 'EX' | 35,080M back to the Priscilla's! Top Acres, OH

**WINDSOR MANOR PREM BETSY '2E91'** | 03/05 360d 2X 30,040 3.9 1171 3.5 1053  
 Betsy is the 3rd dam of a fancy 9/23 Wisdom that sells from a '2E91' | 35,968M Total. Next dam is 'E90' with 994F. 4th dam is 'EX' HM AA. Jenna Lenhart, MD

**BO JOY ENSIGN GLORIA '3E93'** | All-American Nominee | 34,773M 1127F  
 A Rampage Summer Yearling sells from Gloria's Whiskey daughter. Next dam back is of course GRETCHEN '2E93'. Tom & Dale Smith, PA

**OLD MILL TRAY LUCERNE 'E90'** | 02/02 310d 2X 18240 4.7 850 3.6 653  
 A Norwin Fall Yearling from an Excellent Supreme daughter of Lucerne sells! Straight from the heart of the Delottie '4E93' family! Mike Gast, VA

**A SPECIAL OFFERING FROM A-JOY SWISS, PA: A PICK of the March calf pen! 7 calves will be available to choose from. Sires include Double Take, Time Out, Dobby, Krunch, Wild West and Perfection. Dams are scored from 84-92 points. An opportunity of a lifetime!**



**KRUSES VICTOR JITERBUG 'E91/91MS'** | 2x HM All-American  
 Her December Norwin sells. A family that makes AA! Claimed Swiss/Rick Kruse, IA

**CHAMPION VIEW WF HOP '2E94'** | Res. Nat. Bell Ringer | 34,200M 1643F 1106P  
 A 3/24 Rampage sells from Hop's Daredevil daughter! Widerman & Warner, PA & MD

**JUST IN BRAIDEN PARADISE '2E93'** | A pkg of THREE sexed Carter embryos sell from this HM All-American. Full sister is the 90-point All-American Popsicle. Justin & Ashley Kaufman, PA

**ELOC WAGOR KANDID '3E95'** | A pkg of THREE sexed Diego embryos sell from the WDE Gr. Champ Kandid's 91-pt Thunder dtr. w/ over 1100F. Quite an offering! Harrison & Fiddler, VA

**ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:**  
 A Fall Calf from the AA|EX Snow Angel. **JoBo/Packard/Kueffner, PA**  
 Two Fall Calves by Desperado and March twin calves from **Mowreys, PA**  
 A 12/23 Wonder from the Sage/Snickers family. **Edge View, NY**  
 A 10/23 Desperado from the same family as Bosephus! **Hannah Riser, PA**  
 Additional consignments coming from **Morris/Gauta, DE; Wind Mill Farm, PA; Ryan Guidice, PA.**

**GOOD CALVES FOR ALL LEVELS!**  
 Come join us early to view calves on Friday evening. For catalogs and more information on Maryland Brown Swiss, visit: [www.sites.google.com/site.marylandbrownswiss](http://www.sites.google.com/site.marylandbrownswiss) | Facebook.

CDE DAIRY MARKETS & MANAGEMENT UPDATE

All prices — APRIL 3, 2024 — except where noted

JAYNE SEBRIGHT Executive Director, CDE 717.346.0849 jsebright@centerfordairyexcellence.org



Feb. DMC announced, HPAI cases expand: USDA announced the February margin under the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program this week at \$9.44 per hundredweight, just 6 cents below the \$9.50 threshold.

Lower feed costs drove the higher margins in February, with feed costs falling to their lowest level since March 2021. Feed costs per hundred pounds of milk produced fell 46 cents from last month to \$11.16 per cwt.

Farms have until April 29 to enroll in DMC for the 2024 Program Year. For those who still haven't enrolled, USDA is encouraging calling ahead to set up an appointment with local FSA offices to minimize wait times.

The second change involves combining established production history (EPH) and supplemental production history (SPH). If a farm has applied for supplemental dairy margin coverage in a previous year, they can now combine their original EPH and SPH for one adjusted production history (APH).

Prices change daily. This market information is an example for educational purposes. The market data below are compiled weekly by Farmshine, via CME & USDA reports.

the discounted premium on their full APH. If actual production in 2019 was greater than EPH, the option still exists to establish SPH which can then combine to create a new APH. SPH is determined by subtracting EPH from 2019 actual production and multiplying the difference by 75%.

The USDA continues to update the industry on the spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy herds. As of April 2, 12 cases have been confirmed in dairy cattle in 5 states, including Texas (7 herds), Kansas (2), Michigan (1), New Mexico (1), and Idaho (1).

USDA is advising all producers and veterinarians to limit movement of cattle as much as possible and to test all cattle before any necessary movements. The agency is also recommending that farms limit wild bird exposure, limit traffic into and out of farm properties, restrict visitors to essential personnel, and isolate any sick animals from the herd.

The Center hosted a call with Pennsylvania State Veterinarian Dr. Alex Hamberg and Penn State Extension Veterinarian Dr. Hayley Springer this week to help answer questions on the situation and Pennsylvania's response. A recording of that call is available at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/HPAI-industry-call/.

Markets

Middleburg Auction

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Timothy, Grass, Alfalfa, Mixed hay, Straw, By the bale, Ear corn.

Morrison's Cove Auction

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Mixed hay, Round bales, Large bales.

Wolgemuth Auction

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Mixed hay, Grass, Orchard.

Dewart Auction

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Dewart, Pa. Cattle, Slaughter cattle, Steers, Choice, Select, Holstein steers, Heifers, Slaughter cows, PmWhit 65-75% lean, Breakers 75-80% lean.

Middleburg Auction

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Middleburg, Pa. Cattle, Feeder cattle, Steers, M/L-1, M/L-2, Holstein steers, L-3, M-3, Heifers, M/L-1, M/L-2, Holstein heifers, L-3, M-3, BULLS, M/L-1, M/L-2, Slaughter cattle, Steers, HiCho & Pm, Choice, Select, Holstein steers, HiCho & Pm, Choice, Breakers 75-80% lean, Heifers, Boners 80-85% lean, Lean 85-90% lean, Slaughter bulls, Feeder cattle, Steers, M/L-1-2, Holstein steers, L-3, Heifers, M/L-1-2, BULLS, M/L-1-2, Calves, 380, Feeder calves, #1 Hol bulls, #2 Hol bulls, #3 Hol bulls, Utility bulls, Hol heifers, Boners 80-85% lean, Lean 85-90% lean, Slaughter dairy cows, PmWhit 65-75% lean, Breakers 75-80% lean, Boners 80-85% lean, Lean 85-90% lean, BULLS, 2-3, Calves, 158, Feeder calves, #1 Hol bulls, #2 Hol bulls, #3 Hol bulls, Utility bulls, #1 Hol heifers, #2 Hol heifers.

Greencastle Livestock

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Greencastle, Pa. Cattle, Slaughter cattle, Steers, HiCho & Pm, Choice, Select, Holstein steers, HiCho & Pm, Choice, Select, Heifers, HiCho & Pm, Choice, Select, Slaughter cows, Breakers 75-80% lean, Boners 80-85% lean, Lean 85-90% lean, Slaughter bulls, Feeder cattle, Steers, M/L-1, Heifers, M/L-1, M/L-2, BULLS, M/L-1, M/L-2, Calves, 344, Feeder calves, #1 Hol bulls, #2 Hol bulls, #3 Hol bulls, Utility bulls, #1 Hol heifers, #2 Hol heifers.

Morrison's Cove

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Martinsburg, Pa. Cattle, Steers, Choice, Heifers, Choice, Good, Heifers, Choice, Good, Cows, Util/Commercial, Can/LoCut, Bullocks, Good & choice, Bulls Y/G #1, Feeder cattle, Steers, Bulls, Heifers, Calves, 102, Choice, Good, Standard, Hol bulls, Hol heifers.

Wyalusing Livestock

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Wyalusing, Pa. Cattle, Holstein calves, 70-89 lbs, 90-110 lbs, Feeder cattle, 200-300 lbs, 301-500 lbs, 501-700 lbs, 701-900 lbs.

Hosking Sales

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes New Berlin, N.Y. Cattle, Dairy cows.

CME DAILY FUTURES & OPTIONS TRADING — APR. 3, 2024 AT THE CLOSE

Table with 13 columns: APR-24, MAY-24, JUN-24, JUL-24, AUG-24, SEP-24, OCT-24, NOV-24, DEC-24, JAN-25, FEB-25, MAR-25, TREND. Includes Class III Milk Futures, Class IV Milk Futures, Class III Milk Options, Milk Basis, PA Basis, and DMC Official Gross Margins.

Table with 13 columns: DEC-22, JAN-23, FEB-23, MAR-23, APR-23, MAY-23, JUN-23, JUL-23, AUG-23, SEP-23, OCT-23, NOV-23, DEC-23, JAN-24, FEB-24, \*MAR-24. Includes U.S. Avg Premium Alfalfa & Alfalfa/Grass, U.S. Avg Bred Cows & Heifers, U.S. Avg Fresh Cows.

Table with 13 columns: MAY-24, JUL-24, SEP-24, DEC-24, MAR-25, MAY-25, JUL-25, SEP-25, DEC-25, MAR-26, MAY-26, JUL-26, TREND. Includes Corn Futures, Soybean Futures.

Table with 13 columns: MAY-24, JUL-24, AUG-24, SEP-24, OCT-24, DEC-24, JAN-25, MAR-25, MAY-25, JUL-25, AUG-25, SEP-25, TREND. Includes PA Milk Margin & IOFC-Latest PSU Values, CME Dairy Cash-Settled Futures, Spot Cash, CME Spot Cheese.

Table with 13 columns: APR-24, MAY-24, JUN-24, JUL-24, AUG-24, SEP-24, OCT-24. Includes Current Federal Order Values, Weighted Avg 4-Wk Feb-Mar, Product Value, Make Allow Net, Cheese, Butter, NFDM, Drywhey.

Table with 13 columns: FEB-24, MAR-2024. Includes Cattle - Dairy Purposes, Cows, Heifers, Bred, Springing, Beef x, Open, 300-600 lbs Beef X, 600-900 lbs Beef X, 900-1100 lbs Beef X, Bulls (800-1300 lbs).

Table with 4 columns: Cattle, Current, Beef X, YR AGO. Includes Cull Market Cows, Premium White, Breakers, Boners, Lean, FED Holstein Steers, Bull Calves.

Logos for Center for Dairy Excellence, Farmshine, and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.











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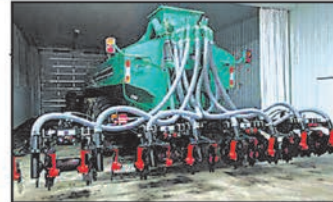
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## CAPTURE GENETIC TRENDS

“We joined the NxGEN program because we wanted **better genetics faster**, and to use the **absolute best genetics** to move our herd forward.”

- Jarrod Kollwelter, JC-Kow Farms LLC, Whitewater, WI.

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“NxGEN has been a very **beneficial tool** for our genetic program. The **early access** to the **most elite genetics** in the industry has allowed us to improve our herd’s genetic base.”

- Ryan Matheron, Hilmar Holsteins, Hilmar, CA.



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