

Brubaker Farm Earns National Sustainability Award

ROSEMONT, Ill. — At a national awards ceremony Wednesday in Washington, Brubaker Farms of Mount Joy, Pa., was honored for outstanding achievement in energy by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy.

The center's inaugural U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards is a program to recognize dairy farms, dairy companies and collaborative partnerships for efforts that advance the sustainability of the dairy industry.

In a press release, the center praised Brubaker Farms for mastering energy efficiency by creating a successful new revenue stream through the implementation of an anaerobic digester system.

The farm now produces its own electricity, and the surplus electricity, enough to power about 200 homes, is sold to the local utility.

The Brubaker family is committed to sharing its lessons learned by hosting busloads of visitors to tour the prop-

erty, which includes three solar panels totaling 10,000 square feet producing an additional 130 to 150 kilowatt hours on sunny days.

"Across the supply chain, the dairy industry continues to demonstrate leadership in meeting consumer demand for great-tasting, wholesome and nutritious dairy products, while finding new ways to preserve our planet's precious resources," said Barbara O'Brien, president of the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, which was founded by dairy producers.

Other Northeast farms and dairy businesses honored were Blue Spruce Farm, operated by the Audet family in Bridport, Vt., for outstanding dairy farm sustainability; and Oakhurst Dairy of Portland, Maine, honorable mention for outstanding dairy processing and manufacturing sustainability.

Dairy Producers Reminded of MILC Program Requirements

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Farm Service Agency is reminding dairy producers of program eligibility requirements for payment under the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC).

Bill Wehry, FSA state executive director, says dairy and feed prices may trigger MILC payments, but all dairy producers need to be aware of the program requirements should those conditions arise.

Dairy operators currently enrolled in MILC need to notify the local county office if there have been any changes to their dairy operation.

If a payment rate is announced, dairy producers enrolled in the MILC program will need to provide the local office with documentation showing the eligible milk production and commercial milk marketing for the months

with a MILC payment rate in effect.

When producers enroll in MILC, a payment start month is selected. This month remains the same through all program years, unless a change is requested by the dairy.

Dairy producers are allowed to change their start month an unlimited number of times throughout their enrollment in MILC, provided that the change requests are timely.

MILC program participants are also required to comply with FSA's adjusted gross income requirements each fiscal year. This certification, on a CCC-931, must be completed prior to a payment being disbursed.

New dairies that have not previously participated in the MILC program will need to fill out the CCC-580, milk income loss contract.

April Dairy PROS to Outline Price Risk Strategies

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Center for Dairy Excellence and the Penn State Extension Dairy Team will hold the next series of Dairy PROS meetings in April.

With milk prices falling nearly \$4 per hundredweight since their high in the fall, the April Dairy PROS meetings will address "Dairy Markets and Risk Management."

Katie Krupa from Rice Dairy LLC, Tim Beck from Penn State Extension Dairy Team and Alan Zepp from the Center for Dairy Excellence will offer a look at what has happened in the dairy commodity markets and strategies that dairy farm families can use to protect their profits in the next 12 months.

Meeting dates and locations are listed below. All meetings will be 8-9:30 a.m., with breakfast at 7:30 a.m.

- Friday, April 20, at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.
 - Tuesday, April 24, at the AgChoice Farm Credit office, 109 Farm Credit Drive, Chambersburg.
 - Wednesday, April 25, at Celebration Hall, 2280 Commercial Blvd., State College.
 - Thursday, April 26, at King's Restaurant, 1920 Leesburg Road, Grove City.
- The cost of Dairy PROS meetings is partially offset

Meetings Offer Help Developing Risk Management Plans for Dairies

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Dairy producers and others interested in learning more about their risk management options and strategies for building a marketing plan are invited to attend risk management informational meetings in late March and early April.


The meetings are being sponsored by the Center for Dairy Excellence and Rice Dairy LLC in Mount Joy and Altoona, Pa.

Katie Krupa, director of producer services for Rice Dairy LLC, and Alan Zepp, risk management program coordinator of the Center for Dairy Excellence, will lead the sessions, which will be held 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with lunch included.

Meeting dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, March 20, at the Country Table Restaurant, 740 E. Main St., Mount Joy.
- Tuesday, April 2, at Hoss's of Altoona, 621 Valley View Blvd., Altoona.

There is no cost to participate. For more information or to register, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org or call 717-346-0849.



Center for Dairy Excellence
Dairy Week In Review
Dated Mar. 10, 2012

Dairy Prices	Price	Chge. from Week Ago	Chge. from Month Ago	Chge. from Year Ago
Milk Price (Mar)**	\$17.10/cwt.	▼ 4.3 %	▼ 5.1 %	▼ 25.0 %
Corn (Mar)	\$6.43/bushel	▼ 1.3 %	▲ 2.5 %	▼ 7.5 %
SBean Meal (Mar)	\$360.9 /ton	▲ 2.7 %	▲ 7.8 %	▲ 3.6 %
Milk Margin (Jan)*	\$12.60/cwt.	—	▼ 3.23 %	▲ 11.31 %

**Each issue of "Dairy Week in Review" will report on current "Milk Margin," or the dollars remaining per one hundred lbs. of milk after feed is paid for, based on data in the latest "PA Dairy Industry Performance Scorecard." Milk margin is affected by both milk & feed prices. ** The milk price reported is the Class III futures price for the next month plus a basis of \$1.75, an estimate of what you can expect to see on your milk check next month.*

- The USDA "Dairy Products" report shows total cheese production at 912 million pounds in February, 2.9 percent above January 2011 but 1.9 percent below December. Italian-type production was up 2.3 percent from a year ago, while American-type cheese production was up 3.1 percent from a year ago. Butter production was up 181 million pounds, up 8.5 percent from a year ago and up 9.0 percent from December.
- The Class III price for February is \$16.06 per cwt., down 99 cents from January and down 94 cents from last February. The February Class IV price was down 64 cents from January to \$15.92 per cwt., \$2.48 lower than a year ago.
- Farm profitability declined in February, according to Agri-View. February's milk/feed ratio of 1.58, down from 1.72 in January and a ratio of 2.01 a year ago. This is the lowest milk/feed ratio since July 2009, and marks the eleventh consecutive month of a ratio below 2.0.
- Global stockpiles of corn are expected to shrink to a five-year low by October, according to a *Bloomberg* report, which forecasts a record U.S. harvest in 2012 will restore supplies. Global reserves are expected to fall 4.2 percent to 123.43 metric tons by Oct. 1, equal to 52 days of consumption, the fewest since 1974. Analysts expect corn prices to rise 8.9 percent to \$7 a bushel before the harvest starts in September.

Government/Industry:

- March 15 is the deadline to enroll in a common crop insurance (Combo) policy or make changes to an existing policy. Contact your crop insurance agent now to get the details so you can determine the appropriate insurance plan for your farm. A list of crop insurance agents is available at: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/>. You can choose coverage levels from 50% to 85% of production history.
- The Center for Dairy Excellence will host a "Mastering the Dairy Business" conference call next week to address "Managing for a Lower Somatic Cell Count." On Thursday, March 15, Dr. Pam Ruegg, milk quality specialist with the University of Wisconsin, will share how global SCC expectations will affect what's produced on the farm. The call will be held from 12 - 1:15 p.m. Call 717-346-0849 to register.

Published weekly by the Center for Dairy Excellence with information from the CME Daily Dairy Report, NMPF Daily News Alerts and other resources. For more information, call 717-346-0849.

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