

2024 Member Appreciation Dinners

2024 MEMBER APPRECIATION DINNERS

As a way of saying "thanks" for being a member, you are cordially invited to attend one of our 2024 Appreciation Dinners. Join us to learn about our past year of advocacy and accomplishments, and what we are working on now. Elections for leadership positions will be held. Make your reservation at www.FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative.com, by scanning the QR code or calling 608-244-3373 10 days in advance of the date of the dinner that you are attending.

Friday, November 8, Noon
The Country Aire
Stratford, WI

Tuesday, November 26, Noon
AgCountry Financial
Marshfield, WI

Wednesday, December 4, Noon
Fox Valley Quality Control Lab
Kaukauna, WI

Tuesday, November 12, Noon
Prairie House
Sauk City, WI

Tuesday, November 26, 7:30pm
Iron Ridge Inn
Iron Ridge, WI

Wednesday, December 4, Noon
Pizza Ranch
Brookings, SD (1815 6th St)

Wednesday, November 13, Noon
The CAM Building
Thorp, WI

Monday, December 2, Noon
East End Bar and Grill
Independence, WI

Thursday, December 5
Belgiumtown Restaurant
Stephenson, MI

Thursday, November 14, Noon
Minhas Kitchen
Monroe, WI

Tuesday, December 3, Noon
Pooch Corner Pub
Freeport, MN

Monday, November 18, Noon
The Barn
Sherrill, IA

Tuesday, December 3, Noon
Pizza Ranch
Fond du Lac, WI

Monday, November 25, Noon
Village Haus
Boyd, WI

Tuesday, December 3, 7:30pm
Pizza Ranch
Pipestone, MN



REGISTRATION QR CODE

Federal Milk Order
Market Information

SEPTEMBER 2024

Order Name and Number	UPPER MIDWEST	CENTRAL	MIDEAST	
	Order 30	Order 32	Order 33	
Producer Milk (lbs.)	1,627,972,708	1,052,402,029	1,610,384,862	
Producer Price Differential @ base zone	\$ (0.24)	\$ (0.93)	\$ (0.62)	
Statistical Uniform Price/cwt @ 3.5% BF*	\$ 23.10	\$ 22.41	\$ 22.72	
Class I Price/cwt	\$ 23.40	\$ 23.60	\$ 23.60	
Class II Price/cwt	\$ 22.40	\$ 22.40	\$ 22.40	
Class III Price/cwt	\$ 23.34	\$ 23.34	\$ 23.34	
Class IV Price/cwt	\$ 22.29	\$ 22.29	\$ 22.29	
Component Prices & Test Avg. % aves				
Butterfat/lb.	\$ 3.6114	4.18%	4.04%	4.09%
Protein/lb.	\$ 2.9249	3.21%	3.27%	3.23%
Other Solids/lb.	\$ 0.3430	5.79%	5.80%	5.77%
SCC Adjust Rate/1000	\$ 0.00114			
Producer Milk Classified %				
Class I	9.60%	32.40%	35.28%	
Class II	10.10%	15.10%	23.27%	
Class III	71.20%	29.19%	30.18%	
Class IV	9.1%	23.31%	11.27%	
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	



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Our annual member appreciation dinners are here! We will be electing delegates in each district for our annual meeting which will be held February 7-8, 2025 in Onalaska, WI.

Elections for Board of Director seats will be open for district 1, 3 and 5. D&R Committee seats to be elected will be from districts 2, 4, 6, and 8. We also currently have vacant D&R Committee seats in districts 3, 7 and 9.

Make sure to reserve your spot at the member appreciation dinner nearest you! You can visit www.farmfirstdairycooperative.com/appreciation-dinners/, scan the QR code above, or call our office at 608-244-3373 to make your reservation.

CONTACT US:

info@farmfirstcoop.com 608-244-3373

FARM FIRST DAIRY COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



WHO CAN APPLY?

- Applicants must be the son or daughter of a FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative member.
- Applicants may only receive the scholarship once.
- Students pursuing non- agricultural careers are encouraged to apply - the chosen major is not a deciding factor in scholarship winners.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Go to www.FarmFirstDairyCooperative.com
- Click on "Member Services", then "Scholarships"
- Download the PDF or complete the online form.

APPLICATIONS DUE
MARCH 31, 2025

November 2024

MILKLINE

NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS:

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Checkoff Promotions Build Trust



The Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) team is in your corner. Our marketing experts listen to your priorities and advocate for what matters to you. Farmer-funded and farmer-led, you can trust your dairy checkoff organization to keep your best interest at heart. My colleagues and I are passionate about helping you tell your story. We know 99 percent of Wisconsin dairy farms are family-owned, and that your day-to-day focus is on your cows, business, and people at home. Our dairy promotion initiatives educate the public, connect consumers to world-class products, and empower farmers as ambassadors. We love what we do, and are honored to represent you, the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin.

DFW helps educate your neighbors and community about your hard work on the farm. This starts with youth. We encourage

understanding by bringing programs like "Adopt a Cow" to schools, reaching more than 55,000 Wisconsin students and educators across the state. Sponsored athlete spotlights also help inform and inspire the next generation, connecting the dots between the character built on family farms and the leadership demonstrated on game days. Downloadable lesson materials, tours, and other opportunities make learning about life on the farm fun and accessible.

The DFW team shines a light on your environmental (sustainability) efforts. Highlighting common land stewardship practices that are good for the planet shows how farmers have taken care of the land for generations. Showcasing sustainability practices that preserve water and minimize waste positions farmers as part of the solution. June Dairy Month breakfasts invite people on-farm to see firsthand how much you care. We know these experiences make a difference, and we're grateful to farmers who participate.

We are dedicated to connecting the Proudly Wisconsin Dairy® brands to quality. This elevates your reputation and drives demand. In Wisconsin, 90 percent of your milk is made into cheese, and 90 percent of that cheese is sold out of state. We invest in making sure your story travels with

products. The Proudly Wisconsin Cheese® badge is recognized as a symbol of quality. Our labels now appear in 99 percent of grocery stores across the country, as well as in key markets across the globe. Spreading your message through marketing is key to this growth.

We help you embrace a tradition of excellence and stay ahead of trends. Wisconsin's infrastructure is uniquely suited to move dairy forward through partners like the Center for Dairy Research and the Master Cheesemaker program. Dairy promotion efforts like Alice in Dairyland and County Dairy Promotion Groups serve as statewide dairy advocates. Plus, DFW offers media training and tools to help tell your story in a positive light. Together, we are building strong farms for a strong future.

The DFW team supports a wide range of strategic initiatives so that you can stay focused on what matters most—your family farm. Let us help you share your story, near and far. Reach out to a team member at producer@wisconsindairy.org or visit www.wisconsindairy.org to learn about our educational materials and promotion efforts.

Article by Liza Schlintz,
Farmer Communications Manager
Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

Dedicated to serving and representing you, our family farm members, FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative represents farms in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana through policy advocacy, dairy marketing services, laboratory testing opportunities and industry promotion.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cooperative Happenings

Young Cooperators Convene for Leadership and Development Program

In October, National Milk Producers Federation hosted 86 dairy farmer leaders from 13 member cooperatives, including Nathan Wiese who is the YC Representative on our Board of Directors and also serves on the NMPF YC Advisory Committee. This event included a co-op leader panel discussion, a workshop geared toward building skills for effective co-op governance, a session about building and maintaining a productive workforce, and a tour of Phoenix's Danzeisen Dairy.



Government & Legislative Update

Stray Voltage Remains a Problem for Some Farms

Article by Larry Lee, *Brownfield Ag News*, published October 17, 2024



Stray electrical voltage has caused serious problems for some Wisconsin dairy farms.

Bryanna Handel and her husband operate a dairy near Barnavel, Wisconsin. She says, "Back in December, we noticed that our cows were acting very agitated, and coincidentally the same day, they turned on the new substation a half mile from our farm."

Handel says the utility, Alliant Energy, tested and found stray voltage on their farm, but below the levels allowed by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and below the amount of electrical current that studies say affects cows. She says the PSC needs to stop using the old data and guidelines. "They used that data from the 1980s when they did a bunch of testing that's been found falsified as to what a cow can actually feel."

Ten days after the new substation began operating, the herd's milk production dropped from 57 pounds of milk per day to just 45 pounds adding up to \$125,000 in lost milk revenue. The utility

installed isolation devices, which cost the family \$935 plus \$35 per month, but Handel says they still have cows with symptoms. She says milk production is about back to normal, but they're having to service them five or six times to get them pregnant.

Handel says the problem started when they were milking 67 Holsteins but they're down to 52 after shipping some cows that showed severe stress symptoms. "They won't get better, which is really hard for me because we want to save every cow, right? But, it's probably better just to ship them once they start showing signs of being affected by the stray voltage."

Sarah Sarbacker with FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative says the Handel farm and another in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin alerted them about their stray voltage problems. "As their cooperative, I stepped in and we started, I started helping contact legislators to help them get connected with these producers so they could tell their story and hopefully get some action going on this issue." Sarbacker says they also have members dealing with stray voltage problems in Illinois and a Minnesota farmer that has had success bringing changes to her state's regulations is working with the cooperative on this issue. 

USDA Issuing Over \$2 Billion in Payments for Conservation and Safety-Net Programs

USDA's Farm Service Agency will distribute more than \$1.7 billion through its conservation reserve program (CRP). Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs John Berge stated "It offers opportunity for producers to not only get some land out of production that may not be as fruitful for them, but also to meet some of the goals and objectives outlined in the statute, whether it's habitat improvement or water quality." Berge says funding is distributed through one of three CRP programs.



"One is the traditional CRP designed to set aside marginal agricultural land and put into permanent cover for a contract period of either 10 or 15 years. There's also the continuous CRP program, designed for those special, environmentally sensitive lands and some of those types of targeted approaches for habitat improvement or water quality improvement. Then the third program is a grasslands CRP program, which is designed to keep lands working," he says. Farmers and ranchers directly, and will also ensure that rural communities can prosper with the help of sound and productive credit provided by local community farm banks.

Berge says the amount of enrolled CRP acreage has increased by 21% since 2021. Eligible farmers and landowners should receive payments within by mid-November.

Nearly \$450 million will also be distributed through the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program (ARC/PLC).

Berge says the next round of sign-ups will be contingent on extension or reauthorization of the farm bill. 



Industry Update

FDA Warns Against Use of Unapproved Aspirin in Lactating Dairy Cattle



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is informing veterinarians and farmers to stop using unapproved aspirin to treat pyrexia and pain in lactating dairy cattle.

The nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug is being used on some dairy farms to treat cattle infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI, more specifically avian influenza type A H5N1), according to a communication from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) to its members.

The FDA published a "Dear Veterinarian" letter on October 11 as a reminder and educational effort that the extralabel use of unapproved drugs in food-producing species is prohibited.

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration understands that veterinarians and dairy farmers may be treating lactating dairy cattle for pyrexia and pain with aspirin and wants to clarify that there are no FDA-approved aspirin products for use in cattle," the letter states. "There are FDA-approved products for controlling pyrexia and pain in lactating dairy cattle that are safe, effective, and have established milk and meat withdrawal periods."

Flunixin is FDA-approved for the control of pyrexia associated with bovine respiratory disease, endotoxemia, and acute bovine mastitis; the control of inflammation in endotoxemia; and the control of pain associated with foot rot.

In addition, Vazalore is the one FDA-approved human aspirin product that veterinarians may use in food-producing species

under specific conditions, according to the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act, also known as AMDUCA.

To allow extralabel drug use, a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be established, an appropriate withdrawal time must be assigned, violative residues must not result, and only approved human or animal drugs may be used. AMDUCA says a veterinarian should not prescribe a drug in an extralabel manner if there is an approved drug that is labeled for the indication unless that labeled therapy is ineffective as determined by the veterinarian.

Because Vazalore is only available in 81 mg and 325 mg dosages, the FDA says veterinarians and dairy farmers may instead be using unapproved aspirin products, which come in larger dosages. Although other human aspirin products are marketed under an over-the-counter monograph, that monograph is not an approval and, therefore, these products cannot be used in an extralabel manner.

AABP leaders met with FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine for clarification on the extralabel use of aspirin.

"Previously, FDA has stated that aspirin use was of low regulatory concern; however, due to its increased use, questions from the public about its use, and the availability of labeled products for treatment of pyrexia (flunixin), they have shifted this stance to state such use is illegal," according to an October 12 AABP announcement to its members.

As of October 21, H5N1 has been confirmed in dairy cattle in 14 states: 131 herds in California, 64 in Colorado, 33 in Idaho, 29 in Michigan, 26 in Texas, 13 in Iowa, nine each in Minnesota and New Mexico, seven in South Dakota, four in Kansas, two in Oklahoma, and one each in North Carolina, Ohio, and Wyoming.

"In the event that animals have already been treated with aspirin, veterinarians should use their scientific expertise and available resources to set protective and extended milk and meat withdrawal periods for treated animals," according to the FDA letter. 