

Farmshine • Volume 46, Number 10 • \$20 one year

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November 1, 2024

Joan Seidel honored at Dairy Expo

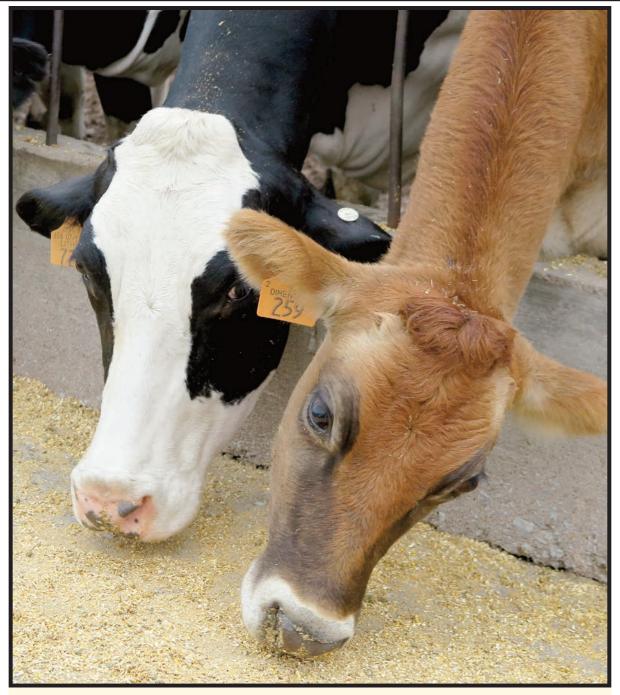
MADISON, Wis. - Joan Seidel of Fleetwood, Pa., became the 33rd Klussendorf-MacKenzie Award winnner at World Dairy Expo® held earlier this month. Over the years, she worked with many of the nation's top show strings, including Elite Dairy, Lylehaven, Ruann, Pappys, Cormdale, Snyder Homestead, Brigeen Farms, Woodmansee Holsteins, Tumbleweed, Green Meadows, Friendship Farm, and Pintail Point. She spends nearly 300 days on the road preparing cattle for shows, sales, and classifications.

Joan's story began on her family dairy farm near Avon, N.Y. when she began showing dairy cattle at age 9. As she honed her skills, she went on to win numerous All-New York and Junior All-New York Awards. As she transitioned from Junior Holstein activities and hit the road as an adult, she worked for Bennett Farms and Ruann Dairy. During those early days, she learned from great mentors, including John Bennett and Lewis Porter.

With those experiences under her belt, Joan, along with her husband, Doug, formed the Camelot Cattle Company where they ran a show string together. Clients and their cattle benefitted from the excellent care Joan provided and eventually those animals won numerous All-American nominations, During those years, the Camelot Cattle Company was known for winning multiple Herdsmanship Awards at World Dairy Expo.

With character being an important qualification for the Duncan MacKenzie award, Joan's personal attributes are many. Her award nominators

turn to page 17



You can't have one without the other

Nutrition and herd health are the theme of several articles in this week's Farmshine. You can't have one without the other. Likewise, nutritionists and veterinarians are involved in guiding herd health and nutrition programs on today's dairy farms, large or small. This pair of cows in a mixed herd is licking up the last crumbs, kernels and fines. Photo by Dieter Krieg

Details provided for upcoming referendum

By DANNY MUNCH **AFBF Economist**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Dairy farmers will soon have the opportunity to weigh in on proposed USDA Federal Milk Marketing Order amendments through a referendum process. While referendums are a routine part of FMMO proceedings, many dairy farmers may be unfamiliar with the specifics of how voting works, particularly given the complexities surrounding the FMMO system.

This article decodes the referendum process, including what dairy farmers should expect, who is eligible and what a "yes" or "no" vote truly means for the future of their milk marketing order. The information presented is based on USDA's in recent webinar about the process.

The 12-step journey to a referendum begins with a formal hearing on stakeholder-proposed changes to the Federal Milk Marketing Order system. The most recent FMMO proceeding, which took place in Carmel, Indiana, from August 2023 to January 2024, represents the first comprehensive review of FMMO pricing formulas in over 20

Throughout the hearing, stakeholders, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, debated key issues such as make allowances, milk composition factors, and Class I differentials—factors that could significantly influence pricing formulas across the 11 existing federal orders. In July 2024, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service issued a recommended decision, opening a comment period for feedback on proposed

turn to page 11

PERIODICAL • DO NOT DELAY

A problem for Pennsylvania 5	Hurricane / tornado damage 3
Ayrshire show winners 16	Market Moos15
Cows' transition period 23	Old Timers' Lunch in Florida 2
Editorial4	PYP call about +prices7

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RICKLAND FARMS, ELDORADO, WISCONSIN, THE RICKERT FAMILY (4 generations)
Family featured in RFD-TV Holstein America; Jim Rickert and grandson Miles, 14, pictured
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"Udder Comfort makes the biggest difference," Jim reports. "It pays to get fresh udders softer, faster, for better milking and more comfortable cows

RICKERT FAMILY

milking and more comfortable cows at the start of lactation. We wouldn't be doing this if it didn't pay."

we tried. We love what it does for our fresh cows, especially 2-year-olds. It gets swelling out fast, softening udders quicker for more comfortable milking. We really like the ease of use and doing fresh groups in the barn with the Udder Comfort

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morning for 10 days after calving while in lockups for daily temps," says Jim Rickert of Rickland Farms, Eldorado, Wisconsin.

Four generations farm 2000 acres and milk 975 Reg. Holsteins. They were profiled in a Sept. 2023 Holstein America on RFD-TV. (Watch it at https://qrco.de/Rickland or scan QR.)

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Gary Mithoefer

Larry Hawkins

Mark your calendars

Dairy Old Timer's lunch set in Tampa

TAMPA, Pa. — The new and better Old Timer's Luncheon is a great chance to catch up with old dairy friends and meet new ones!

For over 45 years, dairy snowbirds have gathered in Florida for the Old-Timers Luncheon (originally a breakfast). Fifteen to 20 states and provinces of Canada are represented for a good old-fashioned get-together.

In the past, the breakfast was at the Florida State Fair, however Covid-inspired changes made this less doable. The new location for the meeting and lunch is O'Brien's Irish Pub, 701 West Lumsden Road, Brandon, Fla.

The 2025 Old Timer's Luncheon date is Monday, February 17, and starts at noon with greetings to old friends and new acquaintances. Lunch will be served at 1 o'cock to give those who are attending the cow show at the nearby Florida State Fair a chance to join the crowd. The meal will be order off the menu. "I have tested the menu, and it is very good!" declares co-organizer Larry Hawkins.

"And you do not actually have to be an "old timer" to attend, since most of us are in our 'new 40s!" Larry points out. "You just have to be in Florida in February and be connected to the dairy industry (even if you just like milk!)."

The guest speaker, Madison Dyment, is a PhD candidate at the University of Florida and a previous winner at the World Dairy Expo Collegiate Dairy Judging Contest.

To register (we do need to know ahead, if possible) call, text, or email:

- Gary Mithoefer at 317-225-9025
- gnmithoefer@comcast.net (or)
 Larry Hawkins at 608-516-0101 lhawk1111@yahoo.com.





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Farmers affected by Milton may apply for low-interest or interest-free loans

MCALPIN, Fla. - Hurricane-force winds and tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Milton after making landfall on October 9th flattened critical infrastructure on South Florida dairy farms, causing millions of dollars in damages and lost milk production. It was the third hurricane to batter Florida dairy farms since the 2024 hurricane season began on

"This is yet another huge blow to our industry, and these dairies have a long road to rebuild and recover," said United Dairy Farmers of Florida Executive Director Ray Hodge. "But we will continue to farm through this."

In addition to devastating winds, several tornadoes spun off from Milton's outer bands, including one that cut a 2.5-mile path across the Okeechobee dairy region, destroying barns, buildings and critical equipment

The United Dairy Farmers of Florida's early estimate of damages to farm operations stands at \$5 million and will climb, Hodge said. Also hard hit were dairies in Manatee, Hardee and Citrus counties.

On September 26, Hurricane Helene plowed through a major dairy-producing region of more than 20 farms in Gilchrist, Suwannee, Lafayette, Madison and Jefferson counties. It was the largest-ever hurricane impact to dairies in the region. Hurricane Debby also made landfall in the Big Bend area on August 5th.

The most immediate challenge after hurricanes is having power restored, Hodge said. A lack of electricity and essential housing and cooling systems stresses the cows, leading to an immediate drop in milk production of 10 to 15 percent and a continued loss that can last for months. Delays in delivery of feed also are a significant concern.

With assistance from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and electricity providers, power has been restored to the farms, Hodge said. "Commissioner Wilton Simpson and his staff have been tireless in supporting us through these devastating storms, and they're committed

to getting us the tools necessary to recover mid- and long-term."

Simpson announced on Monday, Oct. 21 that farms affected by Milton may apply for low-interest or interest-free loans from the Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program. The program provides farms access to funds to help rebuild and repair farm buildings.



Dear Brother and Sister in Christ, In the United States, 40% of Christians do not vote.

If God did not want us to have an active role in His plans, He would not have called us to action repeatedly throughout Scripture. Again and again, from Genesis to Revelation, He calls on His people to act, to stand against evil, and to stand up for the needy and vulnerable (Isaiah 6:8, Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 5:11, Proverbs 29:2, Proverbs 31:8-9). If we sit on the sidelines while every good thing our nation stands for is destroyed, we will have violated far more Scripture than the handful of passages that may be misused to

Christians oftentimes ignore getting involved in the voting process for several reasons: (1) they don't believe their vote counts, (2) they have been misinformed, or (3) they have never done it; therefore, it's hard to break the ice. We encourage you to pray and ask God to help you break free from these fears. We are all called upon to do the right thing.

Many Christians do not vote because of pressure from their church and community. It is time to fully reverse that habit. We are all called upon to do the right thing. The hard part is finding the courage to stand up, to stand in the gap. Initially, you may be judged for doing so. But standing in the gap for good is the

Here's what you can do today to save the country:

- 1. You can vote early by mail, or in-person. Call us and we'll help you better understand the options ennsylvania offers: 717-403-7041.
- Talk to everyone about why you are voting and why they should too.
 Pray for our nation and our nation's leaders.

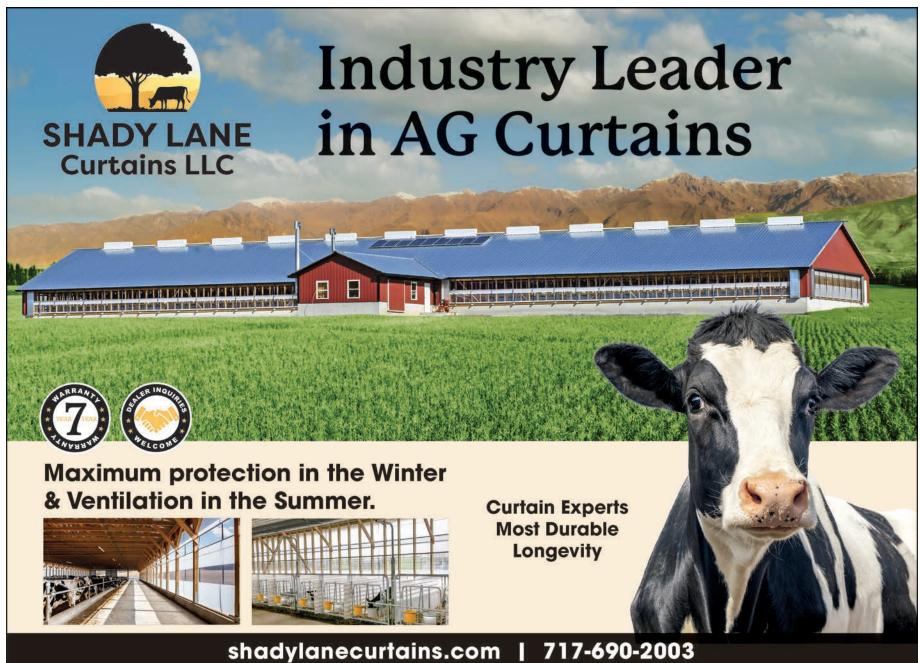
Please act. You don't want to wake-up the day after the 2024 election wishing you had done more to

Sincerely,

Anonymous

Amishman from Wayne County, Ohio

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SHERRY'S THOUGHTS

It's simple: Give consumers what they want!

By SHERRY BUNTING **Special for Farmshine**

magine, you count on picking up a half gallon of whole chocolate milk at least once a week, but every time you go to the grocery store for the great tasting beverage you seek, that part of the shelf is empty – with plenty of 1% low-fat chocolate milk and other dairy case beverages in full supply.

Imagine, going to the same store in another town, and finding the same situation, going home empty-handed without the beverage you want.

Imagine the frustration that for most people simply turns to avoidance and lost sales.

In this case it was the empty case for whole chocolate milk made by Maola for those Food Lion stores near Bedford and Lynchburg, Virginia.

That was the dilemma for Dr. Don Gardner, DVM, of Huddleston, when he called me in September. But before he called, he did his research.

You see, this story could be told just about anywhere, involving just about any brand of whole flavored milk, but Doc Gardner wasn't going to shrug and let it go. He had gone not once to each store, not twice, but several times over a multiweek period and became frustrated enough to seek out the

First, he was told by one store manager that more milk would come the next day. He went back the next day. Empty again. Went to the other store. Empty also.

His next conversation with the manager was revealing. Store managers told him it is the supplier that decides what milk fat levels and flavors are stocked.

"It's allocated. The store has no say. That's what they told me," Gardner recounted in amazement, realizing that it didn't matter what consumers wanted, what they bought, how they showed their purchase power, his purchase power, his

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schools can again enjoy healthier whole milk. USA is watching you.



Tricia Adams of Hoffman Family Farms, Potter County, Pennsylvania, is a member of the Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee, obtaining whole milk whenever she can for farm tours and athletic events. She says her daughter Marley has been a whole chocolate milk athlete her entire life. She's pictured here after playing shortstop in the gold medal

neighbors' purchase power... the store would get what they would get, and y'all better drink it.

I've heard this story too from the corner convenience store and gas station near my home in eastern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It is one of the few that still boasts a large case for milk, not just one bottom-row in a case. He'll get what his supplier, a different supplier, gives, and is afraid to increase his volume to get more whole milk or whole chocolate milk because they might give him more of the stuff that doesn't sell -- allocated to the full volume count of his order. That's

(USDA estimates consumer-packaged fluid milk product sales each month, and the reports show whole milk sales can really fluctuate, especially whole flavored milk. It's clear this is much less a measure of consumer demand, and more of a measure of what processors decide to offer on store shelves, thereby restraining potential sales totals.)

"We have what consumers want. When someone wants what you've got... give it to them," said Gardner. "Otherwise, they're just trying to lead consumers to something else."

As we spoke, I thought about the recording sent to me the previous weekend of the impromptu speech given by Perry County Dairy Princess Sadie Innerst during the Pennsylvania Pageant in late September.

Sadie was asked by emcee Kirk Sattazahn: "The sale of fluid milk has decreased over the last few years. How do you make milk cool again?"

"The number one way to make milk cool again is by putting whole milk back in the schools," Sadie replied, delivering the verdict boldly, promptly, and with further detail.

"People will say, 'oh, but they already have milk in schools, and it has 13 essential nutrients.' I agree with you, but personally, I don't drink milk at school... Fat is flavor, and the flavor is really important," Sadie said.

"The skim milk in schools... gives milk a bad rap. We got whole milk at school one time by accident, and everyone was saying 'This milk is so good.' But they told us 'Oh, you're not allowed to have it.' That doesn't make any sense," she added. "Putting whole milk back in schools would give it the good rap. We would hear 'man, this stuff tastes good! I could drink this every single day."

In Sadie's case, she spoke of children in school being forced to have only the non-fat and low-fat milk options.

Doc Gardner takes this one step further. He sees not only are the schools forced to offer only the "watered down, tasteless stuff," he too is having his choice denied by the constantly empty slot due to 'allocation,' where the whole chocolate milk he loves is supposed to be available at the two Food Lion stores he frequents.

It's simple, he says: Give consumers what they want!

Just think how much cooler milk would be and what this could do for fluid milk sales.

"We are seeing (from government and industry) basic marketing like the former Soviet Union where they would make five million black shoes and say 'we think you all need black shoes, so here they are, put them on, and like them," Gardner declares.

turn to page 12





Is USDA putting finger on scale of competition?

ESL adjuster problematic for Pennsylvania's fluid milk industry

By SHERRY BUNTING Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The USDA recommended decision for Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO changes would restore the higher-of pricing method for Class I fluid milk based on disorderly marketing evidence, which led to negative PPD and depooling losses for farmers.

However, USDA has carved out a different pricing method for extended shelf-life (ESL) milk that applies the average-of pricing with

a rolling 13 to 36 month ESL adjuster.

A proposal from Edge Cooperative based in Minnesota sought to do this with a Class I 'Hedgeable' designation, but it was ruled out of order by the Administrative Law Judge during the hearing. This means vetting such a proposal through the legal rulemaking process did not occur.

Despite this, USDA is using the tenets of that proposal to create an ESL adjuster for milk with shelf life over 60 days that USDA's own data show would create as much as a \$1.00 per hundred-weight difference, or more, in raw milk costs for fluid milk plants at the same location in any given month.

This results in two different prices and two different pool obligations for fluid milk processors competing at the same location, even on the same store shelf, based on shelf life.

USDA appears to believe that this is necessary for milk undergoing extra processing to make it shelf stable to last 13 months unrefrigerated, or for milk that is ultra high temperature (UHT) pasteurized to last 60 days or more with refrigeration. Representatives for Nestle and Coca Cola's fairlife had testified that they price their ESL products 9 to 12 months out, and use futures markets to cover their risk. But this approach runs counter to the Agriculture Marketing Agreement Act that specifies uniform pricing, not changes based on 'value-add'.

For Pennsylvania, and likely the entire eastern dairy industry, dividing Class I into two separate price movers is quite problematic, potentially favoring out of state ESL processors in the identified growth centers of the Midwest over in-state fresh fluid milk processors on the eastern seaboard, which again, goes against the language of the Agriculture Mar keting Agreement Act with the potential to be quite disruptive to FMMO pools.

If this two-mover Class I pricing is part of the final decision the Secretary will announce by November 12th, it means USDA is essentially putting its thumb on the scale of competition in favor of ESL, and doing so without having properly noticed the

industry, not having included it in the hearing, and perhaps, without the legal grounds for it.

Furthermore, there are huge implications for school milk contracts. Let fresh milk and shelf stable milk compete on a level playing field. Let consumers decide what they want to drink

"Inadequate notice deprived HTST (conventional pasteurization) processors of the opportunity to directly address the serious

adverse consequences that would come from two separate fluid milk prices," states the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers (PAMD) in its official comment to the Hearing Clerk at the Federal Register.

"If there had been any hint whatsoever that the Secretary was considering changing a decades-long policy of having one Class I mover for all fluid milk, PAMD members, including and in addition to those in attendance at the hearing, would have been able to develop testimony and present evidence of the harm that would come from giving their competition – ESL fluid milk – a more advantageous regulated price. With these comments, PAMD does not seek to undermine or disadvantage ESL milk processors. PAMD is only seeking to ensure that the regulated price to which HTST processors are subject does not prevent them from effectively competing with ESL milk products and evolving in ways that are necessary to maintain and secure milk sales."

PAMD included in its comment example turn to page 6

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Dairyman's Datebook

NOVEMBER 6-7, Penn State's Dairy Nutrition Workshop, Hershey Lodge, 325 University Drive, Hershey.

NOVEMBER 7-8, Organic Farming Conference, Mount Hope Event Center, 8076 State Route 241, Mount Hope, Ohio.

NOVEMBER 7-11, North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), Kentucky Exposition Center, 937 Phillips Lane, Louisville, Ky.

NOVEMBER 12, 9 a.m. Penn State workshop: "Management Essentials for Dairy Success" at the Blair County Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Drive, Altoona, Pa.

NOVEMBER 13, Triple-Hil Sires fall meeting, The Falcon's Nest

Banquet Hall, 2001 East Main Street, Falconer, N.Y. (near Jamestown). Free lunch provided.

NOVEMBER 19, 9 a.m. Women in Dairy Conference, Holiday Inn, Grantville, Pa.

DECEMBER 10, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Center for Dairy Excellence 20th Anniversary Luncheon, Melhorn Manor, 977 West Main Street, Mount Joy, Pa.

FEBRUARY 5-6, 2025, Pennsylvania Dairy Summit, Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center, 215 Innovation Boulevard, State College

FEBRUARY 17, 2025, 1 p.m. Dairy Old Timers Luncheon, O'Brien's Irish Pub, 701 West Lumsden Road, Tampa, Fla.

ESL adjuster_____ from page 5

testimony from Marburger Dairy of Evans City, Pennsylvania, which would have been introduced IF the USDA had properly noticed the industry that this outcome was being considered. But it did not notice the industry. The recommended decision is clearly outside the hearing scope.

The PAMD cites statute that does not allow the introduction of new evidence following the hearing, stating that the situation should be remedied by reopening the hearing or addressing the Base Class I Skim Milk Price (mover) in the context of what was properly noticed and the record — not by introducing a last-minute "creative" and unvetted piece.

Upstate Niagara Cooperative also opposes the two-price decision for Class I, stating in its official comment that, "USDA is essentially setting a new and different precedent that fluid milk can and should be handled differently by Federal Orders on the basis of marketing characteristics and individual handler's go-to-market strategies."

The New York cooperative, which owns the Valley Farms bottling plant in Williamsport, Pennsylvania that is a member of PAMD, calls the decision "a slippery slope."

USDA states that only 10% of fluid milk would qualify for the ESL adjustment, but offers no proof of this. In fact,

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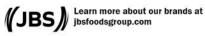


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Clark, John20	Oregon Water Conditioning.14
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Fertrell8	Precast Systems2
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Farmshine learned through a series of questions to USDA this week, that the "other products" category of the monthly Estimated Fluid Milk Products Report is not ESL products. That part of the monthly report is comprised of eggnog, products like Lactaid, fairlife, and drinkable yogurt (not even a Class I product).

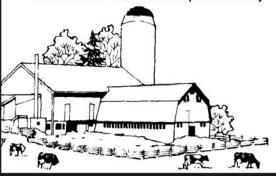
In fact, USDA confirmed via email that, "ESL milks would be included in the category that matches their fat content. For example, whole ESL milk would be included in the whole milk category. Chocolate ESL milk would be reported in the flavored milk category." These two types of fluid milk based on shelf life are not even separated in USDA's sales reporting.

Furthermore, 10 of the 11 new Class I milk plants — that have either been recently completed or will startup in the next 12 to 18 months — are all ESL plants. USDA's 10% figure is an unknown and subject to rapid change.

"These marketing characteristics are essentially valueadded products, not those which should serve as the founturn to page 12

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Auction Guide

NOV. 6, 10:30 a.m. Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

NOV. 7, 10 a.m. Know What You Buy Heifer Sale, Middletown, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

NOV. 7, 10:30 a.m. Dan Schantz Greenhouses Farm Equipment & Truck Auction, Zionsville, Pa. Sale managed by Mel Manasse & Son Auctioneers.

NOV. 15, 11 a.m. Public Auction, Fraley Dairy Complex, Muncy, Pa. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Company.

NOV. 20, 12 p.m. Farm Auction, Oakland, Md. Sale managed by Hurley Real Estate & Auctions.

NOV. 21, 10 a.m. Special Thanks-

giving Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed

by Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales.

NOV. 22, 11 a.m. Special Thanksgiving Dairy Sale, Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales, Ronks, Pa. Sale managed by Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales.

NOV. 29, 7:30 a.m. Horse Consignment Auction, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

DEC. 19, 10 a.m. Special Christmas Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales.

2025

FEB. 8, Pa. Holstein Convention Sale, Gettysburg, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

International Jersey show summarized

MADISON, Wis. – For the second year in a row, Stoney Point Joel Bailey was named senior champion and grand champion of the International Jersey Show. An aged cow, she is owned by Vierra Dairy Farms of Hilmar, Calif. Earned prizes included the Allen Hetts Grand Champion Trophy and the \$1000 Udder Comfort Grand Champion Award.

Spring View Joel Kinsley, the winning 5-year old owned by Budjon Farms and Peter and Lyn Vail of Lomira, Wis. was named reserve senior and reserve grand champion.

Milk Source Genetics of Kaukauna, Wis., was awarded the intermediate champion trophy for GMBV Joel Dixie-ET, the winning senior 3-year-old. The reserve title went to the winning junior 3-year-old, Pacific Edge VIP Tessah-ET, owned by Brent Rocha and Coltan Seals of Tillamook, Ore.

Named junior champion was Schulte Bros Colton Fallon, a summer yearling. Owned by David Hoese and Schulte Brothers of Glencoe, Minn., she Fallon was also declared best bred and owned. Ratliff Rock & Roll Rum, owned by Ron and Christy Ratliff, Austin Kopecky, and Kyle Natzke of Fond du Lac, Wis., was named reservejunior champion.

Pacific Edge and Misty Meadows Dairy, both of Tillamook, Ore., tied for Premier Breeder, while Vierra Dairy, Hilmar, Calif., won Premier Exhibitor and Premier Breeder of the Heifer Show. Misty Meadows Dairy also won Premier Exhibitor of the Heifer Show.

The Premier Sire title went to Guimo Joel-ET, while Mr Kathies Kid Rock was Premier Sire of the heifer show.

Official judge Ryan Krohlow of Poynette, Wis., and associate judge, Jean-Phillipe Charest of Saint Alexandre, Quebec, Canada, evaluated 392 Jersey entries.



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Opportunities for higher farm gate prices to be discussed

HARRISBURG, Pa. – On Friday, November 8 from 12-1 p.m., the Center for Dairy Excellence will host a monthly "Protecting Your Profits" webinar titled "New Year, New Strategy: Capturing Opportunity and Managing Dairy Market Volatility."

Jacob Thompson and Andy McCarty, dairy business advisors with Land O'Lakes, will share the opportunities that are available for dairy producers to experience higher dairy farm gate prices if they have a solid risk management plan in place. They will also offer strategies for adapting risk management plans over time to help navigate the volatility that comes along with dairy markets.

"Are you setting yourself up for long-term success by capturing opportunities before they're too late? Are you adapting to changing feed and dairy markets to guide your approach to risk management on your dairy farm? In this month's webinar, Jacob and Andy will answer some of these questions and help producers learn how to control what you can," said Valerie Mason-Faith, risk education manager at the Center. "The webinar will be packed with information to learn how to position your dairy for future success, protect your milk price volatility, and prevent missed opportunities."

During the webinar, the speakers will explore four main risk management programs available to dairy producers, including Forward Contracting, Livestock Gross Margin, Dairy Margin Coverage, and Dairy Revenue Protection. With each program having different tiers, levels, and decisions, Jacob and Andy will discuss the possibilities for tailoring risk management plans that are unique to producers' specific dairy operations.

Jacob Thompson is a senior dairy business advisor and serves Land O'Lakes, Inc. member-owners in the Mid-Atlantic region and in California, providing a full suite of risk management services for their operations. Jacob is an expert in cost of production analysis, milk production and expense budget development, milk marketing plan development and market updates. In addition, he is a licensed Dairy Revenue Protection Insurance Agent.

By providing dairy operations with tools, resources and insights in executing sound risk management strategies, Jacob is a source of trust to members in planning for agility during market volatility and long-term business success. With over 18 years of experience with Land O'Lakes, Jacob has become a sought-after risk management thought leader with a strong passion for the dairy industry and tools that benefit producers. Jacob was raised on a dairy farm in northwestern Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in agricultural economics & business

Andy McCarty serves as a dairy business

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advisor for Land O'Lakes, Inc. for memberowners in the Mid-Atlantic region, providing a full suite of risk management services for their operations, Andy is a licensed Dairy Revenue Protection Insurance Agent and provides cost of production analysis, milk production and expense budget development, milk marketing plan development, and provides timely market updates.

With over 18 years in the agriculture industry, Andy has a wide range of expertise in risk management. He is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and help any producer find commonsense solutions through different tools available that can have lasting impacts and benefits. Andy has developed a strong passion for the dairy industry at a young age being raised on a dairy farm in northeastern Pennsylvania. He's a graduate of Delaware Valley

University with a degree in dairy business.

There are three webinar formats: Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/NovemberPYP on Friday, November 8 at noon to watch the webinar live.

Individuals who would prefer to connect via conference call, dial the following number on Friday, November 8 at noon:

Dial: 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 892 0973 5392 Passcode: 340600

For the podcast format, visit: www.centerfor dairyexcellence.org/pyp to listen to a recording. The episode is to be published after the live webinar and conference call are concluded.

Valerie Mason-Faith will facilitate the webinar. Contact Valerie at vmason@centerfordairyexcellence.org or call (717) 550-8720 with questions about the webinar.

Milking Machines & Mastitis

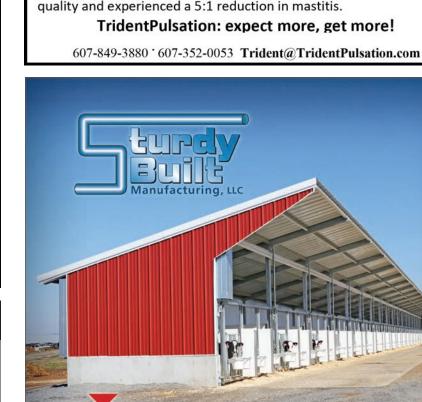
Numerous Journal of Dairy Science studies document the role milking machines have in teat health and mastitis. You can observe milk wetted and puffy teats when the machine is detached. Studies document that most liner slip is never heard.

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FerAppease proven effective in college and on N.Y. farm

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - A Texas A&M University research study by Cooke et al. in 2023 evaluated the impact Fer-Appease, a unique analogue of the naturally occurring Maternal Bovine Appeasing Substance (MBAS), had on the health and performance of preweaned Holstein calves. Results showed that FerAppease reduced the incidence of diarrhea, lowered mortality risk and increased body weight. The results were published in the American Association of Bovine Practitioner (AABP) The Bovine Practitioner, Vol. 57, No. 2.

The study, conducted on a New York commercial dairy farm, used 410 calves with 205 in the treatment group and 205 in the control group. Treated calves received a 2.5-ml topical application of FerAppease to the nuchal skin and 2.5 ml to the skin above the muzzle at one day of age and then every 14 days until weaning at 60 days. An extra dose was applied when calves were moved from hutches to collective pens at approximately 100 days of age. Control calves did not receive any treatment. Both calf groups were evaluated daily for approximately 100 days regarding their general health, focusing on detection of diarrhea and respiratory diseases by farm personnel who were kept blind of the treatment groups.

Researchers determined that FerAppease reduced the incidence of diarrhea from 70.8% in the control group to 58.6%in the treatment group (P = 0.01), and mortality risk was statistically lower (P = 0.011) for the treatment group at 2.4% compared to the control group at 7.8% (Fig. 1). In addition, FerAppease-treated calves were 9.4 pounds heavier on average (P = 0.002) than control calves seven days after they were moved from the individual hutches to the collective pens.

"Maternal pheromones are naturally produced by the mammary gland of the female when she is lactating, playing an important role in mitigating stress for the offspring," said Dr. Reinaldo Cooke, professor at Texas A&M Animal Sciences Department. During a AABP podcast Have You Herd? (Episode 184) Cooke explained that MBAS is the analog of that pheromone. "Researchers were able to isolate the maternal pheromone and replicate it for commercial use in cattle. This study confirms the use of MBAS during the preweaning period can be a suitable strategy to improve dairy calf health and performance."

FERA Diagnostics and Biologicals combines innovation and science to bring practical products, such as FerAppease, to the animal health field that will enhance the health, productivity and welfare of pets and production animals. A FerAppease treatment costs about \$3 per head for adult cattle and \$1.50 per head for calves. FerAppease use doesn't require a veterinarian's prescription or a Veterinary Feed Directive plan, and there are no meat withholding requirements.

For more information and study data, and to order product, visit www.FERAah.com.

Biosecurity Area signs available for the asking

HARRISBURG, Pa. - To help mitigate the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) across the Pennsylvania animal agriculture industry, the Center for Dairy Excellence has new outdoor signs available. The "No Trespassing -Biosecure Area" signs are designed for outdoor use to help dairy producers implement biosecurity protocols and communicate with visitors at the entrance of their farm or barns. The Center is mailing these signs to individuals at no cost while supplies last.

Each sign includes the following message:

- Visitors Stop No Trespassing Biosecure Area
- Please call before entering. Do not enter the property without prior approval, no exceptions.
- Any visitors found entering the property without prior approval will be considered trespassing.
- The signs include Spanish and a place to write a primary and secondary contact person's phone number.

The signs are weather-resistant with PVC material and include four grommets to help display them on the property. To request a free sign, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org /no-trespassing-sign or call 717-346-0849. To request signs in bulk, email Allen Hess at ahess@centerfordairyexcellence.org.

The Center also has Everyday Biosecurity Kits available for dairy farms at no cost, which include booklets, signage, visitor sign-in sheets, posters and additional printed resources to aid producers in developing biosecurity plans for their operations. Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/biosecuritykit or call the Center at 717-346-0849 to request a kit.

As the dairy industry learns more about HPAI and how it is affecting dairy cattle, the Center for Dairy Excellence will continue to share updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and other federal organizations during monthly Dairy Industry Conference Calls. These calls are typically held on the second Wednesday of every month.

Visit centerfordairyexcellence.org/newsletter to sign up to receive email updates and be notified about upcoming calls. Visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/hpai-industry-call to view recordings from previous calls.





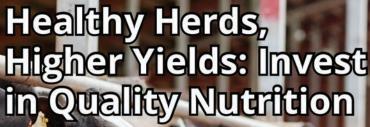


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New York exhibitors dominated All-American Red & White show

HARRISBURG, Pa. - New York breeders and exhibitors took home many top honors at the All-American Red & White Show, held here on Sept. 17 during the 60th AADS.

The Wolfe Family of Ovaltop Holsteins, Richfield, N.Y. earned both the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor ban-

Hurcroft Awe Lillyann-Red brought home to Oakfield Corners Dairy her second set of banners as AADS grand and senior champion. Oakfield Corners also exhibited the HM grand and senior champion, New York-bred Willye Srndptous

Milking Shorthorns from Hard Core Farm dominate show at the All-American

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Keith and Donnette Fisher of Hard Core Farm, New Enterprise, Pa., bred both the grand and reserve grand champion Milking Shorthorns at the All-American Milking Shorthorn Show, held here on Sept. 17th during the 60th AADS. Further, the Fishers also earned the banners for Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor.

Grand and intermediate champion Hard Core Lottery Firepower was shown by Bryn and Reed Grantham, also of New Enterprise. Reserve grand, senior, and bred-and-owned champion Hard Core Bentley Runway was exhibited by Chriselle

The reserve senior champion Elite HP Showtime Berneta earned HM grand champion honors for Peter Vail of Valatie,

Allie and Kasen Cockrum of Krause Dairy, Como, Texas garnered reserve intermediate champion honors with their bredand-owned, Krauses Money Just My Style.

Named junior champion and best bred-and-owned heifer of the show was MD-Mistymedo Comanche Rain-P, shown by Addison Malott of Smithsburg, Md. The reserve junior champion was Bell-VF Deuce Lana-EXP-P, shown by Landon Neely of Utica, Pa.

Class placings follow: Spring calves: 1. Shocking Genetics with Brand-New Lottery Magic; 2. Shocking Genetics; 3. Landon Neely.

Winter calves: 1. Peter Vail with Riser-4 Salty-ET; 2. Keith and Donnette Fisher; 3. Vivian Malott; 4. Caylee James.

Fall calves: 1. Shocking Genetics with Fantasy-Found Anse Bacardi; 2. Jayce Nailor; 3. Andrew and Abbie Evans. Summer yearlings: 1. Addison Malott with Md-Mistymedo Comanche

Spring yearlings: 1. Landon Neely with Bell-VF Deuce Lana EXP-P 2. Keith

and Donnette Fisher; 3. Marc Whiting. Winter yearlings: 1. Keith and Donnette Fisher with KNH Endres HC

Lottery Lush-ET. Fall yearlings: 1. Peter Vail with Maunesha Creek Excite Me EXP.

Jr. best three: 1. Keith and Donnette Fisher.

Milking yearlings: 1. Peter Vail with Mile High Light My Fire EXP. Summer jr. 2-year olds: 1. Allen Hess with All-In Presto Lucille-P.

Jr. 2-year olds: 1. Quietness Farm with Floral.

Sr. 2-year olds: 1, Peter Vail with Lands-Brook KNH Chilli Pepper.

Jr. 3-year olds: 1. Krause Dairy with Style.

Sr. 3-year olds: 1. Bryn and Reed Grantham with Hard Core Lottery Fire-4-year olds: 1. Peter Vail, Elite HP Showtime Berneta.

5-vear olds: 1. Chriselle Fisher. Hard Core Bentlev Runway.

6-years and older: 1. Shocking Genetics with Weissmann Gianna Cher EXP; 2. Carson Elliott.

100,000 lbs.: 1. Keith and Donnette Fisher with HC-HP Frolic Dixie-ET. Best three: 1. Keith and Donnette Fisher.

Dam and daughter: 1. Keith and Donnette Fisher. Exhibitors herd: 1. Keith and Donnette Fisher

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Standing reserve grand and reserve senior champion was Nisly-Gen Rager Donut-Red, exhibited by Madison and Tyler Soden of Susquehanna, Pa. Madison's homebred Sweet-Peas Advanc Amber-Red was reserve junior champion as well.

Intermediate champion and best bred-and-owned cow was Mer-James Unstop Ava-Red, shown by Currie Holsteins and Jamie Crawford of Tully, New York.

Reserve intermediate champion honors went to Phillip Mc-Cormick of Millmont, Pennsylvania for his homebred milking yearling Cherry-Lor Robin-P-Red.

Cooper Merrill and Alexis Shultz of Seneca Falls showed the junior champion M-Divine W Lady Jane-Red-ET.

Class placings follow:

Spring calves: 1. Byron Stambaugh with Pheasant Echos W Dee Red-ET; 2. Barrett Pavelski; 3. Levi Cooley; 4. Mike and Cindy Weimer; 5. Chloe and Claire Lamb.

Winter calves: 1. Madison Soden with Sweet-Peas Advanc Amber-Red; 2. Chad and Sara Horst; 3. Peace and Plenty Farms LLC.; 4. Daniel Hosking;

Fall calves: 1. Daniel Kitchen and Chad and Sara Horst with Kiefland Revolution-Red; 2. Lily Marshman; 3. Byron Stambaugh; 4. Justin Burdette; Raelvn Stambaugh

Summer yearlings: 1. Jess Hart with JustNTime; 2. Jennifer Hill; 3.

Spring yearlings: 1. Merrill Cooper and Alexis Schultz with Lady Jane; 2. Addison Nolen: 3. Loren and Helen Zimmerman and Chad and Sara Horst. Winter yearlings: 1. Ayla Janney with Cash Hill Wr Luxor-Red.

Fall yearlings: 1. Lily Marshman with Tiger-Lea Rag Reflection-Red. Junior best three: 1. Byron Stambaugh.

Milking yearlings: 1. Phillip McCormick with Cherry-Lor Robin-P-Red; 2. Bob Landis and Chad and Sara Horst.

Summer jr. 2-year olds: 1. Dryhouse Farm with Dryhouse-JK Algt Au-Jr. 2-year olds: 1. Alicia and Jonathan Lamb/Oakfield Corners Dairy with

Garay-MD-WVG Barbara-Red; 2. Maggie Harper. Sr. 2-year olds: 1. Oakfield Corners Dairy with Welk-Acres Unsb Lena-

Red; 2. Michael Wolfe Jr. 3-year olds: 1. Natalie Youse with Oakland-View Awesm 8670-Red; 2.

Justin Wolfe. Sr. 3-year olds: 1. Jamie Crawford and Currie Holsteins with Ava-Red; 2.

Avery Best and Hayden Weaver.

4-year olds: 1.Tyler Soden with Nisly-Gen Rager Donut-Red; 2. Oakfield Corners Dairy.

5-year olds: 1. Hayden Weaver with WSC Jordy Miss Me-Red-ET. 6-years and older: 1. Oakfield Corners Dairy with Hurcroft Awe Lillyann-

Best three: 1. Douglas Wolfe. Produce of dam: 1. Douglas Wolfe. Exhibitors herd: 1. Oakfield Corners Dairy



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By ANDY LAUDENKLOS **R&J** Dairy Consulting

LANCASTER, Pa. — As dairy farmers and nutritionists we are always looking for ways to increase profitability. One way to increase your overall income per hundredweight is by increasing the amount of butterfat you send out the lane.

We now have a tool in our toolbox to help us look at potential ways to increase your butterfat sales. Some milk co-ops have provided us with De Novo fatty acid numbers and Lancaster DHIA can now sample your milk for De Novo fatty acids. De Novo fatty acids

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are an important part of your total butterfat percent. The total butterfat profile of your milk is made up of many fatty acids. These fatty acids can be lumped into three broad categories: De Novo fatty acids, preformed fatty acids and mixed fatty acids. We as nutritionists can look at these three categories and determine what your herd might need to help increase your overall butterfat pounds, so share these numbers with us. Let's dive deeper into each of these three categories:

De Novo fatty acids are made up of short chain fatty acids that are constructed in the rumen. These short chain fatty acids are derived from forage digestion. This category is the

FIGURE 1 4.5 4 Preformed 3.5 FA 1.31 2.5 -94.5% 4.10 2 of fat test 1.5 De novo FA 0.5 0.94 Custom Traction Grooving Fat. % g/100 g milk Source: Looking Into the Rumen with Milk Fatty Acids - Heather Dann, Rick Grant and Dave Barbano hardest of the three for your nutritionist to move Finally, the mixed category. As the name the needle on. When forage is not digestible implies, these fatty acids are a mix between this portion of your butterfat will suffer. A fatty acids that the cow makes in the mam-Now offering 3/4" wide

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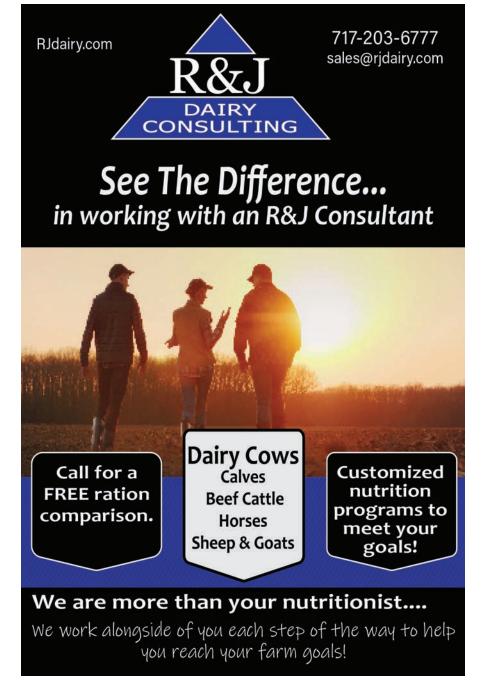
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good number to be is 0.85 to 1.1 % of your butterfat coming from De Novo fatty acids.

Preformed fatty acids are almost opposite from De Novo. They consist of long chain fatty acids. These long chain fatty acids come from different feed additives containing oils and fats such as soybeans (either roasted or hi-oleic), bypass fats, and fats in our forages. This is one of the easiest numbers for us to change in your herd. However, we must always remember we are not paid on butterfat percent, we are paid on pounds of butterfat. Different herds based on stage of lactation could respond differently to attempting to increase or decrease any De Novo fatty acid numbers. Sometimes preformed numbers increase resulting in an increased butterfat percent or daily milk production increases. Either way this still results in increased pounds of butterfat you are shipping. A good range for preformed fatty acids is 1.3-1.7.

mary gland and fatty acids that come from the feed. Feed additives, like palm fat will help increase your mixed fatty acids along with good digestible forages. A good range for mixed fatty acids will be 1.3-1.7.

When we apply this thinking to our milk fat analysis and look beyond the total butterfat number, we can learn some important things based on the levels of the De Novo. mixed and preformed categories. Since the De Novo fatty acids are made in the mammary gland, they help give us a more precise understanding of how well the rumen is functioning. Looking at your De Novo's is just one tool we can utilize to indicate a cow's level of rumen health and function. Using feeding and management strategies like these can help increase milk fat production and impact our dairy farm profitability. Talk to your consultant for more information or help in reviewing these numbers.



FMMO referendum

changes which closed September 13th, 2024.

Only after the recommended decision comment period ends and the Secretary of Agriculture makes a final decision does the referendum come into play. At this stage, dairy farmers pooled on an Order have a say in whether the proposed amendments become the new rules of the game — or if the Order itself is terminated. USDA must release a final decision by Nov. 12 (60 days from the comment deadline).

All or nothing

The referendum is an allor-nothing proposition. A vote in favor means supporting the entire Order as it is proposed to be amended. Conversely, a "no" vote supports terminating the Order entirely, along with the timely payment requirements and third-party component verification benefits that come with it. Farmers cannot pick and choose spe-

cific amendments to keep or reject, nor can they vote to retain the status quo of the current Order.

Each FMMO votes individually, meaning the outcome in one Order only impacts that specific Order. This could lead to some Orders accepting the changes while others are terminated.

USDA contends that terminating an Order following a "no" vote is the correct interpretation of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA). (However, some dairy stakeholders, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, argue that this interpretation is flawed and undermines the original intent of FMMOs to promote market stability.)

Voter eligibility

Once a final decision is announced, USDA designates a "representative month" to determine which dairy farmers are eligible to vote. Essentially, all active dairy farmers who had milk pooled on an FMMO during the representative month are eligible.

USDA-qualified cooperatives can choose to bloc vote on behalf of all their producer mem-

bers pooled on the FMMO during the representative month. This means the cooperative submits a single vote that reflects the collective interests, and votes, of its members.

cooperatives However. must decide to bloc vote for all members or allow all members to vote independently — there is no middle ground. The cooperative's vote is then counted either by the number of its eligible producers or the volume of milk those producers pooled, de-

pending on how the approval criteria play

Danny Munch

For producers not part of a bloc-voting cooperative —USDA will directly mail ballots to each eligible producer. For details on special cases, see the section below.

(The American Farm Bureau Federation supports a modified bloc voting system. This approach would require cooperatives to notify their members of the intended vote, allowing individual farmers to opt out and receive their own independent, confidential ballot. However, there is currently no legislation that amends the AMAA to authorize this form of modified bloc voting.)



** Each order votes separately, and the outcome will only affect that specific order**

YES VOTE

A "yes" vote indicates the dairy farmer supports the order as proposed by USDA to be amended in its entirety.

This includes all changes in USDA's final decision.

NO VOTE

A "no" vote means the dairy farmer opposes the USDA's proposed changes, which the **USDA** interprets as support for terminating the order entirely.

ABSTAIN

If a dairy farmer fails to return a signed ballot within the specified timeframe, their vote will be excluded from the final tally, effectively having no influence on the referendum's outcome.

American Farm Bureau Federation

As it stands, dairy farmers who are members of cooperatives will not have the option to vote individually if their cooperative decides to bloc vote.

Voting procedures

USDA designates a referendum agent usually the market administrator — to handle the logistics of the voting process within each Order. This agent determines eligibility, issues ballots, sets deadlines and ensures the integrity of the referendum.

Here's what to expect:

Ballots are either sent to cooperatives for bloc voting or mailed directly to individual producers. The referendum agent uses records from readily available sources, including USDA records and producer records supplied by the milk handlers in the marketing area, to determine eligibility.

Each ballot is accompanied by prepaid return envelopes, detailed information on the proposed order amendments, and a link to USDA's final decision. Producers and cooperatives must pay close attention to postmark and received-by deadlines, typically set within a 30-45-day window.

To count, ballots must be signed and returned by the specified deadlines. Unsigned, late or ineligible ballots will be disqualified. USDA does not provide confirmation of ballot receipt. Therefore, producers should consider obtaining a return receipt from the mail carrier to ensure their vote is counted. Ballots cannot be submitted via email or fax.

Determining the outcome

Approval of the proposed amendments hinges on two key criteria, one of which must be met:

At least two-thirds of the eligible producers voting in the referendum must vote "yes,"

Producers representing more than twothirds of the milk volume must vote in favor.

If either of these conditions is satisfied, USDA will issue a final rule implementing the amendments. If not, USDA will initiate steps to terminate the Order.

The referendum outcome is determined solely by the dairy farmers and cooperatives

turn to page 12







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from page 11

"Why are we (farmers and consumers) putting up with this?" he asks.

Perhaps the problem is that the industry is dead set on being the world exporter of cheese with new capacity ramping up at astonishing rates to make and move cheese by the tractor trailer loads and shiploads cross country and around the world.

Cheese is wonderful and consumers love it, but we're talking plans for gangbuster volumes of commodity cheese to boost export sales to meet predetermined goals.

Cheese uses more butterfat than any other dairy product by ratio x volume.

Could it be that the 'climate' agenda of former USDEC CEO Tom Vilsack -- who was the highest-paid dairy checkoff employee in between his stints as the current and former USDA Ag Secretary – has something to do with this?

Vilsack was Ag Secretary 12 years ago when whole milk choice was removed from schools. He touts the flawed antifat Dietary Guidelines, which look to be even more fat-restrictive in the future despite more than a decade of ignored evidence to the contrary.

Vilsack was USDEC CEO working for checkoff six years ago when he proclaimed the bold export percentage goals for the dairy industry. To meet these goals, it's apparent that fluid milk sales need to slim down and falter.

Who benefits? Processors take milk apart and put it together again in ways that are designed to dilute and extract to increase their margins creating something new.

What about providing the simple goodness that keeps consumers coming back for more of what they want, but too often can't get?

Bottom line, says Doc Gardner, "If you have a really good product -- and we do have a really good product -- then the question is: Why aren't we selling it?! This is basic market-

"If the dairy industry gives consumers what they want, then marketing won't be a problem."

dation for minimum pricing. This is because every handler has an opportunity to move up the value chain under the minimum pricing scheme," writes Upstate Niagara. "Implementing the proposed ESL Adjustment treats handlers differently based on what investment they chose to make. Providing the means for some processors to hedge on the average and pay the higher-of over time utilizing a complex mechanism inherently creates winners and losers in a system where all are supposed to be treated equitably."

Upstate also notes that with this proposal, USDA is focusing "too singularly on shelf-life in deciding who should receive the adjustment.

"The adjustment would be added to or subtracted from the handler's pool obligation applicable to the amount of milk used in ESL products... If the shelf-life requirement is 60 days, what's to prevent the processor from labelling at 59 days when there's pricing advantage to doing so?" Upstate Niagara's comment states. "As the industry consolidates, we have significant concerns about the level of transparency that can be achieved when Orders have fewer than 3 plants who are bound by the adjustment," it continues.

PAMD executive director Robert Fulton said in a Farmshine phone interview that this part of the recommended decision "is very concerning, enough for us to go through the effort to put public comments forward."

He shared the "significant surprise" among the PAMD membership, a sentiment echoed throughout the country as producers and processors became aware that the Class I decision essentially splits fluid milk pricing into two different price announcements each month - based on shelf

One price is highly linked to current market conditions, and the other, because of the "ESL adjuster" introduces as much as a \$1.00 per hundredweight difference, or more, that is totally disconnected from current market conditions and creates a situation where raw milk costs at the same plant location in the same month can be quite different.

For PAMD and Upstate and 40 other organizations, businesses, and individuals that publicly opposed or questioned this two-price decision, the concern centers on USDA providing "favorable treatment" to value added processors when uniform pricing is the Agricultural Market Agreement Act's

Of 128 Federal Register comments, it appears that more than 40 have expressed opposition, concern, or questions about the ESL adjuster, citing the fact that a divided Class I pricing system was not part of the hearing. The following organizations and entities are questioning or outright opposing the ESL adjuster that constitutes a fifth class of milk, not yet defined or examined in a rulemaking process: American Farm Bureau, American Dairy Coalition, California Dairy Campaign, Farm Women United, Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers, Upstate Niagara Milk Cooperative, Georgia Milk Producers, Kentucky Dairy Development Council, National Family Farm Coalition, Michigan Farm Bureau, New York Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Arizona Farm Bureau, and more than 20 individual dairy farmers who chose to submit comments to the Federal Register.

FMMO referendum

who actively participate by casting a vote. Those who choose not to vote will not influence the final tally, meaning every submitted vote carries significant weight.

Special scenarios

- · Producers owning multiple farms with the same ownership structure receive a single vote. However, if the ownership structures differ, each farm gets its own vote.
- If a producer had milk pooled both as a member of a bloc-voting cooperative and independently, the vote is assigned to the entity that pooled the greater volume of milk in the representative month.
- If a dairy farmer is a member of multiple cooperatives and had milk pooled by more than one cooperative during the representative month, their vote would be assigned to the cooperative that pooled the greater volume of milk in the

representative month.

- When amendments like this one affect multiple FMMOs, separate referenda are conducted for each. Producers who pooled milk across multiple orders during the representative month will receive separate ballots for each Order.
- USDA intends to maintain confidentiality throughout the process, keeping the number and manner of votes undisclosed.
- As the referendum on USDA's proposed amendments to the FMMOs approaches, it is vital for dairy farmers to understand the significance of their vote. This vote is an opportunity for dairy farmers to directly influence the rules that govern their market.
- For more information on the referendum, visit USDA's AMS hearing webpage at https://www.ams.usda.gov/rulesregulations/moa/dairy/hearings/national-fmmo-pricing-hearing or email the FMMO inbox at FMMOHearing@usda.gov

FARMSHINE t-shirts are available NOW. Receive in time for Christmas! See the handy order blank on page 22.





Dear U.S. Senators, Senate leaders, U.S. President-Elect, and Secretaries of the USDA, HHS:

Will you help make America healthy again by making school milk (and meals) great again? In 1990, our government started the largest nutrition experiment in history. Our American families were never informed that this was an experiment. By the late 1990s, the foundation was laid with software analysis of school meals to police the saturated fat content of meal offerings for growing children to levels recommended at that time for 40- to 80-year-old men with active heart disease; without any evidence of impacts on the growing bodies and minds of children.

In 2010, the experiment was fully launched with implementation of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. By 2012, USDA had removed the choice of whole milk (and 2% milk) from schools, hoping to improve childhood nutrition by removing a few grams of milk fat from all school meals and federal feeding programs.

This decision was based on what they believed was their best available sources of information — sources that used data only on adult men and traced back to what started in the late 1960s, when the America Heart Association embraced the 'Prudent Diet.' Eventually this became the cornerstone of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs), which were implemented in the 1980s and "updated" every five years through a process in need of reform.

This 'experiment' hypothesizes that limiting milk fat helps our kids live longer and healthier lives. According to the draft of the 2025-30 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's (DGAC) Scientific Report, these limits will continue, and become more restrictive — despite the fact that the People have spoken. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act 330-99 in Dec. 2023, but it is blocked in the Senate, and the DGA Committee ignores the data.

The results are in. During this massive experiment, we have seen obesity become epidemic in the U.S., where the percentage of children and adolescents affected by obesity has more than tripled since the 1970s. CDC data from 2015-2016 show that nearly 1 in 5 youths aged 6 to 19 years in the U.S. has obesity. The DGAC's own draft 2025-30 report states that, today, 36% of children age 5 to 19 are overweight or obese, and they represent the lifestage with the poorest healthy eating index among all lifestages, that is lacking essential nutrients that set the stage for future health.

Here are some important things to consider so that we can reform these outdated fat restrictions, overturn the ban on whole milk in schools and bring back choice for schools and for children.

- 1) Whole milk contains at least two odd-numbered long-chain fatty acids with 15 and 17 carbons long that are not found together in other foods. Fish oil contains 15 carbon long-chain fatty acids. These longer chain fatty acids could be responsible for improving satiety and helping our bodies deal better with vitamin absorption among other benefits. A study in the Journal Circulation demonstrated fewer cases of diabetes in individuals whose blood contained higher levels of three specific fatty acids derived from whole-fat milk.
- 2) Whole milk tastes better: 66% of the time, skim milk is rejected and discarded by children. They will drink whole milk much more frequently when it is offered and therefore benefit from the protein, calcium and other key under-consumed vitamins and minerals.
- 3) Numerous studies have pointed to the benefits of milk fat and the neutral to beneficial attributes even for cardiovascular disease. In fact, recent studies show that higher fat intake from dairy and other sources is linked to lower risks of stroke, death not related to cardiovascular disease, and death from any cause.
- 4) It is important to note that children have growing minds and bodies. We should question dietary advice and regulation using patterned diets originally formulated for 40- to 80-year-old men with active heart disease. The study on children, in fact, is being conducted right now since the 1990s, and especially since 2010, through school meals. The current Dietary Guidelines are not suitable for growing children. The current approach has resulted in adverse outcomes. It has been an experiment conducted by the federal government without parental permission.

5) By the way, farmers feed skim milk to piglets to fatten them faster; 1930s research discovered this, and it is still done today.

We must correct this mistake. This 'experiment' has had a generation, or more, of impact that has led to catastrophic results in terms of obesity and chronic disease for American children, adolescents, and adults. These missteps by our government — not supported by sound, careful scientific research and review — have caused dietary confusion for all Americans, young and old.

We have reviewed a number of articles in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, USDA reviews of articles, and even the DGA 2020-25 edition concluded there wasn't sufficient evidence to restrict saturated fats in childhood to prevent disease or mortality in adulthood. Yet, the DGAs continue these fat limits anyway! We believe whole milk is a better choice for America's children, and reform of the Dietary Guidelines is long overdue. (See supporting references at qrco.de/WholeMilkReferences.) *Sincerely.*

Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee

Bernie Morrissey, chairman Dr. Edward Silverman, MD, retired internal medicine doctor Christine Ebersole, RN, BSC, CSN, school nurse Krista Byler, school foodservice director Nelson Troutman, dairy farmer Dale Hoffman, dairy farmer

Tricia Adams, school-involved parent Sherry Bunting, volunteer, ag journalist covering DGA since 1993 Jackie Behr, **97MILK** volunteer and school-involved parent and **American Dairy Coalition**, Laurie Fischer, CEO

America needs this farm bill

Keep Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act and Dietary Guidelines reform in the package!

By SHERRY BUNTING

EAST EARL, Pa. — The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act (H.R. 1147, S. 1957) and language for Dietary Guidelines reform are both included in Title XII of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 (farm bill) that passed the House Ag Committee in May. Negotiations between House and Senate are anticipated after the election, before the end of this year.

Join the Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee and 97MILK in supporting House Ag Chairman G.T. Thompson's work on these issues to make America healthy again by making school milk (and meals) great again. Please complete efforts of the Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee in policy education and the 97MILK crew in public education about wholesome, nutritious milk! Visit 97milk.com. Consider reaching out to volunteer, and don't forget to vote Nov. 5th!

the survey below or online at: https://qrco.de/WholeMilkSurvey (or scan the QR.) Please read, at left, key portions of a letter to current and future decision makers. Consider mailing it with your own signature to those representing you in Washington D.C. Other organizations are asked to sign-on to the letter. Contact me (Sherry) at agrite2011@gmail.com or 717.587.3706. Your participation strengthens the volunteer efforts of the Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee in policy education and the 97MILK crew in public education about wholesome, nutritious milk! Visit 97milk.com. Consider reaching out to volunteer, and don't forget to vote Nov. 5th!

Kids eat food, not data!

Make School Milk (and Meals) Great Again!

Ditch Decades of Dietary Guidelines, Time for the Do-Over

October is Farm to School Month. Consider this...

Adults get to choose. America's children do not.

Kids have 2 meals/day, 5 days/week, 9 to 12 months/year in U.S. schools, where USDA requires foodservice providers to obey the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA).





Meanwhile, the DGAC wonders why 36% of 2 to 19 year olds are now obese while key nutrients are under-consumed and nutrient quality of diets is uniformly poorest across all diverse demographics for lifestage 5 to 19 (aka KIDS). What is the common denominator?

DGA controls school meals.

Make School Milk (and Meals) Great Again

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I support... (check all that apply)

Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act (H.R. 1147, S. 1957) to allow whole and 2% milk as options in schools.

Reform of the Dietary Guidelines to have more congressional oversight, require expert committee to reveal financial ties, prioritize nutritional adequacy and include up-to-date research on dietary fat.

Chairman G.T. Thompson's inclusion of the above two items in the House Ag Committee farm bill.

Congressional passage of a farm bill as soon as possible, with Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act and Dietary Guidelines reform included.

I am a ... (check all that apply)

•	11),	
dairy farmer	ag industry representative	
health professional	teacher or school profession	nal
parent	grandparent	
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federal governmental official	state or local government o	fficial
coach or fitness professional	concerned citizen	
other		P

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Please fill out the full survey online at

SURVEY

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Mail to:

Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Cmte. c/o Sherry Bunting 1918 Barnett St. East Earl, PA 17519

Veterinarians detail ear tag, tattoo equipment and best practices

MARYSVILLE, Kans. — Individual identification of cattle is important for many reasons, making it possible to identify a number of important management aspects.

"Common variables to track include body condition scoring, calving date, ease of calving, weaning weight and average daily gain, milk production, vaccination/processing date and products used, and tracking animal health and treatments. These records allow producers to make appropriate management decisions," says Tony Hawkins, DVM, Valley Vet Supply consulting veterinarian.

Knowing individual animal treatment is essential for record-keeping purposes. Importantly, the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program places a high emphasis on proper record keeping, including individual animal identification. "We all know the importance of adhering to BQA guidelines, so we can continue to produce high-quality, safe beef that consumers will trust to feed their families," Dr. Hawkins adds.

He reviews ear tag and tattoo equipment, and application best practices.

Ear Tag

There are many ear tag options available: colors, retention method, numbered vs. blank, engravable, electronic identifi-

cation (EID), also referred to as radio frequency identification (RFID) – the list goes on, Dr. Hawkins outlined.

When applying tags, you'll need ear tag(s) of choice, the correct applicator, a tag removal knife and pen (for blank tags), disinfectant solution, and for safety, a chute and halter.

Best Practices

- Make sure you have the correct tag applicator, recommends Julia Herman, DVM, MS, beef cattle specialist veterinarian with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). "There are many styles of ear tags and they each have their own applicator. Confirm you have the correct applicators for the tag you are using before herd work."
- "Clean ears are ideal. Placing a tag in a muddy ear could introduce dirt or bacteria into the site. This can cause an infection or abscess, and the tag could fall out later," explains Dr. Herman
- Place tags into the middle third of the ear; between the upper and lower ribs is the strongest part of the ear. This will prevent tags from being ripped out when cattle end up in the brush or trees.
- RFID tags are easiest when read with a stick reader or wand but can still be read if animals are properly restrained. Wands allow fast reading and data management. Ensure the

button is on the inside of the ear and the visual panel is on the outside of the ear when applying.

Tattoo

"A tattoo makes a permanent form of identification – it is often required for registration with breed associations, so seedstock producers should tattoo their cattle," recommends Dr. Hawkins. "In addition to this, it can make an excellent 'backup' form of identification for commercial producers." For example, Dr. Hawkins shared that if an animal loses its ear tag, you can reference the tattoo number and use your records to reapply the correct ear tag number.

When applying a tattoo, you will need tattoo pliers, tattoo digits, tattoo ink, paper towels or a cloth, toothbrush, rubbing alcohol, thick paper/cardboard, disposable gloves and for safety, a halter and a chute.

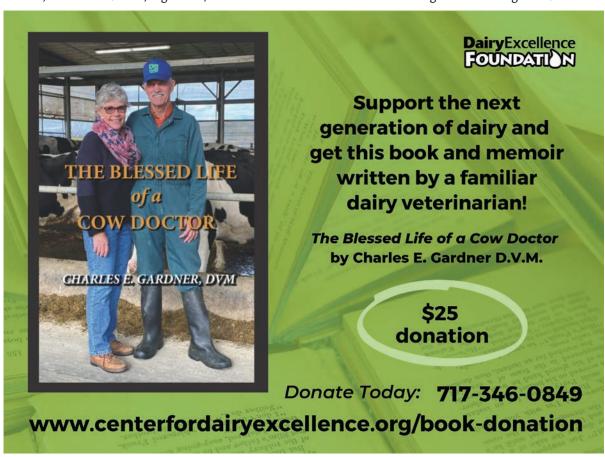
Best Practices

- If you have registered cattle, talk with your breed association and follow their guidelines for tattoos, recommends Dr. Herman. Work with your veterinarian if you have questions
- Ensure cattle are properly restrained in a chute (a fitting chute is not recommended.)
- Clean the ear using paper towels or gauze and rubbing alcohol to help avoid infection and potentially spreading a virus from one animal to the next. Alcohol is the recommended disinfectant when tattooing using soap, iodine or chlorhexidine can cause the tattoo ink to smear and not stick.
- Before tattooing the ear, you can make a test run to ensure proper placement use the tattoo on the thick cardboard to make sure digits line up.
- Dr. Herman recommends wearing rubber or disposable gloves when tattooing for biosecurity and to keep hands clean. "My preference is to clean the ear, put the ink directly into the ear where you'll put the tattoo, and firmly close the pliers to press ink into the tissue. Next, I have a toothbrush that I use to rub ink into the tattoo holes. Then, I place the applicator into a cup or bucket with alcohol in it, so it's disinfected between animals."
- The tattoo should last years, so make sure you have firm, even pressure when pressing the applicator together on the ear. Apply the tattoo in the unhaired portion of the inner ear away from where hair is growing. The hair follicles will grow where the tattoo was placed, which will cause fading. Producers may need to check back for legibility over time.

Dr. Herman encourages producers to always emphasize human safety when tagging or tattooing and working around the head of these animals. Make sure cattle are restrained appropriately, and if needed, use a halter to help improve safety and placement of the tag and tattoo.

"A well-thought identification program provides the opportunity for producers to keep accurate records, which will ultimately optimize production and profitability," said Dr. Hawkins.

For your livestock identification needs and to learn more, visit ValleyVet.com.







Oct. Protein up at \$3.32, beats BF at \$3.09

USDA announced lower Class prices for October milk, but components were all higher, except butterfat at \$3.09 plunged lower by a whopping 52 cents per pound while protein price at \$3.32 moved above butterfat and 40 cents per pound higher than the September protein price. How can this be?

Mainly, its because products within each class were mixed, and the butter plunge was larger and faster than the cheese decline, which gives value back to protein in the way the formula works, just like it takes away from protein when butter rallies are larger than for cheese in the same month.

At \$22.85 for October, the Class III price is 49 cents per cwt lower than September as cheese prices declined, and the higher whey prices were not enough to prop up the class. By the same token, however, the protein and other solids prices are both above month ago for October.

Solids nonfat were also higher due to nonfat dry milk price gains in October, but it wasn't enough to stay the \$1.39 decline in both the Class II and IV prices, at \$21.01 and \$20.90, respectively, which was driven by October's plunging butter prices.

At these levels, the October Class II and IV prices crossed below respective year ago levels -- down by 94 and 59 cents per cwt, respectively. October Class III, while lower than September, is a whopping \$6.01 per cwt higher than it was a year ago.

The Class I base price mover for October at \$23.17 is the highest, followed by Classes III, II, and IV.

Class III milk futures lower, Class IV firm

Milk futures were mixed this week as the Class III contracts were lower across the board, with significant nearterm declines. Meanwhile Class IV contracts were varied, but mostly firm compared with week ago.

On Wed., Oct. 30, the Class III milk futures averaged \$19.83 per hundredweight for the next 12 months (Oct24-Sep25), down 22 cents from the same 12-months average a week ago.

Class IV futures averaged \$21.25 for the next 12 months, unbelievably exactly where it has been for three Wednesdays in a row. This is mainly due to very little movement in 2025 contracts after April over the past three weeks, perhaps as traders speculate what a final decision on Federal Order make allowances will mean to that formulated price that would be implemented around April of 2025, pending the results of a producer referendum in each of the 11 Federal Milk Marketing Orders.



Dairy product spot market mixed, mostly higher on the week

Cheddar cheese prices on the CME spot market were mixed in limited trade this week as barrels moved higher while blocks moved lower. Butter firmed up to recover some of the earlier losses, while nonfat dry milk and dry whey continued pushing for higher ground.

On Wed., Oct. 30, the 40-lb block cheddar price traded at \$1.89/lb – down 2 cents from the prior Wednesday with 8 loads trading over 5 days. The weighted average for the week was at \$1.8950/lb, and the USDA weekly National Dairy Product Sales Report (NDPSR) for the week ending Oct. 26 was at \$2.05, with barrel cheese at \$2.07/lb.

Pegged at \$1.9250/lb, the 500-lb barrel cheese price on the CME daily spot market gained 2 pennies vs. week ago with 5 loads moving in 5 days.

Dry whey added another fraction of a penny, pegged at \$0.6050/lb, with 9 loads trading. Yet the NDPSR price, used in the pricing formulas continues to sit at \$0.56/lb.

On the Class IV side, spot butter prices firmed up again this week as trading volume fell to 18 loads over 5 days. The spot price Wednesday at \$2.7050/lb is up a full nickel from a week ago, while the NDPSR for week ending Oct. 26 sits back at \$2.63/lb.

Nonfat dry milk had the largest trading volume of the products this week with 31 loads over 5 days moving to brisk demand at prices nearly 2 pennies higher at \$1.3850/lb. The weekly NDPSR for week ending Oct. 26 sat at just above \$1.35.

H5N1 escalates in California

As of Oct. 30, 2024, there have been 152 H5N1 detections in dairy cows within the past 30 days, and 150 of them are in California. The other 2 are in Idaho. California saw its first case on Aug. 30th and the most recent detection was Oct. 28. California's bird flu surge represents 11% of the Golden State's estimated 1090 dairy herds. Reports earlier this month indicated 10 to 15% of cattle were dying from the disease there, according to the Center for Dairy Excellence's summary of its monthly Pennsylvania Dairy Industry teleconference on avian flu in cattle. USDA dispatched a team to assist California in tracking the outbreak, which seems to be generating roughly new detections in 50 additional herds

Farmshine, Friday, November 1, 2024 — 15 each week since the outbreak began there at the end of August. To put this in perspective, there have been 395 total detections in 14 states since the beginning of the bird flu outbreak in dairy cattle in Texas back in March. Fully half of them (193) have been in California over the past eight weeks, while the rest of the country is clear except for two detections in Idaho on Oct. 22nd. USDA also reported Wednesday, Oct. 30th the first detections of H5N1 in three out of five head of swine tested in a backyard livestock and poultry operation in Oregon where the pigs were kept with infected poultry and shared water and feed equipment. They were euthanized for diagnostic purposes and were not

There are no positive cases in Pennsylvania at this time, but the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Department of Health are doing surveillance. The PDA encourages voluntary bulk tank testing enrollments due to the Commonwealth's array of dairy and poultry farms that are neighboring or located on the same premise.

part of any commercial pork operation.

Recently, the PDA reported less than 100 dairies enrolled in the Commonwealth's own voluntary bulk tank testing, noting that 460 enrollments would be the threshold that would allow the state to make "accurate" statements about Pennsylvania's HPAI-free status. A Mid-Atlantic voluntary blinded processor program began gathering data. The only information conveyed is date and represented states, leaving specific silos, processors, and farms anonymous.

Also, municipal wastewater surveillance in Pennsylvania began in Harrisburg and Chester, according to the CDE. In the coming months, about 30 more locations will collect and report data.

Driest October on record, be careful

Despite hurricanes dumping rain in the East in September, the bottomline in Southeast states like Georgia, and up into the Midatlantic, is conditions are bone-dry, impacting fall-planted small grains, pasture, depleting hay stocks, and creating dangerous conditions for farmers harvesting dry crops. The Midwest is seeing this in many places also with harvest ahead of schedule. In Wisconsin, two separate combine fires have been reported and crop fire loss was reported in one Michigan incident. In fact, locally, we're seeing the driest October on record for eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. At my own home in eastern Lancaster County, it was clear when my husband's lawn tractor caught fire collecting leaves on a part of our wooded property. Thankfully his fast action quelled the flames before severe damage or harm. Stay safe out there!



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PNJS Ayrshire champions and placings posted

By SHERRY BUNTING Special for Farmshine

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The homebred production cow of Sean Shults, Sharon Springs, New York was named grand champion of both the Premier National Junior Show (PNJS) on Sept. 16 and the All-American Ayrshire Show open competition on Sept. 18 during the 60th AADS in Harrisburg. Shults' Heiview Burdette Twisler was also the senior and bred-and-owned champion of both shows.

From Big Prairie, Ohio, TK-Plain-View B Sage was reserve senior and reserve grand champion of the PNJS, exhibited by Georgia Herne as a leased animal from Kayla Overholt.

Judge Brian Schnebley tapped the intermediate champion for HM grand champion of the PNJS. She was Grand View Burdette Drastic shown by Cadin and Gavin Valentine and Rhonda Winkler of Thurmont, Maryland. This cow went on to be intermediate and reserve grand champion of the open show.

Standing reserve intermediate in the PNJS was U-Waite KS Prudence, exhibited by Evelyn Maulfair of Jonestown, Pennsylvania.

Reserve intermediate of the AADS open show was Heineman Tuxedo Sriracha, exhibited by Peter Vail, Valatie, New York

Karlie Supplee of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania had the junior champion of the PNJS Ayrshire show with Shultz RU Ok ET. Standing reserve junior champion was Budjon-Vail Rynlds Kiwi-ET, shown by Nicole Arrowsmith of Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania.

In the AADS open show, Linda Bruchey of Westminster, Maryland exhibited the junior champion Stylin Reynolds Monroe. Reserve junior champion was Twin-County Bad N Boujee-ET, shown by Jesse Lee Muse of Etoile, Kentucky.

Spring calves: 1. Taylor Heeter with Jomill KS Kaitlin Klark; 2. Rosalie Maulfair; 3. Karlie Supplee.

Winter calves: 1. Brock Champluvier with Grand-View Auto Delete-ET;

2. Amanda Voll; 3. Morgan Holcomb.

Fall calves: 1. Karlie Supplee with Shultz R U OK-ET; 2. Evangeline Woodis; 3. Taylor Heeter.

Summer yearlings: 1. Tyler Lloyd with Old-Bankston-Al R Witley; 2.

Evangeline Woodis; 3. Hannah Gingerich.

Spring yearlings: 1. Ashton Wilcox with On-The-Map Reagan Billie Jean;

2. Claire Stoltzfus; 3. Gavin Valentine.

Winter yearlings: 1. Landen Copenhaver with Lady-Lane Tuxedo Gigi; 2. Taylor Heeter.

Fall yearlings: 1. Nicole Arrowsmith with Budjon-Vail Rynlds Kiwi-ET;
2. Ella Campagnari.
Summer jr. 2-year olds: 1. Hannah Gingerich with Hill-Top Player Joy.

Summer jr. 2-year olds: 1. Hannah Gingerich with Hill-Top Player Joy. Sr. 2-year olds: 1. Cadin Valentine with Grand View Burdette Drastic. Jr. 3-year olds: 1. Luke Nolan with Dreamnol Kingsire Magenta; 2. Gavin alentine.

Sr. 3-year olds: 1. Cadin Valentine with Blackstone Fate of the Jedi. 5-year olds: 1. Ashton Wilcox with Jackson-Hill Champ Balboa. 6-years and older: 1. Georgia Herne with TK-Plain-View B Sage. Lifetime Component Merit: 1. Sean Shults with Heiview Burdette

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Palmyra Farm Ayrshires earn accolades at WDE

MADISON, Wis. – The Shank and Creek families of Palmyra Farm, Hagerstown, Md. were once again named Premier Breeder of the International Ayrshire Show, held in Madison in early October.

Mark and Becky Brown of Glenmar-Dale Farms, Fennimore, Wis., were named Premier Exhibitor.

Tim and Katie Busch of Grand-View Ayrshires, Cecil, Wis., were named Premier Breeder of the heifer show, while Premier Exhibitor honors of the heifer show went to Peter Vail and Mile High, of Valatie, N.Y.

Bear-Ayr Distinct Kingsire was named the Premier Sire and Marilie Autograph-ET was named Premier Sire of the heifer show.

Canadian Florent Foley of Piopolis, Quebec, exhibited the top two Ayrshire cows. His 5-year old, Vieux Village Gentleman Joy, was named senior champion and grand champion. The victories earned Foley the Allen Hetts Grand Champion Trophy and the \$1000 Udder Comfort Grand Champion Award. His winning 4-year old, Vieux Village G Montana, followed as reserve senior champion and reserve grand champion.

The intermediate champion title went to the winning senior 3-year-old, B-Wil Kingsire Willow, owned by Pierre Boulet of Montmagny, Quebec. The reserve title went to the winning senior 2-year-old, Bricker-Farms King Cinderella, owned by Kurt and Michelle Wolf and Josh and Samantha Fairbanks of Guttenberg, Iowa.

Budjon-Vail Autograph Kristina-ET, the winning winter yearling, was named junior champion. She is bred and owned by Budjon, Peter Vail, Cole Rupprecht, Brothers Three, and Shawn and Seth Nehls of Watertown, Wis. Ullmstar A Rectify, a fall calf, was named reserve junior champion. She's owned by Damian and Kiley Ullmer of Seymour, Wis.

Official judge, Brandon Ferry, of Hilbert, Wis., and associate judge, Michelle Upchurch, of Hebron, Ill., evaluated the 318 entries in the International Ayrshire Show.





You can increase herd health using prebiotics

SAINT JOSEPH, Mo. -- Producers are constantly looking for ways to be more efficient and provide natural alternatives to keeping their livestock healthy. A management decision that includes feeding a prebiotic is just one way to keep the animals' immunity in check and keep them growing strong.

Joan Seidel

were quick to point out that she gives freely of her time and skills to educate and mentor young people on proper care and presentation of their cattle. When peers speak about Joan, she is recognized by people for the outstanding work ethic and the attention to detail that she brings to each task.

The humility that she brings to work is also undeniable; meaning there is no task too big or small for Joan. She never complains and is an effective team member helping in whatever task needs to be completed, whether picking up manure or fitting the cows before they go to the ring. People ultimately trust Joan with their prized animals, and she treats them all with the same respect, whether it is the local 4-H project or an All-American.

Above all, Joan brings forth strength, character and an undeniable passion for the dairy industry. Those are among the many reasons that Joan was the fifth woman to win the Duncan MacKenzie Award.

Presented annually since 1991, the award was established in memory of Duncan MacKenzie, the 1961 Klussendorf Award and winner. While Joan has an impressive dairy résumé, it is most important to note that she exemplifies the standards that made Duncan MacKenzie the forbearer of this award.

BioZyme® Inc., with headquarters in St. from page 1



Joseph, Mo., manufactures all-natural nutritional supplements for livestock and companion animals. The key ingredient in all these supplements is Amaferm®. Amaferm is a precision prebiotic designed to enhance digestibility by amplifying the nutrient supply within for maximum performance.

Because 70% of animals' immune system lies within their digestive tract, digestibility is a key component to immunity. Health and immunity are both heavily influenced by the state of the digestive tract. A prebiotic like Amaferm has a positive impact on the digestive tract by making sure there is an ample supply of good bacteria present in the gut and prevents bad organisms from taking

Consumer trends are driving the ways that producers care for and raise their livestock. It is more important than ever for producers to find alternatives to antibiotic use and be proactive in their nutritional management, which is where probiotics and prebiotics like Amaferm play a role. A recent survey of 1000 people showed consumers prefer that meat animals eat the same type of natural diets that consumers eat. Amaferm is a natural solution to keeping the animal's digestive health in good shape, and therefore, minimizes other health challenges. Animals that are healthy on the inside exhibit a healthier hair coat, healthier eyes, healthier appetite healthier everything.

"If we consider how Amaferm works stimulating the rumen fungi, stimulating more bacterial attachment sites allowing

more bacterial growth leading to more digestibility - then you can be assured that we are not adding new organisms. We are increasing organisms that are optimal for fermentation thus increasing stability and diversity of microbiota. Having all those organisms working well with each other as a team has health benefits downstream," said Kevin Glaubius, director of nutrition at BioZvme Inc.

Choosing to feed a prebiotic as a management tool to improve health adds a lot of unseen value. Increased digestibility pays for the prebiotic and more, but the real benefit is fewer sick animals by maintaining a strong, healthy and diverse microbial population at the heart of the immune system.

"If a cow-calf operator is investing in feeding mineral year-round we have to focus on economic returns of improved digestibility," Glaubius said.

Research has shown the economic benefits to the producer include treating fewer sick calves, which saves on antibiotic costs and labor. In addition, healthy calves gain more efficiently, and more pounds equal more

As the advances in science and consumer trends continue to evolve, so will the needs to maintain the best management practices in livestock production. With natural additives like Amaferm, producers have a great way to maintain digestive health, reduce stress, enhance immunity and efficiency and continue producing the world's safest meat while minimizing antibiotic use.

Thank you for reading FARMSHINE

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Thursdays Only!

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NICHOLAS MEAT LLC

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CDE DAIRY MARKETS & MANAGEMENT UPDATE

All prices — OCT. 30, 2024 — except where noted

Milk production and markets: According to the USDA's Milk Production report, Pennsylvania's milk production came in at perienced year-over-year milk production 1.8%, 779 million pounds for September 2024, up 0.1% year over 4.9%, and 1.2%, year, after several months of slight to modest declines. From respectively. September 2023's 465.000 head. Pennsylvania's cow numbers South Dakota experience a slight 1,000 head increase to 466,000 in Septem- still shows sigber 2024. From August to September, the cow numbers re- nificant growth main unchanged, which could mean herds are retaining more cows and buying less replacement heifers. For Pennsylvania, milk per cow is up 5 pounds from last year's 1,670 to 1,675

September's U.S. milk production equaled 18.2 billion pounds, up 0.1% from September 2023's total. August's milk production total was updated, which resulted in a 0.4% yearover-year bump versus a previously reported small loss.

This milk production bump could lead to dairy product ing California and Wisconsin. price declines. U.S. cow numbers dropped 0.4% or 38,000 head from last year's 9.37 million head to 9.33 million. However, the 9,000 head increase in cow numbers from July to August could be the reason for the uptick in milk production.

Across the U.S., low heifer numbers result in low slaughter rates, which has kept cow numbers fairly consistent to slightly up from month to month. Milk production per cow jumped 9 pounds from September 2023 to 2024.

California's September milk production equaled 2.21 billion pounds and was consistent with last year's monthly total, even with the hot weather and the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in an abundance of Central Valley's farms. However, as cases ramped up throughout the last month, California could see negative effects reflected in October production levels.

Wisconsin's milk production decreased 0.5% due to poor quality forage, resulting in a softer than predicted decline than initially anticipated.

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

*MILK COWS (NASS) U.S. Avg. FRESH

PA Auction Markets Oct. 24-29, 2024

CULL MARKET COWS (\$/CWT LIVEWEIGHT

Breakers Boners

128.75 123.75

- WEEK AGO --

YEAR AGO ---

99.50

128.75NC 126.2511

3200

88.60

116.75

78.60

\$2360 JUL-24 11 \$2120 APR-2

\$1760 JUL-23 \$1720 APR-23

Premium White

N/A

N/A

Price

averages do not include lower-end

Average to high

dressing

Conversely, Idaho, Texas, and New York ex-

By VALERIE MASON-FAITH Center for Dairy Excellence vmason@centerfordairyexcellence.org

in their dairy industry with a 7.9% boost in milk production year over year. However, New Mexico suffered a 9.1% drop in milk production from September 2023 to 2024. A potential result of lingering affects of New Mexico's extreme heat conditions on their dairy herds' production and

Market volatility can be difficult to navigate. September's U.S. milk production increase and the uncertainty surround-

It is almost impossible to discern what the impacts could be on Class and futures prices. Developing a solid risk management plan can help dairy farmers better protect their business

On November 8 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., the Center for Dairy Excellence will be hosting their final "Protecting Your Profits" webinar for 2024, titled" New Year, New Strategy: Capturing Opportunities and Managing Dairy Market Volatility.'

The featured guest speakers will be Jacob Thompson and Andrew McCarty, Land O' Lakes Dairy Business Advisors, who will cover dairy risk management tools, such as Dairy Margin Coverage, Livestock Gross Margin, Dairy Revenue Protection, and Forward Contracting.

They will share how these programs work and how dairy producers can use one or more of these tools to cater to their specific risk management needs.

To tune in to this free webinar, please visit the Center's website under "Events" to add it to your calendar or get the details to join.

Markets 1.42-1.45 Morrison's Steers Calves

Cove Auction

October 28, 2024 250-310 Grass Mixed hay 100-200 Round bales 160-185

Wolgemuth Auction

October 23, 2024 Mixed hay 190-390 Grass 180-250 Straw 125-180 Orchard 195-290 Corn fodder 110-130

Dewart Auction

Cows: Dewart, Pa October 28, 2024 Cattle: 126 Steers Slaughter cattle Bulls Steers: 155-177 Select Heifers Slaughter cows: PrmWht 65-75% lean 119-129 Standard Breakers 75-80% lean Hol bulls Hol heifers 112-124 Boners 80-85% lean 110-124 Lean 85-90% lean 94-122 Slaughter bulls 123-148 Feeder cattle: Steers: M/L-1-2170-240 Holstein steers: L-3 127.50-165 Steers: ifers: 165-190 -1-2 Choice

185-225

475-635

375-475

210-360

475-550

20-70

Greencastle

ivestock Greencastle, Pa. October 28, 2024 ttle: 537 ughter cattle Cho & Prm 186-196 180-187 oice 168-179 Istein steers: 161-165 oice 142-151 ect ifers: Cho & Prm 184-189 ughter cows: eakers 75-80% lean 123-135 ners 80-85% lean 110-122 an 85-90% lean 91-110 uahter bulls 143-185

lves: 416 eder calves: 530-670 Hol bulls 400-520 ? Hol bulls Hol bulls 250-300 lity bulls 60-130 Hol heifers 580-700

Hosking Sales

New Berlin, N.Y. October 28, 2024

Cattle Dairy cows .90-1.21 Bone utility Canners & cutters 1.08 & down Easy cows .70 & down Bulls over 1100 lbs. 1.19-1.35 Steers over 1100 lbs. 1.64 Maiden heifers Feeders: .40-1.65 Dairy 1.59 Bulls

1.64-1.67 Bull top 5.65 Heifer top 4.70

Morrison's Cove

Martinsburg, Pa.

October 28, 2024 Cattle: 113 Steers 174-180 Choice Good 150-167 Heifers: Choice 173-178

Good 130-145 Util/Commercial 110-130 Can/LoCut 105 & down Bulls Y/G #1 Feeder cattle: 150-250 140-237 100-230 Calves: 113 40-150

New Holland

200-665

500-700

Auction New Holland, Pa. October 28, 2024 Cattle: 1198 Slaughter cattle HiCho & Prm 195-212.50 184-194 Select 122.50-170 Holstein steers: HiCho & Prm 150-174 Choice 122.50-140 Heifers: HiCho & Prm 160-191 Choice 140-158 120-132.50 Select Holstein heifers: 152-156 HiCho & Prm 147.50-156 Choice 125-137.50 Select Slauahter cows:

Breakers 75-80% lean 115-143 Boners 80-85% lean 118-127 Lean 85-90% lean 107.50-116 Slaughter dairy cows: Breakers 75-80% lean

130-158 Boners 80-85% lean 111-121 Lean 85-90% lean 90-112.50 Bulls:

135-202.50 1-2 150-160 Dairy bulls: 130-167 Calves: 439 Feeder calves: 500-685

#1 Hol bulls #2 Hol bulls 350-775 #3 Hol bulls 120-375 Utility bulls 60-100 #1 Hol heifers 600-685 #2 Hol heifers 200-760

Wyalusing Livestock Wyalusing, Pa.

Utility heifers

October 28, 2024 1 /11 1 50

5-250

Bulls	1.41-1.50
Cows:	
Fat	.95-1.20
Good	.85-1.15
Lean	.55-1.05
Holstein calves:	
70-89 lbs.	3.50-4.50
90-110 lbs.	3.50-4.50
Feeder cattle:	
200-300 lbs.	1.50-3.20
301-500 lbs.	1.40-2.20
501-700 lbs.	1.40-2.00
701-900 lbs.	1.00-1.90

						-,							
0			CME D	AILY FUT	JRES & (OPTIONS	TRADING	G — OCT.	30, 202	4 AT THE	CLOSE		
4	OCT-24	NOV-24	DEC-24	JAN-25	FEB-25	MAR-25	APR-25	MAY-25	JUN-25	JUL-25	AUG-2	5 SEP-25	TREND
Á	CLASS III MI	LK FUTURES (\$/0	CWT) vs. wk ago	: Oct24 firm c	loseout; <mark>res</mark>	t of board do	wn \$0.10-0.3	30, except Ded	c24-Jan25 d	lown \$0.70-0	0.90.	12-Month Av	g. 19.83 ††
-	22.73	20.28	19.68	19.71	19.72	19.55	19.40	19.30	19.30	19.40	19.45	19.48	
		LK FUTURES (\$/0	, .				•					12-Month Avg	g. 21.25 NC
	20.91	21.01	21.16	21.16	21.28	21.05	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	21.40	MIXED
		minus CLASS 3											
		6 20.58 20.17 2 19.07 19.07										18.62 18.41 1 17.59 17.59 1	
SIS		19.07 19.07 14 1.51 1.10						3 0.96 1.19				1.03 0.82	
		TURES (\$/B			-								
-	DEC-24	٠,		JUL-25	SEP-25	DEC-25	MAR-2	6 MAY-26	JUL-26	SEP-26	DEC-26	DEC-27	TREND
	4.115	4.255	4.338	4.385	4.348	4.405	4.513	4.573	4.661	4.480	4.485	4.460	↓ ↓
	SOYMEAL	FUTURES (\$,	/TON)										
	DEC-24		MAR-25	MAY-25	JUL-25				DEC-25	JAN-26	MAR-26	MAY-26	TREND
	301.6		305.5	309.4	313.6						317.5	318.3	‡ ‡
181		REMIUM ALFA										AUO 24 *C	YED 04
髓		JUL-23 AUG 254.92 243.											
5 IILK 2 \$ 1	5.84 4. 0.70 19 5.02 14	7-23 JUN-23 83 3.65 30 17.90 86 14.47	3.52 6 17.40 14.25	3.46 8.44 19.70 21.00 13.88 13.24	9.44 21.60 12.56	9.58 21.70 12.16	8.44 8.4 20.60 20 12.12 12	48 9.44 .10 20.60 .16 11.62	9.65 20.70 11.16	9.60 10 20.50 22	7-24 JUN-2 0.52 11.6 2.00 22.8 1.48 11.1	66 12.33 80 22.80	*13.72 11 23.60 11 9.88 \
		GLOBAL BIWI D. FORWARD CO						(\$/LB) 10/30, Spot price We				LB) WK ENDING	10/26/24* kly NDPSR is
GDT	AUCTION 11/	05/24	SKIM PO	WDER (SMP)	1.2454↓↓ 1	L.8% NFDM	31	1.3850 1 1.3	3825↑↑ NF	DM 1	3.8 1.3535	↑↑ averaged	for the Month & IMO formulas.
PRO AT (A	DUCT INDEX AMF)	↓↓ 0. 3.2799 ↑↑ 0.	3% BUTTER 3% CHEDDA			1.3% BUTTER		2.7050↑↑ 2.6 1.8900↓↓ 1.8		JTTER 5 IEESE-40 1	5.6 2.6297 1.3 2.0473	**	SDA *JUL-24* K BF *MAILBOX
ermi Ose	ILK POWDER		/A MOZZAR	ELLA (BULK)		3.2% CHEDDA		1.9250 1 1.8 0.6050 1 0.6		IEESE-500 1	3.6 2.0749 7.1 0.5647	FL \$27.0	K BF *MAILBOX 00 3.84 \$25.34 10 3.84 \$25.09
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1	U.S. AVG.	MILKING COV	VS per head as	s reported by l	JSDA Month	ly National Da	airy Compreh	ensive Report				NE/KS \$21.9	00 4.16 \$21.38 50 4.30 \$21.28 00 4.10 \$20.99
-11	1634		1830 1988		1792		I/A 212		1624	N/A N/) NM \$21.2	20 3.86 \$20.04 00 4.10 N/A
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3100 2800

1700 1400 1400

Choice & Prime 1250-1550 lb

BULL CALVES: No. 1 & 2, 90-130 lbs

FED STEERS (\$/CWT LIVE)

2200

Dairy EXCELLENCE

70-85 lbs

HEIFERS: Springing Bred Beef x OPEN: 300-600 lbs Beef X 600-900 lbs Beef X 900-1100 lbs BULLS(800-1300 lbs

1500

N/A

Holstein Beef-X-Dairy

154.75↓↓ 188.50 550.00↑↑ 875.00NC

575.00¹¹ 925.00¹¹

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1400

1000

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N/A

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WK AGO

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1000

875.00

1800

1100

YR AGO

315.00 650.00

300.00 625.00

153.00 N/A

pennsylvania

1200

650

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FRIDAY, NOV. 22 • 11 A.M

We will be selling many good, young, fresh cows and heifers, Reg. and grades, from overstocked herds and heifer raisers with lots of milk!

Watch for more details next week. Free chocolate milk • Not responsible for accidents

Sale managed by: FISHER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES Jonas Fisher • 717-768-3297

Auctioneer - Dave Stoltzfus - AU005655 • Pedigrees - Dan Albright

Penns Valley Livestock

head Horse consignment auction

Friday November 29, 2024

(814) 364-1796

2925 Penns Valley Pike, Centre Hall PA 16828

Sale order: 7:30am As-is Horses 8:30am

Work Horses

Followed by

Ponies &

Riding horses

GREAT SELECTION OF LOCAL AND DEALER HORSES! AVERAGE OF 15 DEALERS OR MORE EACH MONTH FOR DRIVING HORSES! **ACCLIMATED AND FRESH HORSES!**

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT ATTENDED AND CONSIGNED TO OUR LAST MONTH SALE! A GREAT SET OF HORSES.

Call (814) 364-1796 to catalog horses or fax to (814) 364-1426. MUST be in Wednesday before the sale to make deadline. KITCHEN OPEN ALL DAY

Driving horses Horses may start arriving the day before starting at 2pm ● Sale last Friday of EVERY MONTH!

MANAGERS David Bierly Erica Smith

Previous consignment

OU Man stud

AUCTIONEER Atlee Shetler AU005270 Vernon Yoder AU005267

Free ice

NEW HOLLAND SALES STABLES, INC.



Free ice cream

Located 12 Miles East of Lancaster, PA. Just Off Rt. 23, New Holland

DAIRY COW & HEIFER SALE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH • 10:30 A.M.

All quality cows and heifers are welcome!

Mature cows milking 100+ lbs. are in demand. All sizes of open & bred Holstein heifers are selling at historical highs!

Consignors: Please send all info with truckers for the catalog. For more information, contact dairy reps:

Aaron Martin, 717-445-4825 (home); Bill Hough, 973-224-0204 (cell).

I hank you - N.H.S.S.

Sale Managed By New Holland Sales Stables, Inc.

Barn 717-354-4341 Fax 717-355-0706 • David Kolb, Mgr. 61L

★ CONSIGN OR BUY THE TOP COW AND GET A FREE TURKEY!!! ★ **★ Good selection of fresh cows out of some good local herds!**

10 BROWN ROAD, SHIPPENSBURG, PA

Thursday, November 21 @ **10 A.M. Eday salei**

Special Thanksgiving Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale

- **★ VG-88 2nd lac., Absolute-Red daughter sells fresh in 2nd lac.!** 3-02 305 20,944 4.4F 3.7P, **dam EX-93** 4-05 365 42,480 3.4F 3.1P! Mgd EX-90,2E x 4th dam EX-97 Harvue Roy Frosty!! Multiple show winner and Voted All-World Holstein Int'l 2010! (Pictured below.) Next 5 dams VG or EX with records up to 38,000! Potential EX!!
- ★ 8 fresh and fancy Holsteins out of one top herd, freestall / parlor trained!
- * Expecting a good selection of heifers from calves to close springers! Many A.I. sired with several Registered.
- ★ 6 Reg. heifers with great pedigrees! More info later.
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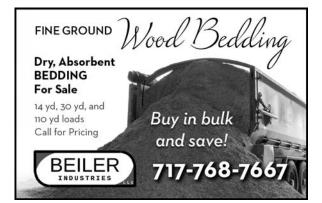
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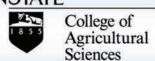
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Re-defining the transition period in dairy cows

By Adrian Barragan, DVM, MS, P.H.D. Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences

As you already know, the transition period is one of the most challenging times for dairy cows. During this period, there are a number of physiological challenges, such as a drop in dry matter intake and metabolic stress, that increase the risk of cows becoming sick, having poor milk production, not becoming pregnant, or all of the above. The intricacy of these challenges is that all of them are interconnected, and when one occurs, it cascades, causing the others. For instance, a cow that has a drop in dry matter intake will have a negative energy balance, which will cause systemic inflammation. Similarly, a cow that has systemic inflammation will have a drop in dry matter intake, which will cause a negative energy balance. Perhaps we can start considering these challenges as the transition period maladaptation syndrome.

The transition period has been defined, and accepted worldwide, as the 21 days before to the 21 days after calving. However, this definition was developed about 25 years ago. Many of you may agree with me that the dairy cows we had back then are not the same as the cows we have now on our farms. Genetic improvements, better diet management, and optimization of cow comfort are some of the main changes the industry has been going through these past years. These improvements may have had important changes in the cow's physiology. However, somehow, we have stopped putting emphasis on researching cow physiology, and we have re-directed our efforts to try to address the known physiological challenges.

Systemic Inflammatory Status

One of the newest, although discovered around 15 years ago, discoveries in cow's physiology during this period is a systemic inflammatory status that, when exacerbated, increases the risk of poor cow health and performance. Our lab at Penn State has extensively researched applied approaches to address this challenge through the use of common anti-inflammatory drugs known as NSAIDs, short for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

Initially, 10 years ago, we developed and tested "blanket" treatment approaches. This is preventatively treating all the animals regardless of risk level. However, as we tested these approaches, we started to realize that some animals did not need these therapies, and others even experienced negative effects associated with these treatments. Therefore, we started to put emphasis again on researching the cow's physiology, focusing on the main differences between animals that have normal inflammation and animals that have exacerbated inflammation during this time.

You probably noticed that I said "normal" inflammation, and you may start wondering if there is such a thing as normal inflamma-



tion. The short answer is yes. Inflammation during this period is associated with a cascade of physiological (normal and needed) events related to the parturition process, such as the expulsion of the placenta and uterine involution. The issues start when this inflammatory response increases due to different animal and management factors. The reality is that not all cows may experience or respond the same way to these challenges, and some cows may not have any trouble at all. Through our trials, we have realized that some groups of cows are at a higher risk of

experiencing the transition cow syndrome than others, we like to call these groups of cows high-priority cow groups.

One of the main reasons for the selected timing used for the established definition of the transition period was based on one of the first physiological challenges known at the time, which was the drop in dry matter intake and the associated negative energy balance. However, now, there may be a bigger player in the picture, which is systemic inflammation. It is interesting that the high-priority cow groups mentioned above had

different timings for the occurrence of these systemic inflammation peaks during the transition period and even before, which is starting to challenge the established definition of the transition period.

Inflammatory Patterns

For example, recent research reported that cows that produce more than 30 lbs. of milk at the time of dry-off had higher systemic inflammation and lower counts of inflammatory cells compared to cows producing ≤30 lbs. Our lab has found that cows carrying stillborn calves have a biphasic inflammatory pattern, with a peak around 27 days before calving and another peak around 14 days after calving. Similarly, we found that cows that have a twin pregnancy have an inflammatory peak around 7 days after calving. In a study that we recently published in the Journal of Dairy Sciences, we reported that primiparous and over-conditioned cows had exacerbated inflammatory patterns as well. Primiparous cows had an inflammatory peak at around 7 days after calving, while over-conditioned cows had an inflammatory peak of around 14 to 7 days before calving.

These findings reflect the need for moving away from the "one treatment fits it all" approach and developing targeted management and/or anti-inflammatory interventions for these high-priority cow groups. Furthermore, the research focus should be aimed at identifying animal and management factors that predispose some of these large animal categories, identified as high-priority cows (e.g., primiparous cows), to succumb to the transition period maladaptation syndrome.

At present, there may be enough evidence to start reshaping and redefining the transition period definition, and farm management should be tailored to monitor and preventatively manage susceptible animal groups, such as high-priority cow groups, based on their inflammatory patterns.

Upcoming Events

• Spanish Webinar Series

Nov. 4-5

https://extension.psu.edu/applied-dairy-management-series-transition-cow-systemic-inflammation

Two conferences in November sponsored by Penn State Extension offer leaders in the dairy industry up-to date information and valuable networking.

• Dairy Nutrition Workshop

Nov. 6-7 Hershey Lodge 325 University Drive, Hershey, PA https://extension.psu.edu/dairy-nutritionworkshop

• Women in Dairy Conference

Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Holiday Inn, Grantville

https://extension.psu.edu/women-in-dairy-conference

• Setting the Stage for Farm Succession: Retirement Planning

Nov. 14

Penn State Extension Cumberland County 310 Allen Road, Carlisle, PA 17013 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

https://extension.psu.edu/setting-the-stagefor-farm-succession-retirement-planning

In addition to in-person conferences and workshops, the Penn State Extension Dairy Team's website offers a wide array of articles, online courses, guides, publications, videos, webinars and tools and apps all offered to provide educational materials to help producers increase profitability. An ongoing resource is Bovine Banter, a weekly podcast that focuses on management, production and profitability designed to make farms more successful.

Visit https://extension.psu.edu/animals-and-livestock/dairy to learn more.

About the Author



A native of Argentina, Adrian Barragan is a graduate of the University of La Plata, Buenos Aires, where he earned his D.V.M degree. After graduation, he practiced as a beef cattle veterinarian on feedlot facilities in

Argentina before moving to Colorado where he spent a year working as a veterinarian and researcher on a large organic dairy farm. Pursuing graduate training, he received his M.S. and Ph.D. from the Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at The Ohio State University. He joined the Penn State Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences in 2017 as part of the Veterinary Extension and Applied Research Team. His research focuses on improving animal health and well-being and farm profitability. He has worked closely with the extensive Spanish speaking workforce in Pennsylvania's dairy industry.

Online resources

Department of Animal Science: animalscience.psu.edu College of Agricultural Sciences: agsci.psu.edu Cooperative Extension: extension.psu.edu

Contact information

Department of Animal Science The Pennsylvania State University 109 AVBS, University Park, Pa. 16802 814-863-3665 Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, contact 814-863-3665 in advance of your participation or visit.



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