

Merry Christmas

# FARM SHINE

We rise every week to cover farmers and agribusinesses

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December 13, 2024



The 97 MILK spearheaders in Schoharie County, New York, never miss an opportunity to promote whole milk. Busy as they are with their real jobs and personal lives, they make every effort to assure that dairy education does not fall through the cracks. Here, Susan Gilchrist waves

to adults and children who are shouting: "Bring Whole Milk Back into our Schools!" Susan, the sister of Duane Spaulding, insisted that 97 Milk was part of their local (Cobleskill) Christmas Parade. Please look for more about it next week. Photo submitted

### LETTER

#### Wow! What a crock!

**Editor:**

Recently, I received my ballot on the USDA FMMO Milk Referendum in the mail.

I ship my milk to a small local dairy cooperative (that is getting even smaller due to attrition because even more members are being driven out of business by the low federal milk prices). But, this co-op has done a good thing by allowing its members to cast their own individual votes on this Referendum.

In that ballot envelope was the offer to receive a copy of the USDA AMS "...Final Decision on Proposed Amendments to Marketing Agreements and Orders" (published on December 2, 2024, in The Federal Register). I called and, sure enough, got a copy delivered by Fed Ex the next day.

Wow! What a crock! This government thing is incredible ... 120 pages of 3 columns of single-spaced double-talk and gobbledegook that would put my old high school physics teacher to sleep in about 10 minutes! Unbelievable!

I guess all you dairy farmers out there already got your own personal copies, studied it thoroughly, totally digested it, comprehended AND agreed with it because most of you will be voting for it due to "bloc-voting" by the large dairy cooperatives. What you will be voting for is the economic equivalent of facing a firing squad or the electric chair!

Why the (EXPLETIVE) are we being subjected to this obscene gargantuan bureaucratic federal government BS? I thought we lived in a capitalistic economic system in the US. I guess that is for everyone except dairy farmers who milk the cows! What's wrong with allowing dairy farmers to send a BILL for the milk to the cooperatives or the proprietary handlers and actually get paid to cover our costs (unheard of!) plus, dare I say this, a reasonable profit?

This whole federal dairy system is absurd and abusive of dairy farming families, and USDA is in bed with the large monopolistic dairy co-ops and processors--just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

Without systemic reforms from the bottom up and inside out, Elon and Vivek should have a good start at USDA!

Sincerely,

Joseph Cochran, dairy farmer  
Tioga County, Pa.

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 -B.C.C., Ohio

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# Merry Christmas from our herd to yours!

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*A quiet, patient place to walk,*

*For we imagine on that night,*

*As legends say... even the animals talk,*

*You can hear them if you listen,*

*And let the world be still.*

*The cattle and sheep, first witness*

*To the birth of the Son,*

*The Father's will... on earth.*

*As dawn clothes Morn*

*In golden rays,*

*Sighs of a weary world*

*Give way to songs of praise.*

*May the reason for the season*

*Warm your celebrations.*

*And may knowing The Gift*

*Born in lowly manger,*

*Bring peace and joy to your life.*



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**New York Farm Show**  
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**The window is narrowing**  
**AFBF chief urges lawmakers to stand with rural America**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall says the lack of Congressional action in the lame duck session to address the immediate needs of farmers and rural America is disappointing.

"Now that Congressional leaders signaled plans for yet another extension of the farm bill instead of modernizing it, it is imperative that they address the well-defined and fully substantiated needs of farmers just trying to

hold on for another season.

"The recent hurricanes wreaked havoc on farms across the Southeast, leaving some farmers with massive losses. They need disaster aid to recover and rebuild. Additionally, the projected 2-year drop in net farm income of more than \$40 billion



Zippy Duvall

dollars demonstrates the seriousness of the overall agricultural downturn.

"Without a new farm bill to help farmers manage risk, Congress must act to help bridge the gap through economic relief to help farmers cope with inflation, high supply costs and decreasing commodity prices," he went on to say.

"The frightening financial pinch farm families across the country are experiencing is real. There is clear evidence all around us: land auctions are on the rise; equipment purchases have slumped; and lenders are warning that operating loans are in jeopardy without some assurance farmers are going to be able to repay the loans. Today, the books just aren't balancing.

"We've lost 141,000 farms in five years and no one wants to lose more. Americans overwhelmingly want Congress to act: 78 percent say U.S. lawmakers should prioritize legislation that supports farmers and ranchers. The window is narrowing for Congressional action. The time is now. I urge lawmakers to stand with rural America."

Thanks for reading



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# State requires biweekly H5N1 testing of milk samples from every truck route carrying Pennsylvania milk

By SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvania’s Mandatory Bulk (tanker truck) Milk Surveillance for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 began Nov. 26, and it aligns with the Dec. 6 federal order (see related story on page 9).

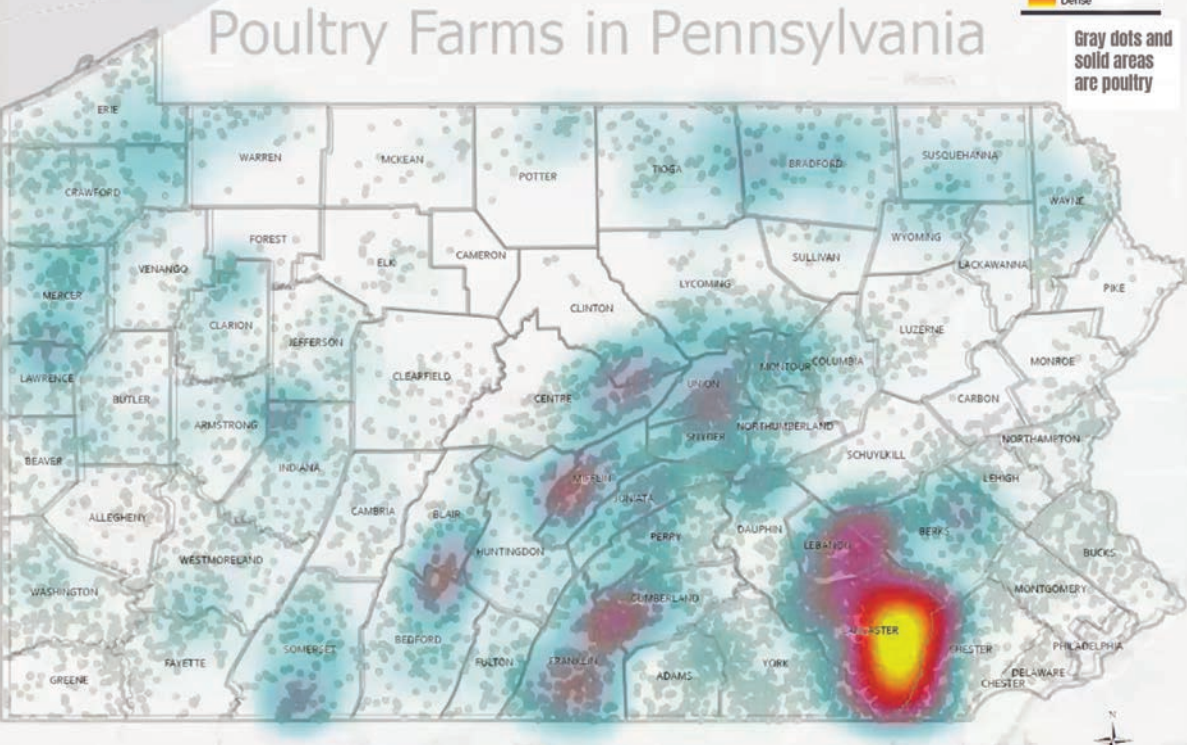
According to State Veterinarian Alex Hamberg, every milk route that carries Pennsylvania milk must be sampled for testing every two weeks. He said sampling supplies have been sent to processors and cooperatives, and they have been notified that each milk route was required to be sampled at least once by Dec. 10.

The milk truck samples are to be collected pre-pasteurization and delivered by courier or shipped to the nearest state animal diagnostic lab (PADLS). Section 6 PMO samplers are to collect the samples, so there is no effort required at the farm level.

Farms that do their own milk processing are only required to submit samples if they use all of their milk in their own processing. If some of their milk goes through commercial routes, their herd status would already be reflected in the mandatory tankerload sampling.

For licensed raw milk dairies, Hamberg said they are already inspected periodically,

## Pennsylvania Dairy Farms



State Veterinarian Alex Hamberg showed how the top two sectors of Pennsylvania’s number one industry, agriculture, overlap geographically, saying the dairy-associated b3.13

strain of HPAI H5N1 would be “very problematic” here. Screen capture from Dec. 4 Industry HPAI zoom-call hosted by Center for Dairy Excellence and PennAg.

including bulk tank sample collection, so those milk samples are also now being tested for H5N1.

The state requires sampling of Pennsylvania milk on trucks heading out of state also. This is what the whole country will be doing in stages very soon, per the Dec. 6 USDA

order, so Pennsylvania will soon have company in this regard.

Hamberg said it is up to the “internal structure” of the milk moving business to work out the details and get those samples in.

“This is a requirement,” he said in response to a question about the deadline dur-

ing the Dec. 4 monthly Pennsylvania industry HPAI call hosted by the Center for Dairy Excellence and PennAg.

“(As of Dec. 4), we have received 170 samples, representing 759 farms and 26 processors. We have a long way to go. If there are logistical problems, contact us, and we will work with you. But if good faith effort is not seen, we’ll have to resort to legal action,” he said. The State Vet’s office phone is 717-772-2852; email RA-ahds@pa.gov

Center for Dairy Excellence will have an HPAI ‘war room’ at the Keystone Farm Show in York, January 7-9, working with Penn State Extension and state veterinary labs. Dairy farmers are urged to come for resources, help with biosecurity plans, and answers to questions.

Hamberg explained the concern in Pennsylvania is heightened because of the economic impacts on both dairy and poultry right now in California, where millions of birds have been euthanized after testing positive

for the dairy-associated b3.13 strain. Not all HPAI currently circulating in poultry in the U.S. is dairy-associated, other strains that reside in migratory bird populations are responsible for some of the poultry infections. But Hamberg said most of the HPAI in poultry

turn to page 8



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## A special holiday treat!

Cindy Warner, left, of Frederick, Maryland, sent us this photo, having lunch with Jack Remsberg and his daughter, Barb Remsberg Fisher. "A special holiday treat," she captioned the image and anyone who knows Jack would wholeheartedly agree. "Jack is still as spry and talkative about all the farms we took pictures on for Sire Power – back in the day — and has such wonderful recall of all the people and friends in the dairy arena. Jack recently celebrated his 98th birthday and is going strong!"

*Photo submitted*



## Holiday dairy recipes trumpeted

American Dairy Association North East's consumer-facing holiday recipe and dairy promotion campaign, Holi-Dairy Magic, is reaching consumers through influencer marketing, specifically with culinary influencers like celebrity Chef Ronaldo Linares who did a live interview on WPIX in New York City. ADA North East is also working with health professional and lifestyle influencers and dairy farmer influencers to expand reach with diverse audiences. Also, 30-second Holi-Dairy ads will air during the news in the New York cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Watertown, New York City, and Binghamton, and Pennsylvania cities including Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Johnstown-Altoona. News station websites and social media channels will also promote the campaign with digital ads. Retailers including Weis, ShopRite, Giant and Price Chopper are also promoting Holi-Dairy Magic in the dairy case in stores and online to reach digital shoppers. All the promotional materials encourage consumers to visit the ADA North East Holi-Dairy Magic website where they will find the holiday dairy recipes and can enter to win a sweepstakes. The campaign runs through December 31.



## Want a dairy job?

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Center for Dairy Excellence has a "Dairy Job Opportunities" tool available for producers who have employment opportunities they are looking to fill on their operations. The online resource allows dairy producers to submit their job openings to be shared with the CDE's networks and digital channels.

When submitting a job opening, dairy producers must include the title of the position and employment category, including full-time, part-time, hourly or internship opportunity. They must also include the farm name, job description and responsibilities, employer's contact information, and a job application if available.

To submit an employment opportunity available on your dairy operation, visit [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/dairy-job-opportunities](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/dairy-job-opportunities). Questions? Call 717-346-0849.

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# FMMO referendum has many dairy farmers confused

By SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Many dairy farmers received their Federal Milk Marketing Order ballots for the producer referendum on milk pricing changes, and some questions have been pouring into *Farmshine* about what the vote is, what it's for, and how to vote.

During the USDA FMMO webinar recently, Dana Coale, AMS Dairy Programs deputy administrator and Erin Taylor, Order Formulation and Enforcement director explained that the producer referendum takes place until December 31, 2024.

Eligible producers who had milk pooled on any FMMO in January 2024 will receive a ballot for the FMMO(s) in which their milk was pooled for that month. Ballots will only be counted that are postmarked by Dec. 31, 2024 and are received by USDA by Jan. 15, 2025.

Coale confirmed that in many cases, cooperatives will bloc vote for all eligible members of that cooperative.

### What are these ballots?

If you received a Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) ballot in Pennsylvania, please be aware that this has nothing to do with the Pennsylvania Milk Board (PMB) or the state's unique over-order premium. This is about the USDA's FMMO system that sets formulas for

class and component prices and governs the revenue sharing pools. The Pennsylvania system is separate but uses the FMMO pricing as a basis for setting wholesale and retail minimum prices. Hence the name for the producer premium as 'over-order' premium, meaning the premium for Class I milk produced, processed and sold in-state that is paid above (over) the FMMO (order) price.

The ballot also has nothing to do with the USDA federal orders announced recently on milk testing for bird flu. The ballots are about federal order milk pricing.

This is specifically about the formulas for

how the milk component prices are calculated and how the class 'index' prices are announced.

### Who gets these ballots?

Any producer who shipped milk that was pooled on one or multiple FMMOs during the selected month of January 2024 is eligible to vote and should have received a ballot by Monday, December 9 — except for most cooperative members, whose cooperative leadership elect to bloc vote on behalf of their members.

I don't like some of the changes, what should I do?

The ballot does not allow you to pick and choose what changes to approve. It is one package with five areas of substantial change.

### What does my vote mean?

Voting 'No' means you want USDA to discontinue the Federal Order in your milk marketing area. There are 11 Federal Orders (see map). Each Marketing Area votes separately in this referendum.

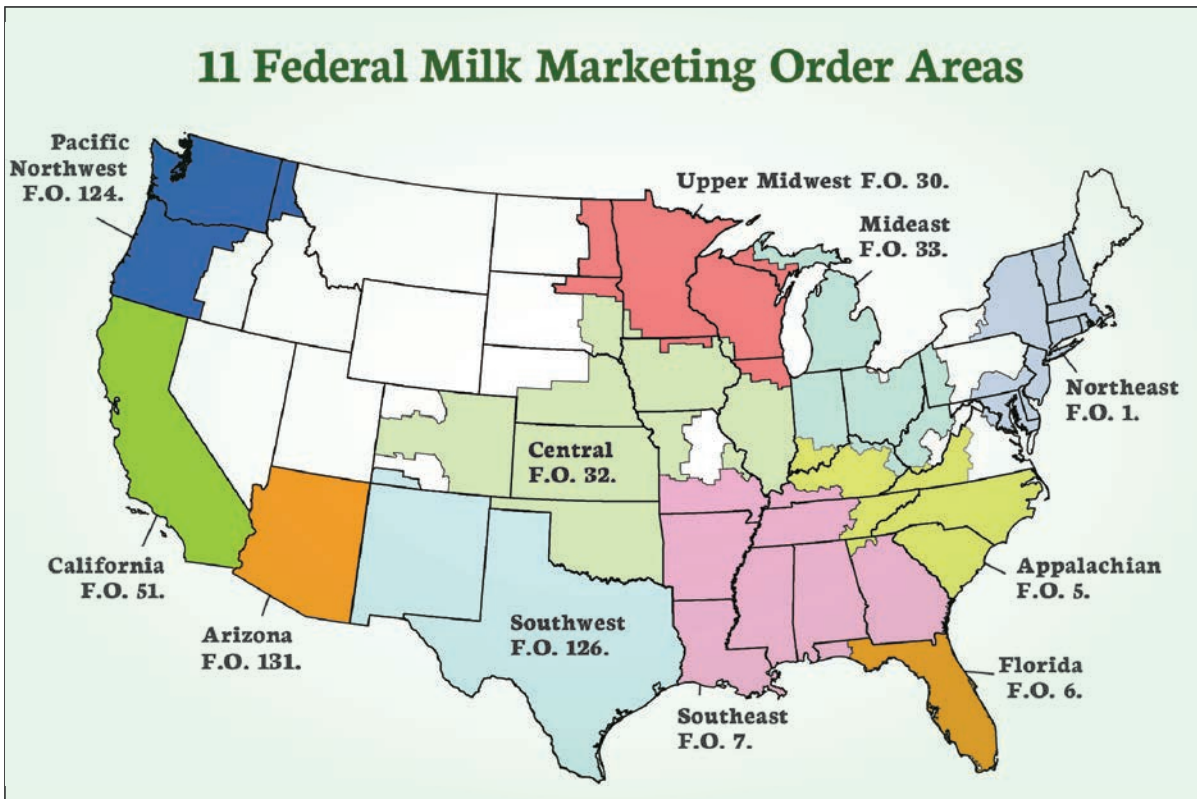
Voting 'Yes' means you accept the package of changes in the Secretary's final rule and you want the Order, the pooling, the timely payment assurances, the third party testing, the accounting, the auditing, and the public price index announcements to continue.

Voting 'No' means you want to discontinue the whole deal, meaning no Federal Order in your area.

Voting to keep it 'as-is' is not an option. Voting against just the make allowance increases is not an option.

### Could my Order be voted out?

In the USDA webinar Nov. 29, Coale said that a two-thirds approval of the Secretary's final rule, announced Nov. 12, is required in each milk marketing area for the Order to continue with the changes in that milk market to page 12



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## Dairyman's Datebook

**DECEMBER 16-18**, Mid-Atlantic Grazing Conference, Washington County Ag Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, Md.

**DECEMBER 21**, 11 a.m. Northwest District of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association meeting, Hoss's Steak & Sea House, 1948 Leesburg-Grove City Road, Grove City.

**JANUARY 7-9**, PDP Managers Academy at the Marriott Quorum Dallas Addison in Dallas, Texas.

**JANUARY 17-18**, New York Holstein Senior Convention, Double Tree by Hilton, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse.

**JANUARY 18-19** New York Holstein Junior Convention, Double

Tree by Hilton, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse.

**JANUARY 22**, 9:30 a.m. Calf management discussion, Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pa.

**JANUARY 20**, 9:30 a.m. Georgia Dairy Conference, Marriott Savannah Riverfront, 100 General McIntosh Boulevard, Savannah, Ga.

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

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

## Auction Guide

**DEC. 18**, 10:30 a.m. Special Christmas Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

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

**DEC. 20**, 9 a.m. Complete Liquidation of Pine Ridge Farms, Westminster, Md. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Company.

**DEC. 20**, 1 p.m. Monthly Consignment Dairy Sale, Kish Valley Dairy Sales, Belleville, Pa. Sale managed by Kish Valley Dairy Sales.

**DEC. 20**, 4 p.m. Special Christmas

Horse Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

**DEC. 31**, 10 a.m. Special Dairy Sale, Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales, Ronks, Pa. Sale managed by Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales.

**JAN. 8**, 10:30 a.m. Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

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

**MARCH 7**, Pa. Know What You Buy Heifer Sale, Middletown, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

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## Northwest PHA District meets Dec. 21 in Grove City

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The Northwest District of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association (PHA) will hold a meeting on Saturday, December 21, to which all PHA members from the District are invited. It will start at 11:00 a.m. at Hoss's Steak & Sea House, 1948 Leesburg-Grove City Road, Grove City.

One purpose for the meeting is to nominate members to serve on PHA's Executive Committee. Wade Sturgeon has completed his term on the Committee. Any Pennsylvania Holstein Association member from Beaver/Lawrence, Crawford, Jefferson, Mercer, Clarion/Venango, Erie, McKean, and Warren counties can make nominations. Up to three nominees can be submitted from this meeting to the state direc-

tors for election to the Executive Committee at the 2025 Pennsylvania Holstein Convention, which will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg.

Potential nominees for this Executive Committee post must have served their respective county as a state director on the Pennsylvania Holstein Association Board of Directors.

The group will also be starting to plan for the 2026 Pennsylvania Holstein Convention to be hosted by the Northwest District. Anyone who is interested in helping with the convention is invited to attend this meeting. In addition, the group will also discuss the 2025 Western Championship Show and any other issues members may wish to address.

## Farmers and ranchers are facing great uncertainty

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Farmers and ranchers across the country have faced great uncertainty since the passage of the Corporate Transparency Act in early 2021 and as the Beneficial Ownership Information regulations have been written. Questions are swirling about who is required to file and who will have access to the confidential data being collected," says American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

He made the comment on December 6th in response to a nationwide injunction ordered by the federal court in the Eastern District of Texas halting enforcement of the Beneficial

Ownership Information filing requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). The requirement essentially requires the filing of private business ownership information with the federal government.

"Farm Bureau has long fought against the mandated disclosure of farmers' private business information to the federal government in a number of different scenarios. For a second time this year a federal court has ruled the CTA oversteps the Constitution on that front. We appreciate the temporary reprieve provided by the injunction and hope Congress can take a cue from the courts in the coming weeks to provide a more permanent resolution to this problematic policy."

**"HARD TIMES CREATE STRONG MEN. STRONG MEN CREATE GOOD TIMES. GOOD TIMES CREATE WEAK MEN. AND, WEAK MEN CREATE HARD TIMES."**

— G. MICHAEL HOPF

**(JBS)**

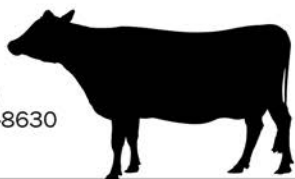
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# The state of affairs ... we have a lot of fixing to do

**Editor:**

There is no doubt by now that Brooke Rollins is busy being courted and cajoled by the deep state powers that be, in and around the USDA. Those many organizations that will be at her beck and call to "inform" her understanding how to best "help" the farmers they represent. By the Grace of Almighty God she will not fall prey to the likes of NMPF (National Milk Producers Organization) and their ilk.

At a time of extreme national and international tension, our food production and supply chains are weakened, consolidated and vulnerable to those who seek to damage the new Trump Administration and the United States.

To remedy this we need to first understand why the USDA proports to exist. What have been the stated objectives and have the proposed solutions addressed those issues?

Our informed understanding is that the USDA was created to shore up the farmers of these United States. Originally as a nation we had the stated goal of distributing the most fundamental agricultural asset — land, among as many stakeholders as possible in as equitable a manner as possible. Hence the Homesteading Act.

This goal of shoring up these agricultural entrepreneurs, if met, would lead to the so-

cial benefits of food stability, economic activity and development of the frontier.

The noted example of the Homesteading Act was a stunning success.

How have we done since then? I think an objective observer would have to conclude we have failed miserably.

I could include reams of data supporting that conclusion, but this is just an overview. An extremely generous taxpayer base has poured billions of dollars into the USDA believing they are shoring up the iconic family farm.

In truth the USDA has presided over the mass consolidation of agricultural resources and revenues into the hands of a relatively miniscule number of stakeholders. Mostly these are corporate, often absentee and regularly multinational.

The literal driving off of the family farmer has been achieved through consolidation, market monopolization, monopsonization and vertical integration. The majority of remaining farmers (now affectionately referred to as producers) are so highly leveraged as to be serfs on their own land. This has produced a landscape that mirrors the Soviet collectives of decades ago.

Well does it work anyway?

While there have been many global political upheavals that have effectively masked

some of the USDA's greatest blunders (two World Wars and the Soviet buying spree of the 1970s for example) our agricultural infrastructure has grown stunningly frail. We saw this up close and personal during the Covid "pandemic" as we stared unbelievably at empty store shelves right here in these our beloved United States.

RFK Jr. might interject here to point out the overall poor quality of our food supply, a valid point, when considering items such as USDA's food pyramid.

It is basic economics that a monopolist will produce less of a good than needed and charge more than the market can afford.

What can be done? Like Joseph the 1st Ag Secretary of Biblical fame, we will share some solutions to much of the dilemma.

Fundamental remedies that need to be pursued immediately:

Boosting local production by removing barriers to entry. Barriers to entry are both regulatory and cost. Remove regulatory barriers and the market will resolve the cost. (The reason raw milk is so highly regulated is not because it is so dangerous but rather because it is so valuable.)

Similarly, slash and restructure USDA's vast budget in order to correct the current mistake of funneling billions of dollars into the enti-

ties which are causing the problems associated with lack of competition and over regulation. Specifically, NGO's and "cooperatives".

The USDA needs to conduct surveys covering market participants in agricultural markets nationwide and ask: "What are your food procurement options?" The DOJ needs to use this information to break up national monopolies for agricultural products. The USDA needs to use its subsidies as leverage to secure divestiture of processing plants where market monopolization exists.

Additionally, there needs to be a complete overhaul of rule making with regards to speculative markets and futures.

Current laws that benefit America's farmers, for example COOL, and other truth in labeling laws need to be enforced.

While this list is by no means exhaustive, it offers tangible solutions. Because of our agricultural and advocacy experience, we know the landscape. More importantly, we know how to find those who know the things we do not and avoid those who want to tell you they know. Furthermore, we speak both Urban and Rural.

We look forward to working together with Mrs. Rollins to make agriculture great again in these our United States of America.

Jonathan and Joshua Haar

## PHA Convention Sale consignments sought

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Top-shelf Holstein genetics are sought for the 2025 Convention Sale which will be held on February 8th in Gettysburg. Selection criteria to meet are:

Fancy, full pedigree, marketing appeal, and high genomics. Since it's a multi-media event sale PHA will favor traditional choices, embryo packages, IVF sessions, the pick of cows from a top group of your herd, a pick of a

show calf from your calf inventory per class, stellar individuals, and donor cows.

Chairman Josh Sanders and his team of selectors ask that you share your possibilities with them by Dec. 28th. Contact Sanders at 732-406-4949 or David J. Lentz 717-329-9202.

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OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — The long-running but in recent years interrupted Dairy Old-Timers Breakfast is back. However, with notable changes.

Instead of Tampa, Okeechobee in southern Florida will be the place to be. And instead of breakfast, it will be lunch. The camaraderie will be the same, regardless.

Scheduled for next year on Groundhog's Day, February 2, the event has moved to Lightsey's Seafood Company, 1506 South Parrott Avenue in Okeechobee. (Yes, they serve alligator, but you can still order beef!)

Previously held at the Florida State Fair in Tampa for well over 40 years, the changes had to be made due to scheduling and other related difficulties at that venue. Okeechobee is the most concentrated dairy area in Florida.

The luncheon will start at noon with coffee and greetings to old friends and new acquaintances. And, actually, you don't even

have to be a "old" to attend. Most of us are in our "new" 40s and 50s! You just have to be in Florida in February and be connected to the dairy industry.

The speaker for the day will be Melissa Syfrett from the Syfrett Feed Company, who will tell the assembled group how the feed industry operates in Florida. Members of the Syfrett family have been regular attendees at the Old Timer's Breakfast for years.

To register for the lunch, simply call, email, or text Gary Mithoefer or Larry Hawkins at the numbers below:

- Gary Mithoefer: 317-225-9025 or gmithoefer@comcast.net
- Larry Hawkins: 608-516-0101 or larry@forageinnovations.guru

Gary Mithoefer of Indiana and Larry Hawkins of Wisconsin are long-time attendees and are simply interested in promoting this event to other snowbirds. Please let your friends know about this event.

## State requires

from page 3

close to affected dairies is b3.13.

He said there is so much of this virus in that area of California that there are now concerns about restocking after flocks are depopulated and the poultry houses disinfected," said Hamberg.

With two maps of dairy and poultry densities in Pennsylvania, he illustrated the overlap:

"If we did get the b3.13 strain, this is where we could have serious problems that could fall on the level of what California is experiencing — or worse — if we did not get very early detection and stamp it out."

He observed a window of opportunity: "There is the wild bird-driven influenza affecting some poultry flocks throughout the country right now, but this b3.13 strain (associated with dairy cows) has not yet established a natural reservoir. This means if we can wipe it out in our dairy cows, we can make (this strain that reproduces in the mammary system) extinct and not have to worry about it again. If we can't get ahead of it, then we're just going to have to deal with this year after year until it resolves on its own — if it ever does."

Reviewing the economic impact on affected dairies, Hamberg cited a 20% decrease in herd level production for several weeks and most tend to see long term production decline, along with high SCCs, increased costs and labor treating sick cows, increased cull rates and spread between dairy and poultry farms.

He warned that some affected dairies report they spent so much time dealing with sick cows that there was not enough people to do other tasks, and some have reported cull rates of up to 50% of the herd during the infection and in the months after.

Instead of waiting for one sick animal to turn into many, the mandatory sampling is aimed at detection up to a week earlier. "That buys time to contain the virus on the farm

and prevent it from spreading to others," said Hamberg.

"This ensures early detection, prevents widespread disease, and fulfills the national mandate. It also establishes our freedom from disease to put any detections in municipal wastewater monitoring into proper perspective."

In the event of a positive sample, that dairy, along with any other dairy within a roughly 2-mile radius of a positive dairy or positive poultry operation (b3.13 strain) will be in quarantine. Milk and cull animals can continue to move off-farm only by state permits, which require a premise ID and a biosecurity plan. Quarantine dairies will be required to submit herd level samples weekly from the bulk tank or in-line sampler.

There have been zero detections in Pennsylvania thus far ...

### ... but what should dairy farmers be doing now?

1) First and foremost, make sure you have a premise ID for your dairy. Every farm must have one to avoid delays in moving milk or animals in the event of a positive test.

2) Get your biosecurity plan in place. Hamberg said the Everyday Biosecurity Plan through the F.A.R.M. program "gets you most of the way there. Make sure it is filled out and use it."

3) Pennsylvania dairies are still urged to enroll in the voluntary lactating cow monitoring program through weekly on-farm bulk tank samples. Under this voluntary program, "monitored herds" herds in good standing can move dairy cattle across state lines without additional individual animal testing for H5N1.

4) Those working on dairy and poultry farms are urged to get their regular seasonal flu shot to avoid any potential of contracting regular flu and bird flu at the same time.

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## APHIS will work with states to plot 5-stage surveillance

# USDA starts mandatory National Milk Testing Strategy for H5N1

By SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA issued a new federal order last Friday, Dec. 6, to begin the National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) for comprehensive surveillance of the U.S. milk supply and dairy herds for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1.

The order requires that raw milk samples be collected before pasteurization in all states and shared with USDA for testing.

This order is in addition to the April 24 order that requires negative tests for lactating dairy cows to travel across state lines — which is still in effect.

The new order makes three new requirements:

- Raw milk samples must be shared, upon request, from any entity responsible for a dairy farm, bulk milk transporter, bulk milk transfer station, or dairy processing facility that sends or holds milk intended for pasteurization.

- Herd owners with positive cattle must provide epidemiological information that enables activities such as contact tracing and disease surveillance.

- Private laboratories and state veterinarians must report positive results to USDA that come from tests done on raw milk samples drawn as part of the NMTS.

APHIS will work with states to execute the testing in a way that works for each state and also aligns with the NMTS standards. Once a state begins testing, it enters one of five stages based on the HPAI H5N1 virus prevalence and moves forward to create “a stronger picture of progress at state, regional and national levels,” according to the USDA announcement.

The first round of processing plant silo testing under the NMTS is scheduled to begin

the week of Dec. 16, 2024 in the following six states: California, Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

These states are different in status. For example, California has had an active outbreak since Sept. 24, totaling 527 herd detections, the most recent on Dec. 9; Colorado had 64 affected herds from April 25 through Aug. 13; and Michigan had 29 affected herds from March 29 through Sept. 9.

On the other hand, Mississippi, Oregon and Pennsylvania are among the 34 states in which there have been zero H5N1 detections in dairy herds.

Pennsylvania was likely chosen for the launch round in the federal NMTS because it has already begun its own Nov. 26 state order that requires bulk milk testing at the tanker truckload level, in which samples on all milk truck routes containing Pennsylvania milk — going to in-state and out-of-state processors — must be collect and sent to the PADLS lab every two weeks, with the first ones due by Dec. 10. (See related story on page 3).

As states begin testing under USDA’s new NMTS, and as they move through the five stages detailed below, their progress will be shared at a USDA HPAI in Livestock Testing website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-livestock/testing>

On the national front, Idaho and Utah recently dropped from the active 30-day map, but a new state has broken with H5N1 — Nevada. As of Dec. 9, there have been 249 active herd detections in the past 30 days — 248 in California and one in Nevada. This is down from the 30-day count for California a week ago at 269.

In California, the virus has spread to 527 herds, or half of California’s 1050 dairies. Since the beginning of the national outbreak in March 2024, there have been 742 herds af-



A cow can't pray, but you can. Pray that H5N1 will soon be eradicated.

Photo by Dieter Krieg

ected in 16 states, with California’s recent outbreak accounting for 70% of all detections nationally.

The speed of the virus escalation there, and previously in Colorado — along with millions of birds in poultry operations being infected with the ‘dairy associated strain’ known as b3.13 — have prompted the mandatory pre-pasteurization bulk milk testing in Pennsylvania, and now at the federal level.

**Here’s how the stages of the federal NMTS will work:**

**Stage 1,** Begin mandatory USDA national processing plant silo monitoring: USDA will immediately begin nationwide testing of milk silos at

dairy processing facilities. This national sample will allow USDA to identify where the disease is present, monitor trends, and help states identify potentially affected herds.

**Stage 2,** Determine a state’s H5N1 dairy cattle status: Building on the results of silo monitoring, in collaboration with states, USDA will also start bulk tank sampling programs that will enable us to identify herds in the state that are affected with H5N1.

**Stage 3,** Detect and respond to the virus in affected states: For states with H5N1 detections, APHIS will work quickly to identify specific cases and implement rapid response measures, including enhanced biosecurity using USDA’s existing incentives programs, movement controls and contact tracing.

**Stage 4,** Demonstrate ongoing absence of H5 in dairy cattle in unaffected states: Once all dairy herds in a given state are considered to be unaffected, APHIS will continue regular sampling of farms’ bulk tanks to ensure the disease does not re-emerge. Bulk tank sampling frequency will progressively decline as the state demonstrates continual silo negativity (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly if continually negative). If a state becomes affected, USDA will re-engage detection and response activities, and the state will return to Stage 3.

**Stage 5,** Demonstrate freedom from H5 in U.S. dairy cattle: After all states move through Stage 4, APHIS will work with the states to begin periodic sampling and testing to illustrate long-term absence from the national herd.

The USDA and FDA have confirmed that the threat to human health remains low, and that dairy products remain safe to consume. However, in California, H5N1 was detected in raw milk products from Raw Farm near Fresno, leading to recalls and halting of sales for both human and pet labeled consumption until they have consecutive negative tests.



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**NOVEMBER 2024**

**Adams**

APPLE VALLEY CREAMERY	108 HO	24712	1073	827
HILLCREST DAIRY	329 HO	24955	1006	783
CIRCLE CREEK HOL.	226 HO	24132	976	757
SPUNGOLD HOLSTEINS	96 XX	20746	827	657
KENNETH WENGER	238 XX	18859	937	634

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

CIRCLE CREEK HOL.	HO	91	226
APPLE VALLEY CREAMERY	HO	100	108
SPUNGOLD HOLSTEINS	XX	122	96

**Armstrong**

SCOTT BOWSER	92 HO	25203	962	796
SHIREY JERSEY	353 JE	18989	903	670

**Beaver**

WALLACE CITY FARM	54 HO	21096	845	699
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**Bedford**

GLENDON EBY	153 HO	22937	909	707
MANOR MEADOWS FARM	105 HO	19100	738	605

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

GLENDON EBY	HO	124	153
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**Berks**

MISTY MOOR HOLSTEINS	77 HO	31368	1285	1019
DAVIEW FARM	64 HO	31538	1273	1011
CYRUS & JENNY GEHRINGER	99 HO	30234	1149	919
MERLIN & CRYSTAL GOOD	89 HO	29012	1155	915
TWILIGHT HOLSTEINS	117 HO	28271	1228	905
SUNRISE FARM	44 HO	29961	1144	889
ADAM NOLT	40 HO	29027	1118	885
EARL HAFER & SONS	227 HO	28415	999	872
LARRY GRUMBINE	156 HO	27674	1132	870
DON & AMY RICE	92 HO	28534	1086	863
SHAYNAH KEE FARM	81 HO	28820	1049	862
MICHAEL HAAG	90 HO	26962	1146	852
KIRBYVILLE HOLSTEINS	94 HO	26343	1124	849
WALNUTRIDGE HOLSTEIN	124 HO	26434	1091	844
JAY GRUBE	91 HO	26403	1027	840
DON & AMY RICE	108 HO	27321	1059	837
SCATTERED ACRES, INC.	377 HO	26455	1096	826
NORTHKILL CREEK FARM	108 XX	25877	1011	823
BRYAN YOUNKER	98 HO	24840	968	806
VISTA GRANDE FARM	236 HO	25700	1047	795
WAY HAR FARMS	285 HO	25673	985	793
WAY HAR FARMS	308 HO	24759	952	767
VISTA GRANDE FARM	286 HO	24400	1011	764
OLEY TURNPIKE DAIRY	165 HO	22630	974	762
ARLAN KRICK	112 HO	25420	936	758
DAVID WOLFSKILL	334 HO	25679	1206	750
JAMES & JAN ADAM LLC	124 HO	22578	755	747
J. & MONICA HUNSBERGER	58 HO	23551	906	741
WHIRLWIND ACRES	161 HO	22214	895	705
DON & AMY RICE	16 XX	20321	902	691
KAIZEN HOLSTEINS	69 HO	20190	889	670
JUSTIN & RENEE TROUTMAN	113 HO	19959	795	663
R LOST CREEK FARM	63 HO	20621	729	652
VISTA GRANDE FARM	28 JE	18893	875	651
SHOW TOP FARMS	190 HO	20441	874	635
BEN & CAIT ROHRBACH	54 HO	19867	877	606
VISTA GRANDE FARM	18 GU	16241	763	534

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

TWILIGHT HOLSTEINS	HO	85	117
CRYSTAL SPRING FARM	HO	94	118
NORTHKILL CREEK FARM	XX	109	108
ADAM NOLT	HO	114	40
VISTA GRANDE FARM	JE	122	28
MERLIN & CRYSTAL GOOD	HO	126	89
J. & MONICA HUNSBERGER	HO	133	58
CYRUS & JENNY GEHRINGER	HO	134	99
DON & AMY RICE	HO	148	108
DON & AMY RICE	HO	148	92
MISTY MOOR HOLSTEINS	HO	154	77

DON & AMY RICE	XX	155	16
BEN & CAIT ROHRBACH	HO	156	54
SCATTERED ACRES, INC.	HO	157	377
WAY HAR FARMS	HO	161	285
WAY HAR FARMS	HO	162	308
JUSTIN & RENEE TROUTMAN	HO	164	113
MICHAEL HAAG	HO	167	90
SUNRISE FARM	HO	170	44
LARRY GRUMBINE	HO	186	156
WAY HAR FARMS	XX	189	23

**Bradford**

YRUM FARM #1	1089 HO	27837	1235	909
GLENDORA RIVER ACRES	281 HO	25711	1046	797
CHAMPDALE FARM	116 HO	22277	904	682
J & C ACRES	33 HO	22489	857	658
NATE JUDSON	39 HO	18301	798	611
PECK HILL FARMS	175 HO	18444	772	592
REAGAN FARMS	72 HO	17948	712	560
ROBIN & RYAN KINGSLEY	53 XX	17717	647	557
WILLIAM & GRETCHEN S.	57 HO	17536	701	542

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

J & C ACRES	HO	69	33
DENISE FEUSNER	JE	83	38
GLENDORA RIVER ACRES	HO	139	281

**Bucks**

MARWELL DAIRY FARM	64 HO	26466	990	793
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**Butler**

THIELE FARM	45 HO	29628	1192	896
HARTZELL FARM	277 HO	27992	1025	846
DROVERS INN	145 HO	26845	1045	843
COLTON & JEN SCHIEVER	154 HO	25562	1073	802
UNDER GRACE DAIRY	52 HO	26389	963	788
FOUR SEASONS FARM	13 XX	20224	925	758
FOUR SEASONS FARM	68 BS	20631	884	746
FOUR SEASONS FARM	55 BS	20764	871	745
JAY RENO	23 HO	21367	800	670

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

FOUR SEASONS FARM	XX	114	13
UNDER GRACE DAIRY	HO	149	52

**Cambria**

BRENT LOWMASTER	174 HO	26841	1123	870
BARR RIDGE FARM LLC.	177 HO	25284	1055	841

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

BARR RIDGE FARM LLC.	HO	145	177
BRENT LOWMASTER	HO	185	174

**Centre**

MURMAC FARMS	1877 HO	33149	1372	1044
PENNDILL FARMS	80 HO	28796	1163	892
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY	266 HO	27587	1133	868
S. & J. SWARTZ	76 HO	26050	997	817
TODD E. & GREG T. WOOM	73 HO	26190	1185	810
DJ & THELMA GLICK	71 HO	26398	1005	809
KENNETH C. GEPHART	66 HO	25300	1013	793
HAAGEN FARM	36 HO	24411	1073	781
JACHAR FARM LLC.	123 HO	24279	1217	755
BREEZY FARMS	126 HO	25331	1295	751
BREEZY FARMS	194 HO	24662	1264	737
NITTANY RIDGE HOLSTEINS	67 HO	23564	952	718
BREEZY FARMS	68 HO	23378	1204	710
ROD & BIL BRUSS	53 HO	21701	860	707
BARBARA ROSSMAN	76 HO	22131	835	668
HAROLD E. HARPSTER	59 JE	17740	1056	656
LEROY STOLTZFUS	40 HO	17723	638	535

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

DJ & THELMA GLICK	HO	74	71
MURMAC FARMS	HO	139	1877
HAAGEN FARM	HO	147	36
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY	HO	149	266

**Chester**

ROY & RUTH ANN BENDER	133 HO	33808	1376	1053
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ROY & RUTH ANN BENDER	221 HO	32126	1304	991
WALMOORE HOLSTEINS	1094 HO	31120	1222	976
KING DAIRY LLC.	154 HO	30309	1200	930
ONE WAY HOLSTEIN	151 HO	29800	1197	923
ROY & RUTH ANN BENDER	88 HO	29625	1197	899
DREAM RIDGE HOL LLC.	75 HO	26503	1050	820
MARSHAK DAIRY (NBC)	179 HO	24421	1029	769
MAPLE HALL	65 HO	25095	835	761
HERBETH FARMS	68 HO	24005	985	759
BROOKVILLE FARMS	79 HO	24862	982	755
DUANE STOLTZFUS	48 HO	20481	860	642

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

MARSHAK DAIRY (NBC)	HO	91	179
WALMOORE HOLSTEINS	HO	128	1094
ROY & RUTH ANN BENDER	HO	139	133
ROY & RUTH ANN BENDER	HO	145	221
ONE WAY HOLSTEIN	HO	149	151
KING DAIRY LLC.	HO	149	154
ROY & RUTH ANN BENDER	HO	156	88

**Clarion**

HENRY FARMS OF KNOX LLC.	92 HO	27843	1084	882
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**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

HENRY FARMS OF KNOX LLC.	HO	107	92
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**Clearfield**

KENNIS DAIRY FARMS	105 HO	27279	1119	887
SANKEYCREST FARMS	67 HO	24876	1445	782
HICKS DAIRY	207 HO	23336	911	747

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

SANKEYCREST FARMS	HO	157	67
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**Clinton**

SCHRACK FARMS	1489 HO	27559	1175	882
MEYER DAIRY FARM LLC.	233 HO	24865	1060	804
AQUILLA STOLTZFUS	55 HO	22984	925	728
SCENIC MEADOWS FARM	55 HO	23167	1097	706

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

MEYER DAIRY FARM LLC.	HO	74	233
AQUILLA STOLTZFUS	HO	182	55

**Crawford**

FOSTERS FAMILY FARM	109 HO	25924	1139	872
JOSEPH M. VORISEK	62 XX	25311	974	796

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

FOSTERS FAMILY FARM	HO	143	109
JOSEPH M. VORISEK	XX	182	62

**Cumberland**

BRYMESSER FARMS	249 HO	30671	1340	990
LEHMAN VIEW FARMS LLC.	96 HO	23056	971	721
J&S DAIRY	75 XX	21656	867	701
HENSEL	79 HO	20305	852	679
FOUNTAINVUE	97 HO	21158	733	652
FOUNTAINVUE	115 HO	19461	701	611

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

BRYMESSER FARMS	HO	98	249
LEHMAN VIEW FARMS LLC.	HO	135	96
HENSEL	HO	135	79

**Dauphin**

STONEY LAWN FARMS	161 HO	28829	1082	890
TY & TRACY LONG	125 HO	26783	1016	816
WINDY KNOLL FARM	47 HO	25776	904	763
LEHMANSTEAD FARMS	162 HO	22987	986	758
ISAAC LEE ZOOK	50 HO	22015	838	660

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

TY & TRACY LONG	HO	192	125
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**Elk**

PIERRE PONTZER	85 HO	20230	851	630
PAUL SWANSON	56 HO	18169	746	605

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

PIERRE PONTZER	HO	170	85
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**Erie**

TWIN CREEKS FARM LLC.	540 HO	28130	1167	894
LIND FARM	66 HO	21640	891	705
KIDSTREET	118 HO	21547	913	694
PALNEL FARM	117 HO	20152	862	674
CARL SYMANSKI	12 XX	12866	666	519

**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

TWIN CREEKS FARM LLC.	HO	161	540
ROGER GILKINSON	XX	165	42
LIND FARM	HO	189	66

**Fayette**

JACKSON FARMS	128 HO	22852	871	711
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**HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000**

JACKSON FARMS	HO	142	128
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**Lycoming**

SCARLET SUMMER HOLSTEIN	119 HO	23090	952	758
ED & CHRIS KITZMILLER	53 HO	22172	836	755
ELAM F. LAPP	49 HO	23907	958	747
ED & CHRIS KITZMILLER	80 HO	22129	816	744
SAMUEL S. LAPP	49 HO	23880	991	722
ED & CHRIS KITZMILLER	27 HO	22033	776	721
AARON S. LAPP	45 HO	21980	935	698
JOHN K. LAPP, JR.	43 HO	22275	930	694
SCOTT RHONDA LOVELL	41 XX	20727	820	659
GLADE RUN FARMS LLC.	81 HO	19785	778	649
AARON K., JR. & LYDIA LAPP	50 HO	19314	806	587
TWIN FARMS	10 XX	17276	662	556
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
SAMUEL S. LAPP	HO	94	49	
ELAM F. LAPP	HO	110	49	
AARON K., JR. & LYDIA LAPP	HO	121	50	
JOHN K. LAPP, JR.	HO	133	43	
ED & CHRIS KITZMILLER	HO	139	53	

**McKean**

DETRICKS FARM	33 HO	20180	856	665
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**Mercer**

DALE L. KEPNER	121 HO	28502	1058	875
GANDER & GIRLS FAMILY	47 HO	25620	1031	792
IRISHTOWN ACRES	541 JE	18020	996	671
WILLOW BROOK FARM	17 HO	18897	731	613
WILLOW BROOK FARM	37 XX	16989	695	573
WILLOW BROOK FARM	16 XX	15264	641	525
HILLVIEW ACRES	66 XX	16131	683	507
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
CZUBEK FARM	HO	100	85	
WILLOW BROOK FARM	XX	125	16	
WILLOW BROOK FARM	HO	137	17	
WILLOW BROOK FARM	XX	138	37	
IRISHTOWN ACRES	JE	165	541	

**Mifflin**

PEACHCREST HOLSTEINS	129 HO	29261	1174	949
BLESSED ACRES DAIRY	46 HO	29189	1145	916
DERRY MUSSER	121 HO	27420	1077	880
WOODEDGE FARM LLC.	175 HO	28030	1139	876
KISH VIEW FARM	663 HO	28107	1114	869
ANTHONY & CHANDRA PEAC	67 HO	28510	1126	856
CHASE & ALLISON PEACHEY	112 HO	27603	1001	851
BLESSED ACRES DAIRY	55 HO	27170	1068	851
MIMOSA VIEW FARM	65 HO	27040	1060	838
VERNAH HOLSTEINS	61 HO	27428	1076	834
TITUS R. PEACHEY	127 HO	26573	1060	834
BYLER VIEW LLC.	119 HO	24395	1036	819
FROG MEADOW FARM	85 HO	25822	994	817
ROBERT & LISA PEACHEY	85 HO	26237	943	809
DAVID C. YODER	107 HO	25832	964	799
SHAWN & EMILY YODER	105 HO	24972	984	788
WILLOWS FARM	97 HO	23909	1161	781
NATHAN & EUNICE YODER	74 HO	23775	1012	761
LAVERN M. KING	85 HO	24324	940	758
LOREN K. YODER	95 HO	23798	1023	746
JASON & LORI KAUFFMAN	104 HO	23841	962	739
JOHN SPICHER	93 HO	22469	902	737
JOE & KRISTIN DIEHL	253 JE	18585	938	690
JONAS & LYNETTE KING	70 HO	21044	839	627
JOSH RENNINGER	44 HO	20454	832	617
CALVIN & ELVA YODER	81 HO	18912	753	587
SPARROW EYE GRAZERS	40 XX	15025	633	500
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
BLESSED ACRES DAIRY	HO	54	55	
BLESSED ACRES DAIRY	HO	55	46	
WILLOWS FARM	HO	64	97	
JOHN SPICHER	HO	93	93	
CALVIN & ELVA YODER	HO	96	81	
PEACHCREST HOLSTEINS	HO	100	129	
MIMOSA VIEW FARM	HO	103	65	
DERRY MUSSER	HO	104	121	
FROG MEADOW FARM	HO	106	85	
SPARROW EYE GRAZERS	XX	121	40	
BYLER VIEW LLC.	HO	123	119	

NATHAN & EUNICE YODER	HO	125	74	
ROBERT & LISA PEACHEY	HO	133	85	
TITUS R. PEACHEY	HO	145	127	
WOODEDGE FARM LLC.	HO	147	175	
AUDREY GAY RODGERS	AY	164	39	
KISH VIEW FARM	HO	166	663	
VERNAH HOLSTEINS	HO	172	61	
LAVERN M. KING	HO	183	85	
LOREN K. YODER	HO	192	95	

**Montgomery**

MERRYMEAD FARM	61 HO	33585	1293	1036
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
MERRYMEAD FARM	HO	25	61	

**Northampton**

BREWER FARMS	63 HO	28877	1224	892
KLEIN FARMS	80 HO	24629	1008	753
JOAN A. WILLIAMS	124 HO	23871	994	723
RALPH HAHN	101 HO	23293	965	707
BREWERS JERSEYS	42 JE	18798	1032	703
KOEHLER FARM	39 HO	18138	683	532
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
KLEIN FARMS	HO	109	80	
KOEHLER FARM	HO	126	39	
BREWER FARMS	HO	150	63	
JOAN A. WILLIAMS	HO	162	124	

**Northumberland**

ZIMMERMAN'S HILLTOP	325 HO	29773	1186	939
SHULTZ HILLSIDE DAIRY	82 HO	29589	1173	920
SHULTZ HILLSIDE DAIRY	88 HO	29335	1163	913
SPRING LAKE DAIRY	107 HO	27364	1185	897
DRY RUN DAIRY LLC.	104 HO	28302	1265	881
FAUS FARMS	127 HO	27199	1109	842
PAUL SCHMIDT	173 HO	24223	969	760
WAYNE KLOCK	42 HO	23408	955	737
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
SPRING LAKE DAIRY	HO	104	107	
FAUS FARMS	HO	124	127	
PAUL SCHMIDT	HO	173	173	
DRY RUN DAIRY LLC.	HO	174	104	
WAYNE KLOCK	HO	185	42	
ZIMMERMAN'S HILLTOP DAIRY	HO	199	325	

**Perry**

LOY ACRES LLC.	99 HO	32005	1187	925
M. W. SMITH FARMS	798 HO	28948	1232	903
LOGAN M. BOWER	617 HO	29072	1170	899
MERLE NOLT	47 HO	27727	1087	834
MELVIN S. WEAVER	104 HO	26329	1126	830
LENARD & AMY KRESGE	154 HO	25686	1050	810
BLAINVIEW FARM LLC.	127 HO	25522	1014	800
LYONS BROTHERS	66 HO	25468	998	766
KRETZ FARM, INC.	396 HO	24429	928	761
INNERST FARM	299 HO	23058	1018	731
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
LOY ACRES LLC.	HO	84	99	
MERLE NOLT	HO	85	47	
MELVIN S. WEAVER	HO	88	104	
M. W. SMITH FARMS	HO	99	798	
BLAINVIEW FARM LLC.	HO	151	127	
INNERST FARM	HO	195	299	

**Potter**

CADY FARMS	87 HO	24181	1057	782
J J FARMS #	60 HO	21478	858	672
DON & CATHY THOMPSON	55 HO	20005	817	630
EUGENE SUPPLEE	114 HO	18692	758	606
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
J J FARMS #	HO	161	60	

**Schuylkill**

BRIAN RUCH	57 HO	27184	1117	888
UNITED HEART HOLSTEINS	79 HO	25315	1000	816
WIND MILL FARM	212 BS	22201	995	760

WIND MILL FARM	203 BS	22248	993	758
RYAN WOLFE	57 HO	23685	900	740
DUNN'S PRIDE HOLSTEINS	105 HO	24306	959	732
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
BRIAN RUCH	HO	99	57	
UNITED HEART HOLSTEINS	HO	101	79	
RYAN WOLFE	HO	121	57	
DUNN'S PRIDE HOLSTEINS	HO	129	105	
WIND MILL FARM	BS	188	203	
WIND MILL FARM	BS	190	212	

**Snyder**

DARE E LAND	80 HO	27081	1274	930
DARE E LAND	120 XX	24601	1217	874
ROCKINHILL DAIRY	72 HO	26616	1073	832
MABARBIL FARMS	96 HO	25719	1028	825
JACOB GRAYBILL	53 XX	24627	1013	791
DARE E LAND	40 JE	19468	1095	756
BO ANN HOLSTEINS	51 HO	23353	961	717
BO ANN HOLSTEINS	56 HO	22753	947	706
WAITE N CE FARM	81 HO	20134	791	636
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
MABARBIL FARMS	HO	129	96	
ROCKINHILL DAIRY	HO	133	72	

**Somerset**

PENWOOD FARMS	549 HO	27069	1072	826
PENWOOD FARMS	697 HO	25166	1031	787
PENWOOD FARMS	148 JE	18189	881	642
LAVERN BENDER	53 XX	14553	689	534
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
PENWOOD FARMS	JE	127	148	
PENWOOD FARMS	HO	169	697	
PENWOOD FARMS	HO	177	549	

**Sullivan**

SCOTT & RANDY REIBSON	88 XX	21528	943	731
CRAIG BAGLEY	38 XX	18670	797	628
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
SCOTT & RANDY REIBSON	XX	171	88	

**Susquehanna**

BRANTSTEAD DAIRY FARM	92 HO	27467	1164	872
WILLIAM JONES & SONS	319 HO	26802	1200	844
COTTRELL DAIRY	49 HO	24923	901	784
ETW DAIRY, INC.	50 HO	24916	1012	754
BILL HEWITT	69 HO	20387	723	619
COLD CREEK FARM	231 HO	18858	726	606
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
WILLIAM JONES & SONS	HO	102	319	
ETW DAIRY, INC.	HO	129	50	
COTTRELL DAIRY	HO	154	49	
BRANTSTEAD DAIRY FARM LLC.	HO	169	92	

**Tioga**

SHERMAN, HENRY & KELLY	125 HO	21737	912	696
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
SHERMAN, HENRY & KELLY	HO	74	125	

**Union**

DERICK MARTIN	62 HO	29128	1070	907
FLOYD MARTIN	58 HO	27990	1074	886
JAY & AREMINA CHARLTON	81 HO	26939	1101	840
HEART & SOUL	37 HO	24797	953	804
SNODDY FARM, INC.	98 HO	24334	1010	770
SPRUCE RUN FARM	93 HO	22208	880	679
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
DERICK MARTIN	HO	108	62	
SNODDY FARM, INC.	HO	139	98	
JAY & AREMINA CHARLTON	HO	158	81	
HEART & SOUL	HO	198	37	

**Warren**

SUNSET DAIRY	612 HO	28969	1197	889
JARED LINDELL	146 HO	27375	1161	876

PINE TON FARMS	345 HO	25512	1070	874
MARSHA BEARDSLEY	46 HO	22729	879	721
CURTIS JERSEY	71 JE	15626	750	549
JAMES LEOSKY	42 HO	16636	717	510
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
SUNSET DAIRY	HO	150	612	
PINESHADE DAIRY	HO	162	55	

**Washington**

RUSH BROTHERS	223 HO	23354	1022	736
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**Wayne**

HIGHLAND FARMS	91 HO	27758	1245	949
JACK & ELLA CHYLE	13 HO	25896	999	846
CHYLE LAND DAIRY	67 JE	19545	916	696
D. ELLIS DIX	47 HO	20741	792	656
TRI NON FARMS	88 HO	21083	754	646
NOAH WOROBEY	40 HO	18725	785	560
STEEPHILL DAIRY LLC.	76 HO	15940	651	520
<b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b>				
D. ELLIS DIX	HO	85	47	
HIGHLAND FARMS	HO	85	91	
CHYLE LAND DAIRY	JE	122	67	
NOAH WOROBEY	HO	127	40	
TRI NON FARMS	HO	189	88	

**Westmoreland**

SLICKHILL HOLSTEINS	74 HO	22119	869	717
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**York**

WALK LE HOLSTEINS	336 HO	29591	1199	966
MEADOW VALLEY DAIRY	184 HO	26749	1179	854
BAUMGARDNER FARMS LLC.	213 HO	24224	1039	776
#PERRYDELL FARM	150 HO	24294	945	744
G				

# Referendum

from page 5

keting area.

If the two-thirds level of approval is not met by the number of producers or the volume of milk in any of the 11 milk marketing areas, then the Order is terminated in that milk marketing area.

If a farmer chooses not to vote at all, that ballot is not included in the numerator or the denominator of the two-thirds needed.

Coale said that once the final rule is approved, the package of changes would likely be implemented toward the end of the second quarter (June 2025).

In any milk marketing area where it may not be approved, immediate steps are taken to terminate the Order and close that area's Market Administrator office.

## What about lawsuits?

When asked about the potential for lawsuits challenging the final rule, Coale said a lawsuit cannot be filed until after implementation because parties have to show harm.

If a lawsuit is filed on one specific piece of the final rule, and an injunction were to be ordered, then the whole package of changes would be paused until the outcome. This is

because USDA views the changes as a complete package, not singular items.

## What do the changes mean?

The changes to the milk pricing formulas have been the subject of many articles in Farmshine over the past 18 months of petitions, hearing, proposals, comment periods, and final rule.

The over 400-page final decision does several key things. In some parts of the country, the pros outweigh the cons in terms of milk check impact. In some parts of the country, it's a wash. And in some parts of the country, the net is negative.

All reviews of impact on pricing are historical in nature and some of the changes are such that it will be impossible to compare future prices to past prices to determine the real impact on dairy farmers. All of the analysis out there to-date also does not take into account the decisions by processors about what products to make and whether or not to pool manufacturing class milk.

## Why the geographic differences in impact?

Because not all FMMOs have the same percentage of Class I milk. Class I is what drives the FMMO system because it is the only class that is required to be price-regulated in any

milk marketing area that has a Federal Order.

All of the pricing formula changes impact Class I – even the make allowance increases for cheese, butter, nonfat dry milk and whey. This is because those pricing factors are used to determine the Class I base price.

Class I milk will see increased location differentials, but that doesn't help the producers in areas that are largely Class III.

## How should I vote?

If dairy farmers believe that the milk pricing and marketing system in the U.S. still needs a referee, or sheriff, then they will vote 'yes' on the FMMO ballot, even if they do not favor all the changes, and they will hope their milk buyers are telling the truth when they say all the 'balancing fees' and discounts will begin to disappear and premiums will begin to come back.

If dairy farmers trust their processors to do fair contracts, to pay them twice a month, to pay them fairly and transparently, and are willing to accept processor component tests without third party verification, and don't think it is necessary to have a Market Administrator, then those farmers will vote 'no'.

I have been asked my opinion by more than a handful of dairy farmers. I do not milk cows for a living today, so it is not my call.

However, I'll step in those shoes a moment to say this:

If the question were put to me 15 years ago, I may have believed voting out the Orders to be a good thing. Today, with the consolidation we've seen and the net-zero malarkey driving consolidation even faster, I'm less convinced that startups could flourish in an environment without pooling – but some small fluid milk processors will argue there would be more opportunity for produc-

ers to get closer to consumers. Who knows?

On the other hand, I wouldn't vote 'no' thinking that means the new and bigger make allowance deduction won't hit my milk check. Without a Federal Order minimum, processors will simply take their own costs out – and then some – before pricing your milk anyway so their make allowance is built in – with or without an FMMO.

I think if I were milking cows and shipping milk all month and finding out several weeks later what it was worth, I'd fill out my ballot in a way that made sure a sheriff was still around, even though I'm not convinced it makes a difference in the end.

FMMOs guarantee minimum prices only on pooled milk. The published prices are just indexes. Your minimum price is unique, and the Market Administrator keeps that accountability to be paid based on your components.

This foderal on formulas has gotten to the point – in my opinion – where the cooperatives and processors are simply going to pay what they're going to pay. They'll play what they're going to play.

I think we all really missed the mark in how to do milk pricing reform. We're still being herded to the headgates.

The only ways that farmers can have a say is in their milk price – really – is to get creative and begin to get closer to consumers; to get productive and increase the protein and butterfat in the milk their cows produce.

...Or to get with the program and join the movement to get whole milk back in schools.

The only hedge against the future is to make sure your future consumers grow up knowing not just how nutritious milk is, but also how delicious it is also.

We have work to do on both.

To be continued ... next week.

**Important notice to all readers and advertisers:**  
**FARMSHINE** will not publish an issue on December 27. We wish all of you a very merry Christmas and good health and happiness in the coming year. Thank you for all your support. We will resume our weekly schedule beginning January 3 with an early deadline of MONDAY, December 30 at 10 a.m.

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from page 11

<p><b>Genesee</b></p> <p>OAKFIELD CORNERS DAIRY 2604 HO 32261 1399 1039              OAKFIELD CORNERS DAIRY 2 3337 HO 32059 1379 1056</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>OAKFIELD CORNERS DAIRY HO 103 2604              OAKFIELD CORNERS DAIRY 2 HO 135 3337</p>	<p><b>OHIO</b></p> <p><b>Henry</b></p> <p>KEVIN MELLER 50 HO 19918 835 647</p> <p><b>Holmes</b></p> <p>ROD HUNSBERGER 185 HO 31739 1207 989              DEAN WOLBOLDT 88 HO 21795 942 705              DEAN WOLBOLDT 114 HO 21254 940 697              LOREN LANG 204 HO 20639 838 667              DEAN WOLBOLDT 14 XX 17786 844 612</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>ROD HUNSBERGER HO 115 185              DEAN WOLBOLDT HO 156 88              DEAN WOLBOLDT HO 194 114</p>	<p><b>Wayne</b></p> <p>STERLING HEIGHTS DAIRY 1099 XX 31668 1242 1017              STEINHURST FARMS 735 HO 31087 1242 966              GREGG TROYER 144 HO 26741 1177 908              CANAAN FARMS LLC. 281 HO 29214 1220 888              RYAN KREIDER 136 HO 25003 980 793              ZOLLINGER 115 JE 20445 1104 787              HARTZ WAY FARM 172 HO 25543 1073 772</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>ZOLLINGER JE 100 115              GREGG TROYER HO 115 144              CANAAN FARMS LLC. HO 157 281              HARTZ WAY FARM HO 168 172              STERLING HEIGHTS DAIRY XX 175 1099</p>
<p><b>Niagara</b></p> <p>LAKESHORE DAIRY LLC. 2087 HO 29467 1317 940</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>LAKESHORE DAIRY LLC. HO 193 2087</p>	<p><b>Lorain</b></p> <p>JALODA FARMS 122 HO 25683 1119 866</p> <p><b>Tuscarawas</b></p> <p>JAMES ROWE 189 HO 27219 1148 875              STEAM VALLEY FARMS, INC. 135 HO 24878 968 754</p>	<p><b>WEST VIRGINIA</b></p> <p><b>Mineral</b></p> <p>BROOKEDALE HOLSTEINS 70 HO 16814 699 516</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>BROOKEDALE HOLSTEINS HO 144 70</p>
<p><b>Oneida</b></p> <p>WORMONT DAIRY 259 HO 18393 846 609</p>		
<p><b>Saratoga</b></p> <p>WELCOME STOCK FARM 1005 HO 27062 1265 909</p>		
<p><b>Washington</b></p> <p>LIDDLEHOLME 81 HO 17971 726 560</p>		
<p><b>Wyoming</b></p> <p>WOODVALE FARMS 853 HO 27910 1170 911</p>		

**Delaware State DHIA**

**NOVEMBER 2024**

<p><b>Kent</b></p> <p>GREGG &amp; STEPHANIE 36 HO 4.2 785 93.7              JENAMY FARMS 271 HO 4.5 840 88.3              GREGG &amp; STEPHANIE 53 XX 4.4 725 87.9</p>	<p><b>New Castle</b></p> <p>UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE 66 HO 4.3 909 101.0              EMERSON, ROBERT L. 194 HO 4.2 749 79.0              EMERSON, ROBERT L. 217 HO 4.3 732 78.1              EMERSON, ROBERT L. 23 XX 4.9 598 69.3</p>	<p><b>Sussex</b></p> <p>BAILEY, J. E. &amp; SONS 281 HO 4.4 771 82.6              JOHN A. MILLS 160 JE 5.6 686 76.6              JOHN A. MILLS 161 JE 5.5 687 76.1              HEATWOLE, JERREL &amp; A 51 HO 4.2 644 67.7</p>
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**New Jersey DHIA**

**NOVEMBER 2024**

<p><b>Central Jersey / Hunterdon</b></p> <p>CEDAR LANE FARM LLC. 55 HO 29916 1213 887              CEDAR LANE FARM LLC. 16 JE 18330 981 649              MIDDLEBUSH FARMS, INC. 73 HO 20328 865 647              WENGRYN, JANET 34 HO 20676 819 637</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>CEDAR LANE FARM LLC. HO 89 55              CEDAR LANE FARM LLC. JE 111 16</p>	<p><b>South Jersey</b></p> <p>MYERWOOD FARMS 538 HO 28906 1152 897              BEILER, KEVIN 89 HO 26593 1019 833</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>MYERWOOD FARMS HO 159 538</p>	<p><b>Sussex</b></p> <p>LOCKBURNER, MARK F. 59 HO 26593 977 862              KUPERUS MEADOWS 146 HO 23419 954 728              BYACRE HOLSTEINS LLC. 121 HO 23977 857 709              SPRING HOUSE DAIRY 65 XX 18214 820 623</p> <p><b>HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000</b></p> <p>SPRING HOUSE DAIRY XX 162 65              LOCKBURNER, MARK F. HO 165 59</p>
<p><b>Warren</b></p> <p>MAKAREVICH FARM 75 HO 28821 1169 910              BRETT BALDWIN 51 HO 23345 984 728</p>		

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# Nomination deadline for 2027 National Jersey Jug Futurity is Dec. 31

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The 2027 National Jersey Jug Futurity will mark the 74th anniversary of this spectacular showcase of Jersey 3-year-olds.

Nominations for showing in the 2027 National Jersey Jug Futurity, along with a \$7 nomination fee, should be sent to the AJCA-NAJ office with a postmark on or before December 31, 2024. If you prefer, you may submit a one-time, non-refundable payment of \$55 for each entry at the time of nomination.

The 2024 National Jersey Jug Futurity paid out \$13,615 in prize money to 30 participants. The champion, LC Reckless Armadillo, bred by Taylor, Erin and Sophie Leach and exhibited by Lin-Crest Farm & Pacific Edge, Sophie and Erin Leach and Brent Rocha, took home \$3312 plus numerous awards.

The National Jersey Jug Futurity is the longest, continuously running National Futurity competition in the country. Keep it going.

### Nomination criteria and rules

- Jersey heifers born on or after September 1, 2023, and before September 1, 2024, may be nominated, provided they are recorded by the American Jersey Cattle Association in the Herd Register or with Generation Count 4 or greater, or by Jersey Canada with registry status of 93.75% and greater.

- Submit your nominations by printing or emailing the nomination form to Vickie White at National Jersey Jug Futurity or send to the American Jersey Cattle Association, 6486 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-2362, or fax to 614-861-8040.

- Entries with payment in full must be postmarked by December 31, 2024. It costs \$60 to complete the nomination procedure for the National Jersey Jug Futurity. If you wish to make a one-time payment at the initial nomination, it will cost just \$55. Every animal that shows earns at least that amount in premiums. (If you miss the nomination deadline, please contact the AJCA office for options for a late payment)

- Yearling fee. The eligibility report and yearling fee of \$8 per entry must be sent to the American Jersey Cattle Association and postmarked by June 30, 2025.

- 2-year-old fee. The eligibility report and 2-year-old fee of \$10 per entry must be sent to the American Jersey Cattle

Association and postmarked by June 30, 2026.

- Final nomination fee. The final nomination fee of \$35 and the eligibility report must be sent to the American Jersey Cattle Association and postmarked by September 20, 2027.

NOTICE: Payments must be made by the above deadlines in order to be eligible for the 2027 Futurity. In case of transfer

of a nominated animal, notify the National Jersey Jug Futurity of the change of ownership immediately. All closing dates for nominations and fee payments will be strictly followed. Payments that are not received by these deadlines will be refused and the animal disqualified. Refunds will not be made on any payments.

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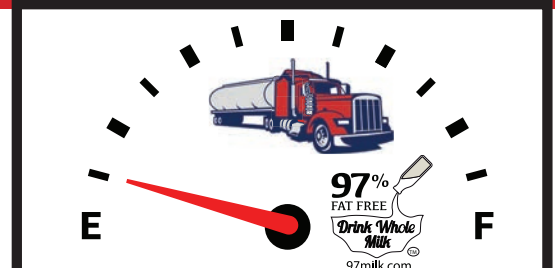


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- ✓ Nationally, the number of online conversations about milk and dairy are up 30% since 2019!
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**REMINDER: No issue Dec. 27.**  
Monday deadline Jan. 3.

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**Dairy demand is moooving**

Cheese exports are “soaring” say the dairy reports. It’s no wonder, the U.S. price has lagged the global price for a few months now. Inventories are down, and now prices turned modestly higher, giving a much needed boost to the Class III milk futures board -- even pushing past the resistance on those second half 2025 contracts that factor in the new make allowances -- assuming approval of the Federal Milk Marketing Orders continuing with all of the changes announced Nov. 12 in the Secretary’s final rule.

That’s another aspect of the FMMOs that some of us don’t think about. The entire risk management complex, starting with the CME futures, is formulated off the criteria for FMMO class and component milk pricing formulas.

Meanwhile domestic demand was up considerably last year, according to the recently released USDA supply and allocation report of dairy products data for 2023. While fluid milk sales turned higher at the end of last year and through most of this year, the total fluid milk sales for 2023 were down 1.4% compared with 2022, marking the 13th straight year-on-year decline. No surprise that it has been 13 straight years that whole and 2% milk have



**Milk Market Moos**

by Sherry Bunting  
agrite2011@gmail.com



been banned in our nation’s schools. On fluid milk sales, farmers are reaping what the industry and governmental policy sowed in 2010.

The supply and allocation report for 2023 showed that per capita dairy consumption of all products combined rose to new highs. More cheese, butter, yogurt, sour cream, and cottage cheese were consumed last year than in 2022. Cheddar sales drove the cheese consumption increase, but Italian cheese consumption was lower.

Cottage cheese, a hot product for young people seeking high protein these days, saw consumption grow 2.8%, and yogurt grew 11.4% last year.

All told, domestic usage of skim solids and butterfat increased 1.5% in 2023 vs. 2022, and farmers produced more skim solids and butterfat even though total milk volume output was a bit smaller in 2023 vs. 2022.

Jump ahead to the current supply and demand situation, cheese production schedules vary from steady to

stronger throughout the U.S., according to USDA Dairy Market News.

“In the East region, milk volumes remain tight,” according to the Dec. 7 report from DMN. “Cheese plant managers relay bringing spot milk volumes in from other regions to keep cheese manufacturing steady. Contacts share retail demand is

steady, while food service demand remains mixed. Cheesemakers in the Central region relay active production schedules. Contacts share milk availability varies in different pockets of the region, with spot milk prices ranging from flat to \$1 above Class III. Italian style and cheddar cheesemakers share demand ranges from steady to stronger. In the West, cheese production is mixed with spot milk availability tighter in some areas.”

**Cl. III milk futures jump, Cl. IV mixed**

The CME spot cheese price improved this week and spot whey prices are off the charts, boosting Class III milk futures higher across the board, with the biggest gains of 50 to 80 cents per hundredweight in the first half of 2025. Current month of December’s contract was fully steady compared with a week ago. Class IV gained 10 to mostly 20 cents per cwt on December through March future contracts, while plummeting 40 cents for second quarter 2025 and down modestly 10 to 20 cents per cwt for the remainder of 2025.

On Wed., December 11, Class III milk future averaged \$19.14 for the next 12 months (Dec24-Nov25), gaining a substantial 45 cents/cwt compared to the 12 month average for the same period a week ago. Class IV milk futures averaged \$20.69, down 8 cents from a week ago.

**Up, up, and A-WHEY!**

The daily spot market for dry whey is red hot these days on the CME. This week’s trade saw the spot price gain 4 cents per pound, pegged at 75 cents/lb on Wed., Dec. 11 -- the highest in over two years.

Meanwhile, the whey price of 59 to 61 cents/lb in the USDA AMS weekly National Dairy Product Sales Report over the past three weeks -- the price that is actually used in the Federal Milk Marketing Order formula -- continues to lag the CME market-clearing price of 70 to 75 cents by a substantial and widening margin of 14 cents per pound.

We’ve been talking about this lag for months now. The daily dry whey spot auction on the CME is the market clearing price, and that market has heated up as U.S. whey powder production and inventories continue to decline.

Whey powder inventories were reported by USDA last week at 47.7 million pounds at the end of October -- down a whopping 33.1% below October 2023 and the lowest dry whey stockpile in 12 years.

The Dec. 7 weekly USDA Dairy Market News Report took special note of the escalating dry whey prices moving higher across the nation with demand “strong” and availability “notably limited.” The DMN also reported whey protein concentrate 34% powder prices remain “up there in the rarified bullish air, as the upward price trend continues.”

As we’ve been reporting here in the Moos, there are many value-added products made with whey these days, and U.S. processors continue to push whey streams into making higher volumes of these value-added whey protein concentrates and isolates, leaving less residual whey going to dryers at commodity value.

Commodity dry whey powder production at 62.7 million pounds in October was at it’s lowest output level since 1984! The combination of very tight inventories and near record low production of dry whey powder has pushed the CME market clearing spot price to new heights.

For years, we’ve been told that the checkoff investments in research and development on uses for whey streams that are the byproduct of a growing cheese industry, would provide demand that makes whey more valuable to the milk check. With less commodity whey on the market, dairy farmers should reap the reward of the higher prices -- but only if the red hot market-clearing price on the CME daily auction makes it into the official USDA weekly NDPSR report that is the price used in the FMMO formulas.

**Cheese higher, butter melts**

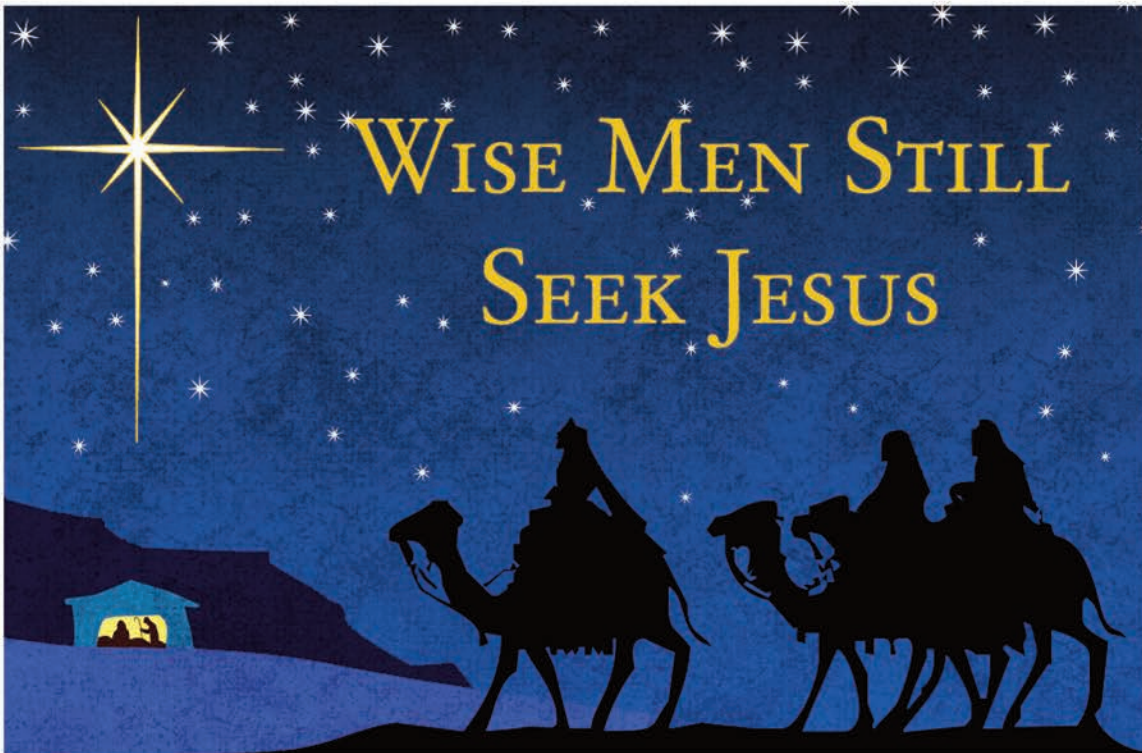
Dryers in general are running light as milk powder production lagged year ago levels by 9% in October and inventories have also declined, boosting the nonfat dry milk price on the CME spot market as well.

On Wed., Dec. 11, the CME spot price for Grade A NFDM was pegged at \$1.3825/lb, up a little more than a penny per pound with 13 loads trading over 5 days.

Spot butter prices faltered again this week, pegged on Wed., Dec. 11 at \$2.5275/lb, down a penny from the previous Wednesday with 30 loads moving in 5 trading days.

Spot cheese prices gained ground in moderate trade. The 40-lb block cheddar price was pegged a nickel higher than a week ago at \$1.75/lb with 17 loads trading over 5 days. Pegged at \$1.6750/lb, the 500-lb barrel cheese price gained a fraction of a penny, also trading 17 loads.

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# Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeship Program valued

HARRISBURG, Pa. — With many Pennsylvania dairy producers looking for a more skilled workforce in farm-level management, the Center for Dairy Excellence's Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeship program creates opportunities for employees to gain practical knowledge, information, and skills about progressive dairy operations that stretch beyond their past dairy experiences. The Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeship Program is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Currently, there are two young dairy professionals completing Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeships on Pennsylvania dairy farms.

"The Center continues to hear from Pennsylvania dairy producers about their need for a more skilled workforce and how challenging it can be to fill this important leadership role within their team," said Michelle Shearer, workforce development manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence. "The Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeship program is an exciting opportunity for dairy producers and young dairy professionals alike. Now that we have several students in the process of completing the program, we are seeing how beneficial these apprenticeships are to developing a skilled workforce at the farm level."

Dairy producers who are interested in developing their beginner-level employees into well-qualified candidates to serve in herd management roles are encouraged to apply to be a host farm for the Apprenticeship Program. Applications for employer farms are accepted on a rolling basis. The host farm and apprentice pairing is an important part of the apprenticeship experience.

"My host farm is a big part of it. If I didn't have them helping me through it and encouraging me, the experience probably wouldn't be as nice as it is. Once I have something down, they just let me do it," said Kristina Quinn, one of the apprentices enrolled in the Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeship Program at Zahncroft Dairy in Berks County, Pa. "They're very kind people and very understanding. It's just small stuff, but it makes it so much better when they care about you as a person."

"I thought the apprenticeship could give me a better overview of what I want to do. If I decide to go to college, hopefully this experience will give me a better idea of what I want to go for. I'm a lot more hands-on and I learn better by doing versus just reading a book or going through it in a classroom," Kristina added.

"My host farm has taught me about treatments for sick cows and other protocols. I've expanded upon that over time. Since starting my apprenticeship, it has been a lot of growing so far."

The goal of the Dairy Herd Manager Apprenticeship Program is to:

- Provide existing employees on dairy farms, as well as others looking for employment, the opportunity to receive related technical training and on-the-job learning as a Dairy Herd Manager.
- Create opportunities for employees to gain practical knowledge, information, and skills about progressive dairy operations stretching beyond their familiar past dairy experience.



Ya gotta know how to feed'em, breed'em and hold'em. Creating opportunities for young people to gain practical knowledge, information, and skills about progressive dairy-ing is among the goals of the program. Photo by Dieter Krieg

outlook on the industry and an employee who demonstrates interest in enhancing his or her management ability. Host farms must also be willing to expose the employee to all aspects of a successful, progressive dairy operation — including financial information, management team meetings, and adequate training and consultation to achieve learning objectives. Farms must provide a safe working environment and conduct a safety and animal care overview upon the start of the program with the CDE Work-

force Development Manager. Host farms should be able to pay the employee a minimum starting wage of \$11 per hour with a progressive wage over 18 months that ends with \$16 per hour. This adheres to all federal and state employment requirements. Requested time off, hours of work, and additional details will be determined in collaboration with the farm and employee. To learn more about the program and/or apply to be a host farm and employer, visit [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/apprenticeship](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/apprenticeship). Contact Michelle Shearer at [mshearer@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:mshearer@centerfordairyexcellence.org) or call 570-768-8316 with additional questions.

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# The Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Calf Sale celebrated 50 years

By CYNTHIA WARNER  
Special for Farmshine

FREDERICK, Md. — In 1954, the first Maryland-Delaware Brown Swiss Breeders Association sponsored a consignment sale, held in Frederick, Md. The top animal sold that day was Orangeville Gallant Zena, a senior yearling sired by Roy Gallant of Lees Hill. She brought \$610. The average price for females sold was \$296 and for males, \$190. There were 47 head sold in the sale.

This information was in the archives along with other sale reports through the 60's and early 70's, but the real record keeping with marked catalogs started in 1974 - hence the celebration of the most recent sale, held on Saturday, April 20, 2024. It marked the 50th anniversary of this important spring sale.

The Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Calf Sale has become a staple as a great Brown Swiss sale event and has held its place on the April calendar. It was the good fortune for a mid-April sale date as the March calves are at the right age to sell and, combined with the other show age calves, contributed to its growing popularity.

The original sale committee members were Lawrence Bassler, George Schaeffer, Shem Drown, Richard Black, Robert Culler and Harold Long.

There was a period during the 1970's and early 1980's when the calf sale was held at Brown Swiss members' farms. Particularly noted is the 1974 sale hosted by Swissvale Farm where Shem Drown was the herdsman and on the sale committee. This farm was located outside of Westminster, Md. and owned by the Griswold family.

Wayne Sliker was part of that sale and recalled that a calf sold there went on to be an All-American and Wayne became a permanent fixture with the sale to present day.

Sales continued to rotate to different farms each spring, hosted by a Maryland Brown Swiss breeder. From these meager beginnings, the sale progressed and evolved into one of the best Brown Swiss calf sales around.

The 1979 sale was held at Long View Farm, owned by the Harold Long family, Thurmont, Md., with Doty Remsburg as auctioneer. Beginning in 1997, Doty's son, Denny, did the auctioneering from 1997 to 2024. Chris Hill auctioneered a couple of sales prior to 1997. But the constant person "in the box" was Wayne Sliker.



The last calf sale at a farm was on Hoodstead Farm, Scott Hood, Middletown, Md., in the early 80s. Other on-farm sites were: Sand Rock Farm - Bassler, Robert Culler Farm - Richard Black, just to name a few. As the sale evolved, the sale committee added others through the years: Howard Fleming, Eric Fleming, Becky Long Chaney, Scott Hood, Dennie Smith, Jeff Hubbard, Jenna Lenhart, Joy Widerman, Ronnie and Emmy Heffner and Cindy Long Warner.

Wayne played a vital role through the years as the auctioneer and pedigree man. He has worn many hats over the years - as a consignor, buyer, trucker, bringing calves in from other states and trucking animals to buyers.

The Maryland sale has maintained a solid reputation for quality calves going on to be All-Americans, Bell Ringers, Production Winners and valuable additions to many herds, whether a 4-H project or investment purchase. Many success stories have come out of this sale with Junior-purchased animals. Quality of pedigrees, top consignments and a multi-level sale have been the tradition for 50 years.

The sale was started to help promote the Brown Swiss breed in Maryland and surrounding states, plus it is the Association's only fund raiser.

Breeders who consigned from the beginning and still do today are: Wind Mill Farm, Daubert family, Pine Grove, Pa.; Top Acres, Wayne Sliker, Ohio; Blessing and Garrison, Ohio and Indiana. The sale relies on breeders from Pennsylvania and

Maryland and surrounding states. In the latter part of the sales series, animals were sold as far as California, Texas and Canada.

Embryo packages were introduced into the 1996 sale with much success. This sale offered six packages of three Number 1 embryos averaging \$1240 each - and they were not sexed!

To conclude the 20th Century, the 1999 Mid-Atlantic Calf Sale had the highest average in sale history as 27 calves sold for an average of \$1650.

Consequently, April 24, 1999, was a combined sale - the calf sale and the GS Associates Dispersal. This was another milestone celebrating the 25th anniversary of the calf sale. It was combined with the popular, show winning herd of Brad Garst and Lee Chaney, New Windsor, Md. Brad and Lee developed a fine herd over a relatively short time, cattle with individual excellence combined with outstanding type that dominated the show arena. One of the most popular cows of the breed sold that day - Long View Jades Raisin (3E-94), All-American Aged Cow 1996, and Reserve All-American 5-Year Old in 1993. Raisin was bred by the Harold Long family and was a great show cow who sold through the Long View Brown Swiss Dispersal in 1993 to Brad and Lee. Raisin sold in the 1999 sale for \$5000 to Marcus Mueller in Canada and continued to reproduce and lived until the age of 23.

And to note, the top selling animal in the GS Dispersal was GS FLJ Topaz-ET, sold to Kenny Jo Manion of Kentucky for \$19,500.

Wayne Sliker said: "A lot of good cattle come out of Maryland and today is no exception with the kind we are selling at the calf sale and GS dispersal."

The 2000s started out with a bang for the calf sale with animals selling for \$10,000 and more. Lot 1, Top Acres Coll Paris, the consignment of Wayne Sliker, was the high seller at \$11,000 on a bid from Kenny Jo Manion. Paris went on to be named the 2000 Reserve All-American summer yearling.

Then in 2001, the high seller was Top Acres Jetway Wish, selling for \$10,100 to Bill and Cindy Warner of Maryland. Consigned by Wayne Sliker, Wish was the 2001 Honorable Mention Fall Calf and a foundation EX dam in many show winning pedigrees and a factor in the merchandising of animals with the "W" blood. Resulting from this purchase in 2001, a new breed record for bred heifers was made as the daughter of Wish, Round Hill Pre Wishful, was picture-perfect.

Prelude was the unanimous All-American Winter Calf in 2003 and sold in the 2005 Snapshots of Springhill/Starmark Sale for a record setting price of \$65,000. This sale event helped celebrate 50 years of Top Acres breeding as every consignment contained the Top Acres prefix in their pedigree.

More high sellers and All-Americans in the calf sale in the 2000s:

- 2005 - \$10,700 - Top Acres Pilot Gusto, consigned by Sliker. Buyer: Tom and Bonnie Remsburg, Md., and Jim Henderson, Mont.; \$8100 - Round Hill Legacy Flyhi, consigned by Warners, Md. Buyer: Dave Kulp and Dick Martin, Pa.
- 2006 - \$7100 Round Hill Prem Lil Fern, consigned by Warners. Buyer: Brothers Three and Ole Acres. Fern later sold for \$43,000 in the 2008 at the National Brown Swiss Convention to page 22

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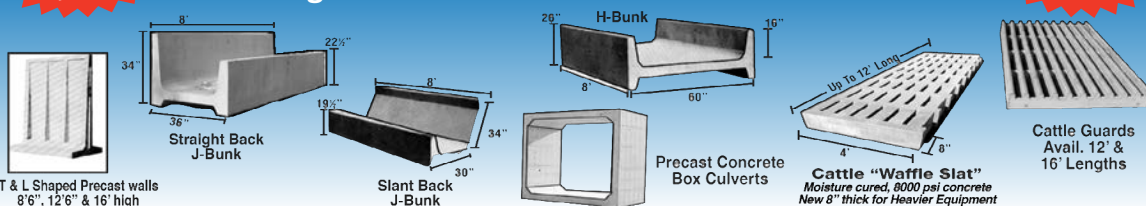
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- 1 Category: "Disease Identification and Management" - Daniel Wisniewski, Bayer Crop Science, Field Sales Rep. for PA
- 1 Category: "Optimizing Organic and Conventional Spray Programs on Produce." - Collin O'Neill, ProFarm Territory Sales Rep.
- 1 Core: "Conversation Starters: What is wrong with this picture?" - Leon Ressler, Agronomy Educator, PSU Lancaster Co.

### Evening Sessions:

- 1 Core: "Sprayer Calibration: Why and How" - Jeff Graybill, Agronomy Educator, PSU Lancaster Co.
- 1 Category: "Optimizing Organic and Conventional Spray Programs on Produce." - Collin O'Neill, ProFarm Territory Sales Rep.
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AUTHORIZED DEALER

# True breeders don't let others tell them what to do

By DIETER KRIEG  
Farmshine Editor

GORDONVILLE, Pa. — True breeders don't let someone else make mating decisions for them. Neither do they allow a semen salesperson talk them into what to buy. That was the bottom-line wisdom shared by Glen Peachey at a recent Stolhaven Genetics meeting.

Peachey, who humorously described himself as “smelling like cows for much of my life,” is a natural-born story teller who knows cows, bulls, breeding and pedigrees as well as the difference between insightful data and dressed-up bullschnitz.

What's more, the outspoken central Pennsylvania dairyman also knows how to deliver the information in an entertaining style, which makes him fun to listen to.

Such was the environment at the Ivan Zook farm, near here, where the meeting was held on Friday, Dec. 6 with every seat taken and every ear listening. Peachey had no lectern, no notes and hardly an “um” or “uh”. He talked “Dutch”, English, common sense and humor and it was obvious that he was enjoying it, as did his audience.

However, he hadn't come to be a stand-up comedian. His purpose was to share tips on how to breed functional cows that last ... dairy animals that actually live long enough to be legitimately called cows ... not just 2- and 3-year olds.

Peachey began by sharing some of his own life history, emphasizing first of all the importance of having a good spouse. Find a good life partner,” he advised, “it makes everything a whole lot easier.”

“I am a deeply committed follower of Jesus Christ and that affects everything I do,” he stated, explaining that he and his wife, Beverly, pray about each next new step in their lives. He gets his head cleared, he said, and ends up focused on what he's supposed to do.

As for his love for cows, Peachey was barely in his teens, obsessed with the ads and articles he saw in the *Holstein World* and *Pennsylvania Holstein News* magazines. His father granted him the task of making breeding decisions and A.I. work because of that intense interest. “All I ever wanted to do was breed good cows,” he affirmed.

His early love for cows grew even more when traveling extensively with his father, Kore, and Sherman Glick of the Belleville Livestock Auction Barn. For years, they visited top herds throughout the Northeast as well as in eastern Canada. “My Dad's prefix was Frog Hollow,” he shared and he worked



A partial view of the crowd at the December 6th barn meeting at Ivan Zook's farm in eastern Lancaster County. People came from “just down the road” and as far away as Illinois and New York. If you look close, you'll find a little one peeking up from his hiding place. Photos by Dieter Krieg

County, Pennsylvania, he rented it to begin living his dream. Success wasn't far behind, thanks to his focus on specific breeding goals: balance, longevity, polled, high components and A2A2. In time, he had 50 cows, with 10 of them Excellent, all home-bred.

“We made money with Reds, A2A2 milk and had 15 to 17 heifers to sell every year because our cows got old,” he wants people to know. He also reminded that the replacement animal you raise or buy should be better than the cow she's replacing, admitting, however, that it doesn't always work that way. Some cows are exceptionally, once-in-a-lifetime-good, as every breeder knows. “Any animal is the sum total of its genetic inheritance,” he reminded.

“The goal for all of us breeders should be to get the inferior genetics out of our herds, and that might include even good-pedigreed cows that don't fit your specific program.”

Acknowledging that a variety of “tools” are available to help breeders determine what bulls to choose for their herd, Peachey maintained that ultimately, it's the breeder's decision. “You know your cows; you don't need someone who never milked a cow tell you how to breed your cows,” he declared.

“Be honest,” Peachey lectured. “If you're not happy with your breeding, it's your own fault, whether you let someone talk you into it, or not.”

“Be focused,” Peachey continued. “One of your best investments is time spent researching bulls. Being focused means that you have a better chance of getting what you're aiming for. If a bull's daughters are around to see, go see them. For even more information, call the breeder of the bull and talk to him.”

While not being critical, Peachey pointed out that statistical information about bulls on-line or in print can have their drawbacks. As he put it: “There are layers of bureaucracy between the breeder and semen seller.”

Again, he emphasized the importance of using a bull that is most suitable for the cow. “When you know what you want to achieve in your breeding program, pick three or four bulls. That's all you need for a 50-cow herd,” he advised.

The room full of mostly Amish and Mennonite farmers was a clear indication to him that the “50-cow” herd was pretty much on target for this particular crowd. However, it was surely not limited to that herd size. For example, sitting directly behind this writer was John Cowles from the north-

turn to page 21



Without question, the youngest in attendance were Mark and Mary Jane Leid's son, Tristan, pictured with his mother; and Jason and Tamara Stolzfus's son, Rowan, pictured with his father. Born within four days of each other, both babies are 7 months young.

with him until the herd was dispersed in 1994. Although he was “out” for the next 15 years — doing mission work in far-away places like India — he never lost his love for good cows.

In 2011 he got the itch to begin dairying again, starting with just 14 cows. The inspiration to do so came during a visit to the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg. “I walked by the Burdettes' show string,” (Windy-Knoll View of Mercersburg, Pa.) he said. One look was all it took. “But I had no barn!” he shouted.

So he found one. Located near East Waterford in Juniata

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# Stolhaven meeting offered glimpses of Ukraine and Triple-Hil

By DIETER KRIEG  
Farmshine Editor

GORDONVILLE, Pa. — Glen Peachey wasn't the only one on the program at the Stolhaven Genetics meeting on December 6th in Lancaster County. Jared Martin from Triple-Hil Sires gave an update on the sires and semen available from the company that he and his partners — cousin Lowell Martin and their school buddy Galen Weber — started just shy of 15 years ago.

Gratitude was the theme of his words as he acknowledged the support they've received over the years from like-minded breeders all around the country and even the world. "We don't take you for granted," he sincerely declared. Jared, the oldest of the three founding partners, was barely in his 20s when he and his teen-aged dreamers started Triple-Hil Sires. The dream came true.

"Our core philosophy is deep cow families, balanced matings and longevity," these young men tell people wherever they go.

Progress has been steady. In the beginning, they offered only a few Holstein bulls; now there's quite a few. What's more, they've got all of the major dairy breeds covered, plus Linebacks and a couple of other minor breeds too. Most recently, they added Brown Swiss to their portfolio.

A significant milestone was reached earlier this year when Triple-Hil entered an agreement with Ed Crossland, founder and owner of Masterpiece Genetics. Crossland has done considerable work — very successfully — to improve North American Guernsey genetics. "Blending beauty and performance" is his slogan.

Triple-Hil, as well as Stolhaven Genetics is offering a 10 percent discount on all semen purchases for the rest of the year and through January, 2025. "Thank you for your support,"

Jared concluded, as he modestly walked to the side of the meeting room.

The other person who spoke was Amos Stoltzfus, owner of Stolhaven Genetics, who shared his impressions and experiences of a 2-week long mission trip to Ukraine earlier this fall. He, his wife, and other members of the group were involved in re-building projects, food deliveries and comforting people.

The Russian Army had mercilessly sowed entire fields with mines to disrupt and kill. Buildings large and small were destroyed even in rural areas, where the group spent most of its time. Images of the destruction were depicted on the screen for all to see.

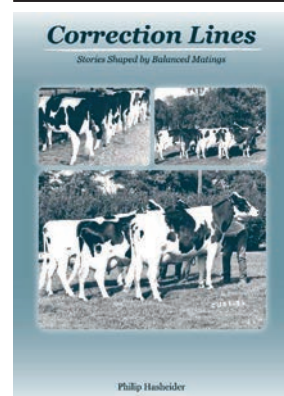
The group also ventured into cities to see the cruelties that Russian bombs, drones and missiles had left behind. The proverbial silver lining around this very dark cloud was that relief workers were still occasionally able to enjoy the company of their hosts, despite the language barriers. And they knew that they had done something to reduce the misery in a war-torn community.

Sadly, the war goes on. And so do the relief efforts.



Glen Peachey of Elquest Farm, East Waterford, Juniata County, Pa., advised breeders to be honest and focused.

## Phil Hasheider wrote book on balanced matings



SAUK CITY Wis. — A popular book about the age-old question of how to breed a good herd of cows is once again available in print. *Correction Lines* details herd stories shaped by balanced matings with 800 photographs to illustrate the history of the 27 featured Holstein herd breeding programs.

Stories are told, in the breeder's own words, by those involved in creating such breed influencing sires as Walkway Chief Mark, Carlin-M Ivanhoe Bell, Mowry Ivanhoe Prince, Heatherstone Lucky Typeblazer, Burket Falls ABC, Man-O-War BF Crescent Combine and others.

Individual copies can be ordered from the author for \$45 each, plus \$10 priority mail from Philip Hasheider at P.O. Box 155, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578.

## True breeders

from page 20

eastern Finger Lakes region of New York State who milks 300 cows.

Ed Smith was there from Illinois. He milks none but sees hundreds of cows annually as an analyst for aAa. What's more, he's a close friend of one of the most respected breeders of all time: Bob Miller of Mill-R-More Holsteins, Orangeville, Ill., the home of "Roxy."

Two of Pennsylvania's best known and highly respected breeders who are often seen at breeders' meetings and forums weren't at this particular one. But they surely were talked about. Namely John Burket of Burket Falls Farm and Dean Jackson of Mt.-Glen Farm. Time and time again, pictures of bulls and cows that these men have bred appeared on the screen as examples of exceptionally balanced breeding.

Peachey spoke of Burket-Falls Elevation Sophia (EX-93-4E) as a superior example of an "extremely profitable cow that is never sick, breeds back and has the breeder wondering how to dry her off." He alleged that all of Sophia's offspring carried

her desirable traits forward.

"If you get a cow family that breeds true, ride'em as much as you can," Peachey encouraged, line breeding included. "You can line-breed, so long as you watch what you're doing."

The uniformity of Dean Jackson's herd was depicted on the screen numerous times, as were the bulls he has bred. Most of their semen is marketed by Triple-Hil Sires. The Mt.-Glen herd has earned the prestigious Progressive Breeder Registry (PBR) Award for 24 years.

Not surprisingly, it's the passion for good cows that drives every true breeder. But if you happen to encounter a time of restlessness (dissatisfaction) at some point in your life, what then?

According to Peachey, "restlessness is the breeding ground for vision and doing something different!" he declared emphatically.

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# Brown Swiss sale from page 18

tion Sale and set a new breed record as the highest selling female at a national sale. Also in the 2006 sale, an embryo package sold with Old Mill E Snickerdoodle as the grand dam. Snickerdoodle became part of the Maryland calf sale history when a young Allen Bassler bought his first calf in the 1975 calf sale. Her name was Rolling Knolls Jolly Dee, a March calf consigned by Palmer Hoffman. Jolly Dee went on to be the All-American Junior Calf in 1975. She developed into a 2E cow. The purchase of Jolly Dee was the foundation on the Snickerdoodle success story. Snickerdoodle made breed history as she was undefeated in milking form, grand champion three times at World Dairy Expo, supreme champion and 5 times All-American scored 5E-94/97 MS.

- 2007 - Top Acres Supreme Fiesta, consigned by Sliker. Buyer: Jarrott Remsberg, Md. She went on to be named All-American Junior 2-Year Old in 2010.
- 2008 - \$10,000 - Dublin Hills Tootie, consigned by Dennis Smith, Md. Buyer: Remsberg, Douglas K., Ronnie Heffner, Nate Goldenberg. Nominated All-American.
- 2009 - \$11,200 - Top Acres Garbro Brazen, consigned by Sliker. Buyer: Brooke Clarke, N.H.
- 2010 - \$7200 - Shen Val Denver Tango, consigned by

- Cindy Warner. Buyer: Shen-Val Rad-I-Cal Genetics, Va. and Fla.
- 2011 - \$8000 - choice from Snickerdoodle, consigned by Allen Bassler, Va. Buyer: Greg Clarke, N.H.
  - 2012 - \$13,000 - Top Acres Garbro Shania, consigned by Sliker-Garrison of Ohio. Buyer: Rajeane Mathys, Canada.
  - 2013 - \$8700 - Cutting Edge TA Ryetta, consigned by Main & Vail, N.Y. Buyer: Anthony Pacheco, Calif.
  - 2015 - \$6600 - Cutting Edge HP B True, consigned by Main & Vail. Buyer: Steve Ouelette, Vt.
  - 2016 - \$4500 - Radical Goliath Good Luck, consigned by Lindsey Rucks of Florida. Buyer: Packard, Trapp, Warner, of Md. Nominated All-American Winter Calf and All-American Winter Yearling. All-American Senior 2-Year Old.
  - 2017 - \$9000 - Round Hill Galant Wilona, consigned by Cindy Warner. Buyer: Heffner & Goldenberg, Md. and Texas. Reserve All-American Fall Calf and Fall Yearling. Wind Mill Carter Snow Angel, consigned by Wind Mill Farm, the Daubert Family. Buyer: Packard, Kueffner & Hellenbrand, Md. and Wis. All American Winter Calf and Winter Yearling.
  - 2018 - \$10,400 - Blessing Garbro Nor Patty, consigned by Blessing & Garrison. Buyer: Danielle Pacheco, Calif.
  - 2019 - Spring Vale Seaman Snickers - All American Spring Calf, consigned by Jeff Hubbard. Buyer: Jordan Helsely of Pennsylvania.
  - 2020 - No sale (Covid)
  - 2021 - \$6400 - Round Hill HPP Cart Gigi, consigned by

- Cindy Warner. Buyer: Addison Goldenberg of Texas.
- 2022 - \$13,600 - Top Acres Diego Wizer, consigned by Sliker. Buyer: Cripple Creek Farm, N.Y.; \$10,100 - Top Acres Rampage Wizo, consigned by Sliker. Buyer: Lauren Almasay, Ohio.
  - 2023 - \$7100 - Blessing Garbro F Whitney, consigned by Blessing & Garrison. Buyer: Katelyn Taylor, Pa. Lots of show winnings and junior champion banners for "Whitney" in 2023.
  - 2024 - \$8100 - Kruses ACC Norwin Jiffy, consigned by Acclaimed Swiss/Kruse of Iowa. Buyer: JoBo Farm and Packard & Kueffner, Pa. and Md.; \$7500 - Prime Time Rampage Faye, consigned by Brody Gerwitz, Pa. Buyer: Peter Vail, Fla.; \$6100 - Top Acres Noble Pris, consigned by Sliker. Buyer: Tom Stull, Ontario, Canada; \$5600 - Blessing Garbro W Portia, consigned by Blessing & Garrison. Buyer: Katelyn Taylor, Pa.

The unique component of this quality sale actually starts in January with a consignor letter sent to past consignors and potential consignors, and this is by "snail mail". A news release about looking for consignments is placed in *Farmshine*, where we get many inquiries.

There is no expense to travel and select calves on peoples' farms, etc. The sale has been blessed and so grateful to the consignors over the years to have great calves come to us. This is a big cost savings for sure. The ad deadlines are stated in the letter and the process begins with ads in the *Brown Swiss Bulletin*, *Farmshine* and *Country Folks* in N.Y. We believe this personal touch has created trust, integrity and they see the results and that commission stayed at 12% for many, many years and just recently, in the past five years, was raised to 13% commission! We believe in helping the consignor with the lower commission helps with expenses of fuel costs and veterinary costs to get them to the sale. The lower sale commission has been a trademark for this sale and people appreciate it!

Last but not least are the unsung heroes of the sale process:

- Clerking the sale - this is a huge job of working with veterinarians with the health papers, receiving payment at the sale, billing the absentee bidders and, today, working with Cowbuyer, transferring to new owners - it's all a lot of work! This job would fall to the treasurer. Here are some names who did the sale over the years: Daphne Sigler, Miriam Bell, Debbie Culler, Lee and Judy Majeskie, Kathy Whitman, Jennifer Hill and Emily Heffner. We need to recognize and thank them for all the clerking of the sale!

- Barn crews - in the beginning, the Junior Association played more of a role in washing, feeding and preparing animals by clipping and fitting. But as the sale kept evolving, the need for professional fitters was necessary with the caliber of animals consigned. Several years ago, Jeff Hubbard and his son Jonathan started to oversee the barn crew and it's duties. Their expertise and hard work really show on sale day with the animals looking great. The Juniors are more involved also with helping to feed and brush calves and some of them help lead the calves in the sale. The fitters have been great, and for the 50th sale last April, Skylar Reichard and Kyle Welk, both from Pennsylvania, did an exceptional job!

As Wayne Sliker says, there are three parts to a sale: 1) getting ready; 2) the sale; 3) finishing up which includes clean up and paperwork.

This is exactly how it comes together. There are many moving parts among the Maryland Association with preparation of the sale. It takes a team effort for the culmination of everyone working together on sale day.

As we say, this is the end of one era and the next era of this sale will be in good hands with a very capable, experienced, passionate group that plans to continue this "tradition of excellence" of this successful and popular sale! Like they say, "stay tuned, more to come"!

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# New York Farm Bureau meeting attracts record attendance

VERONA, N.Y. — New York Farm Bureau attracted a record-breaking 400-plus attendees and nearly 70 sponsors to its State Annual Convention in Verona, more or less the geographic center of the state. Held Dec. 3-5, this was the 68th annual meeting of the organization.

The event included nine educational workshops that focused on zoning, permits and assessments; changes in predictive weather science; advocating for agriculture; thriving through diversification; harnessing digital technologies; adaptive leadership in agriculture; adapting a systems approach to farm performance; diversifying the market with Farm to School; and ensuring fire safety.

“The theme of this year’s convention, ‘Farming Forward,’ is critical to everything

we do. We must embrace change to remain successful,” said New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher, who was re-elected to another term. “That means fostering relationships with our agricultural partners, with the business community, with state legislators and with federal lawmakers. In this way, we bring everyone together to formulate policy, which is the cornerstone of our organization.”

Larry Weaver, a comedian, author and motivational speaker, was the keynote speaker. Weaver underscored the importance of hope in the world of farming, peppering his address with personal anecdotes and positive messaging. In addition, Kathleen Chiavetta, COO of Chiavetta Catering and Chicken BBQ in Angola, NY, delivered a passionate member story. A cornhole tournament and “Fam-

ily Feud”-style game called Field-to-Fork provided lively entertainment.

At the awards banquet, two members received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, New York Farm Bureau’s highest honor, and two members received the James Quinn Memorial Award.

Robert Somers and Judi Whittaker were the winners of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Awards. Somers had worked for the Department of Agriculture and Markets for almost 30 years before his retirement. Whittaker, a third-generation owner of Whittaker Farms in Broome County, has been instrumental in advocating for safety measures for farmers, including the passage of legislation allowing New York air ambulances to carry lifesaving blood products.

The James Quinn Awards were presented

to Barb Hanselman of Delaware County, a staunch advocate for farmers who has successfully challenged restrictive regulations, and Star Bashaw of Franklin County, who focuses on safety training for farmers.

Eric Ooms and Tony LaPierre were honored for their years of dedicated service as they stepped down from the board of directors. Ooms has served as vice president since 2008, while LaPierre has served as a Board member since 2017.

The convention concluded with the state annual meeting, a full day of elections and policy review. David Fisher was re-elected president, while Kim Skellie was elected vice president upon the retirement of Eric Ooms. Two new Board members were elected: Ryan Akin of Ontario County and Michael Murphy of Franklin County.

# U.S. corn and soybean harvest is second largest on record

DENVER, Colo. -- U.S. farmers harvested the second-largest corn and soybean crops on record this fall, lifting the margin outlook for grain elevators storing corn and soybeans. Prices of both commodities have fallen to 4-year lows, sparking strong demand, both domestically and on the export front. An acceleration of U.S. biofuel production, combined with strong livestock feed usage, has fueled domestic demand. A robust export program has also helped clear the abundant U.S. corn and soybean inventories.

However, the exhaustive pace of U.S. corn and soybean usage faces multiple headwinds, according to a new report from CoBank’s Knowledge Exchange. The U.S. dollar is widely expected to continue strengthening, which will increase the cost of U.S. goods for foreign buyers. And a potential trade dispute under the new administration would likely slow exports to key trading part-

ners like China and Mexico.

“Uncertainty over biofuel policy under the incoming administration also raises questions about the durability of domestic demand for corn-based ethanol and soybeans used for biodiesel and renewable diesel,” said Tanner Ehmke, lead grain and oilseed economist with CoBank. “For grain elevators, all these factors improve the profit outlook for storage via weakening buy basis in the cash market and a widening of futures spreads for both corn and soybeans.”

The export market outlook for U.S. corn and soybeans is most at risk in the months ahead. The combination of ample supplies in the U.S., record crops from South America and retaliatory tariffs would cause a sudden drag on exports. U.S. corn and soybean exports would need to be rerouted, slowing the overall export pace and increasing the cost of shipping into smaller markets. The robust

U.S. livestock sector portends continued strength in feed demand, although not enough to absorb potential losses in exports.

The weakening margin outlook for biofuels and the heightened policy concerns for all biofuels under the new administration risks slowing ethanol demand for corn and crush demand for soybeans. Domestic demand for soybeans remains robust with soybean crush capacity still expanding to meet the rising demand for renewable diesel. Additional crush

capacity is slated to come online in the months ahead, but growth in the market is maturing as profit margins for renewable diesel production decline.

“The combination of growing global supplies of corn and soybeans, slowing exports and some reduction in domestic demand will incentivize storage, with grain elevators benefiting from bigger carries in the futures market and cheaper basis in the months ahead,” Ehmke said.

## Important notice to all readers and advertisers:

**FARMSHINE** will not publish an issue on December 27.

We wish all of you a very merry Christmas and good health and happiness in the coming year. Thank you for all your support.

**We will resume our weekly schedule beginning January 3 with an early deadline of MONDAY, December 30 at 10 a.m.**



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# Jersey All-Americans for 2024 named in Louisville

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The American Jersey Cattle Association has announced the 2024 Jersey All American and Reserve All American winners. The annual All American events are held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky. There were 458 Registered Jerseys in the ring on November 10-11, 2024, the largest All American Jersey Show since 1993.

**The winners in each class are:**

**Spring calves**

South Mountain Viva Las Vegas, exhibited by Julia Briechele, Susquehanna, Pa., All American; Meadowridge Draco Sugarberry, exhibited by Michael, Mark, Kaitynn, and Tani Riebe and Alleah and Alexa Anderson, Cumberland, Wis., Reserve All American.

**Winter calves**

Miss Vegas Joyrin Thru Vancouver-ET, exhibited by Madison Fisher and Petra Meier, Frostburg, Md., All American; Ratliff Comerica Dana-ET, exhibited by Ron and Christy Ratliff, Garnett, Kan., Reserve.

**Fall calves**

Vierra Victorious Blaze-ET, exhibited by Andrea Cicero, North Lewisburg, Ohio, All American; Opsal-JH Viva Las Vegas-ET, exhibited by Ela May Genetics, DeForest, Wis., Reserve.

**Summer yearlings**

Vierra Kid Rock Georgia-ET, shown by Lau-

ren Wooldridge and Elise Carpenter, Cocks Creek, Ky. All American; Schulte Bros Kidrock Fantabulous-ET, exhibited by Kale, Cole and Carter Kruse and Gene Henderson, Dyersville, Iowa, Reserve.

**Spring yearlings**

Stadview Gentry Vera-ET, shown by Kailey Guilette, New Franken, Wis., All American; MM Nuance Essence-ET, exhibited by Misty Meadow Dairy, Tillamook, Ore., Reserve.

**Winter yearlings**

Vierra Getaway to Giza-ET, shown by Vierra Dairy and Will and Mark Jager, Hilmar, Calif., All American; Meadowridge Flawless Cranberry, shown by Michael, Mark, Kaitynn, and Tani Riebe and Alleah and Alexa Anderson, Cumberland, Wis., Reserve.

**Milking winter yearlings**

Ratliff Victorious Virtue-ET, exhibited by Ron and Christy Ratliff, All American; KCJF/Lucky Lady Dream-Taker-ET, shown by Jackson and Embry Powers, Salvisa, Ky., Reserve.

**Milking yearlings**

Schulte Bros Kid Rock Cobra-ET, exhibited by Ron and Christy Ratliff, All American; Breezy Knoll Joel Melanie, shown by Grant Cope, Salem, Ohio, Reserve.

**Summer junior 2-year olds**

Schulte Bros Victorious Future, shown by Keightley & Core and Schulte Bros., Salvisa, Ky., All American; Discoverys VIP Esther, exhibited by River Valley Farm, Ben, Andy, Bless-

ing, and Grace Sauder, Tremont, Ill., Reserve.

**Junior 2-year olds**

Gordons Joel Gracious, shown by Phil, Abigail, Katelyn, William and Matthew Gordon, Syracuse, Ind., All American; Freedom Lane Kid Rock Gisele-ET, shown by R&R Dairy and Dr. Britt Hines, Tillamook, Ore., Reserve.

**Senior 2-year olds**

Annettes VIP Annie-ET, shown by Peter Vail and Budjon Farms, Lomira, Wis., All American; Pine Haven Victorious Taya, shown by River Valley Farm, Reserve.

**National Jersey Jug Futurity**

LC Reckless Armadillo, exhibited by Lincrest Farm, Pacific Edge, Erin and Sophie Leach and Brent Rocha, Tillamook, Ore., All American; Smokin Hot Texas Tornado, shown by Austin Nauman, John Selin, and Heartland Dairy, Marshfield, Wis., Reserve.

**Junior 3-year olds**

Pacific Edge VIP Tessah-ET, exhibited by Coltan Seals and Brent Rocha, Tillamook, Ore., All American; Lookout Joel She's Spicy, shown by River Valley Farm, Reserve.

**Senior 3-year olds**

Whitdale Joel Vanessa, shown by Richard T. Seacord, Greenwich, N.Y., All American; Tierneys Dirk Lulubelle, exhibited by Tierney

Farm and Kathryn and Patrick Bosley, Malone, N.Y., Reserve.

**4-year olds**

Oeh-My Victorus Parade, shown by Vierra Dairy, All American; Whitdale Gentry Goldust, exhibited by Katelyn Poitras, Brimfield, Mass., Reserve.

**5-year olds**

Spring View Joel Kinsley, shown by Peter Vail and Budjon Farms, Lomira, Wis., All American; Rivendale VIP Eloise, exhibited by Vierra Dairy Farms, Reserve.

**Aged cows**

Stoney Point Joel Bailey, shown by Vierra Dairy Farms, All American; Miss Ronde Rosabella-ET, shown by Mia Smith and Kamrie Mauer, Elroy, Wis., Reserve.

**Lifetime cheese production cow**

Ratliff Money Vixen, owned by Ron and Christy Ratliff, All American; Stoney Point Colton Edele, shown by Avery, Lauren, Grace and Claire Starr, Tulare, Calif., Reserve.

The 72nd All American Jersey Show results were posted on the USJersey website at <https://www.usjersey.com/AJCA-NAJ-JMS/AJCA/InThe-News/OpenShow2024.aspx>, along with complete show coverage published in the January 2025 issue of the Jersey Journal.

## WDE's 'The Dairy Show' runs 24/7/365

MADISON, Wis. — The Dairy Show, World Dairy Expo's podcast, is available on Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Spotify and online at [world-dairyexpo.com](http://world-dairyexpo.com)

New episodes of The Dairy Show are released on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Expo's podcast features a new guest on every episode discussing topics related to the global dairy industry.

"As the digital meeting place of the global dairy industry, Expo's podcast gives listeners a taste of Expo year-round," shares Katie

Schmitt, host of The Dairy Show. "The Dairy Show focuses on a variety of topics ranging from cows to the colored shavings to cutting-edge technology while introducing different guests to provide unique perspectives."

Listeners span the globe, representing over 110 countries, all 50 U.S. states, and 12 Canadian provinces and territories. Some of The Dairy Show's most popular episodes include "Judging on the Colored Shavings", "Fitting and Grooming Dairy Cattle", "Just Talking Cows" and interviews with Expo Recognition Award winners.

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# Two Purdue dairy students reign as U.S. Jersey royalty

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — Two young Indiana women — Emma Townsend of LaFayette and Sophia Bollenbacher of Argos — reign at the top of Jersey royalty. What's more, both girls are juniors at Purdue University. Emma was crowned National Jersey Queen, while Sophia was named First Alternate. The title of Second Alternate went to Emma Vos of Marible, Wis.

All three members of the Jersey royalty team were introduced on November 6th at the start of the National Jersey Jug Futurity held in Louisville, Ky.

The National Jersey Queen contest lasted three days, and seven outstanding young women from across the country competed for the coveted Charlene Nardone Crown.

The new Jersey Queen is a junior at Purdue University majoring in public health and on a pre-med tract. Upon graduating, she plans to attend medical school while remaining passionate about the Jersey industry and breeding productive and elite cattle.

"The Jersey cow is the answer for now and in the future to issues confronting the dairy industry," Ms. Townsend said. "Jerseys naturally produce high-quality milk that is more energy and protein-dense than other breeds. She serves as president of the Purdue Dairy Club and is a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and Indiana Junior Jersey Association. She attended Jersey Youth Academy in 2023, serves on the All American Junior Activities Committee, and has participated in the Pot O'Gold Production Contest.

She will compete competitively with the



From left to right, Sophia Bollenbacher, Emma Townsend and Emma Vos are the newly designated Jersey royalty.

Purdue Dairy Judging Team beginning in 2025. In fact, one of her life goals is to judge the National Jersey Jug Futurity.

Sophia Bollenbacher is an active member of the Purdue dairy club and Sigma Alpha professional agricultural sorority. In addition to her school activities, she has participated

nationally with her Jerseys. She is an alumnus of Jersey Youth Academy, top 10 in the national achievement contest, and a multi-year National Jersey Youth Production Contest award winner.

"Advocating for the dairy industry has always been important to me," said Sophia. "I

am proud to advocate for the sustainability of the Jersey cow. Many people don't realize the dairy industry has been 'green before green was cool.' Over the years, Jerseys eat less, excrete less, and take up less space than other breeds while remaining efficient athletes."

Of special note is that Sophia had a strong weekend in Louisville last month, winning the Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners of the All American Junior Jersey Show.

Emma Vos, the second alternate, is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying agricultural and applied economics and dairy science. After graduating, she hopes to earn a master's degree in ag business. She was the 2023 Fred Stout Experience recipient of the Jersey Marketing Service internship. She received the Walter and Joyce Owens Family Scholarship twice from the AJCA and is a graduate of Jersey Youth Academy. In 2023, she was named National Jersey Youth Achievement winner.

"The Jersey cow has so much to offer through her high-component, nutrient-dense milk," said Vos. "From the producer to the consumer, the Jersey cow has proven to be the most economically friendly, and her milk is one of the most wholesome, nutritious products for consumers."

The Charlene Nardone National Jersey Queen Fund provided scholarships of \$500, \$300 and \$200 to the queen and two alternates. The queen was presented with the Charlene Nardone Crown by outgoing National Jersey Queen, Clancey Krahn of Albany, Ore.

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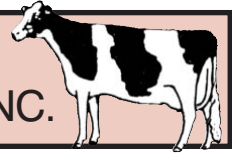
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### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

No dairy sale will be held for two weeks:

Wed., Dec. 25th (Christmas Day) or Wed., Jan. 1st (New Years Day).

All other sales will be held like normal!

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<b>Cows got milk - LIME</b>	Youth: S	M	Adult: S	M	L	XL	2XL
<b>Cows got milk - GRAY</b>	Youth: S	M	Adult: S	M	L	XL	2XL
<b>Cows got milk - PINK</b>	Youth: S	M	Adult: S	M	L	XL	2XL
<b>Cows got milk - YELLOW</b>	Youth: S	M	Adult: S	M	L	XL	2XL

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_


All orders **MUST** be pre-paid. Please be certain to enclose **\$12.50** for each adult shirt and **\$10** for each youth shirt.

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# Special Dairy Sale

SALE HELD AT FISHER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES  
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Note early start

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

Watch for more details next week.

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Sale managed by: FISHER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES  
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