

February/March 2006

Dear Friends,

MILC Program Payments Retroactive

With his signature, President Bush extended the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program. Once all the details have been worked out, MILC program payments will be retroactive to October 1, 2005 and extend through August 31, 2007.

The formula was changed for calculating payments from 45% of the difference between the target price *and the* lower actual milk price, to 34% of the difference. As in the original legislation, the target price is still the Boston Class I milk price of \$16.94 per hundredweight. If/when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight dairy producers are eligible to receive MILC payments. The Boston Class I price is the announced Class I mover plus \$3.25. The Class I mover is the higher of an advanced Class IV price (milk used for butter and nonfat dry milk) or the Class III price (milk used for cheese). Therefore, the Boston Class I price of \$16.94 is the same as a Class I mover of \$13.69. The advanced Class III price has been the mover and with cheese prices falling, MILC payments will be significant.

MILC payments thus far are anticipated/calculated to be:

December, 2005	\$0.0408 per hundredweight
January, 2006	\$0.1054 per hundredweight
February, 2006	\$0.1054 per hundredweight
March, 2006	\$0.4080 per hundredweight

According to Bob Cropp, UW-Extension Dairy Marketing Specialist and Professor Emeritus of the UW-Madison Agricultural and Applied Economics Department, Ben Brancel, State Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), volunteered the following during a recent conversation.

Q. Cropp When will dairy farmers be eligible to receive these payments?

A. Brancel Don't know for sure, but it will probably be late March or early April before Washington informs the FSA offices as to how to proceed on payments.

Q Cropp Since dairy farmer contracts under MILC expired September 30, 2005, will new contracts need to be entered into with this MILC extension?

A. Brancel Legal counsel says yes; new contracts will be needed.

Q Cropp Under MILC provisions a quantity threshold of 2.4 million pounds of milk, produced during the 12 month period of October 1st through September 30th, limited payments for some producers. Dairy farmers with production over 2.4 million pounds could choose not to start payments on October 1st, but opt for another month to start payments. Will these dairy farmers be able to choose the starting date under this MILC extension?

A. Brancel Probably so, but has received no information from Washington.

So, the bottom line is that dairy farmers will be receiving MILC payments for the months of December 2005 through March of 2006. With the near-future outlook of declining milk prices and a *soft* cheese market, MILC payments are likely for most months in 2006. But, we will have to wait to hear from FSA as to when to expect the payments, the procedure for initiating new Milk Income Loss **Contracts**, and whether or not dairy producers with more than 2.4 million pounds of milk can choose a starting date.

Sincerely,



Bob Kaiser

DHI PERSONNEL

Phone: (920) 386-2637

Staff

Jim Schoenike, **Manager** (920) 474-7365
Bonnie Bauer, **Data Entry Operator**

Lab Personnel

Barbara Lepple
Betty Tietz
Diana Gaugert
Rosemary Braunschweig
Marcy Draeger

Field Technicians

Leo Fischer 623-3018
Russell Ridge 386-4449
Mary Beth Feucht
Kenneth Woock 689-2463

Phone

Newsletter Editor: Bob Kaiser, UW-Extension Dairy Agent, (920) 386-3790
This newsletter is prepared by Jodi Schultz

2004-2005 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President

David Uhlman
W1477 Washington Rd.
Rubicon WI 53078
920-474-4889

Ron Wiskerchen
W1036 County Road N
Rubicon WI 53078
262-673-4604

Rusell Warmka
W9226 County Road C
Fox Lake WI 53933
920-928-3117

Secretary – Treasurer

James Heuer
N8950 Hwy 33
Beaver Dam WI 53916
920-887-7847

Eugene Kegler
N1110 Tri County Rd.
Waterloo WI 53594
920-478-2263

Dale Redlin
N1703 Coolidge Rd.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
920-474-7054

Vice – President

Curtis Rex
N6598 County Rd. TW
Horicon WI 53032
920-485-2115

Dale Hesselink
332 Erin Rd.
Oconomowoc WI 53066
920-474-4298

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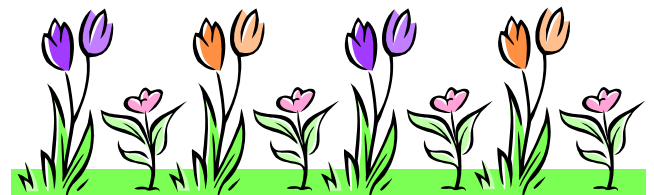
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UDDER HEALTH HONOR ROLL

Herds With An Average Linear Score of 2.5 or less and Less Than or Equal to 200,000 Somatic Cells Per ml

Report Ending January 27, 2006

(1) Number of Cows				(2) Weighted Average SCC			(3) Average Linear Score			
<u>MEMBERS</u>	(1) <u>COWS</u>	(2) <u>SCC</u>	(3) <u>LS</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>	(1) <u>COWS</u>	(2) <u>SCC</u>	(3) <u>LS</u>			
Curtis Zimmermann	93	36	1.0	Mike & Cathy Pamperin	132	129	2.1			
David Gerbitz	36	62	1.1	Neil Schlender	119	151	2.1			
Mic-Mon-Dou Acres	46	77	1.3	Schmidt Family Farm	143	157	2.1			
Adrian Powers	58	60	1.4	Hilbert Schoenike FM 2	46	165	2.1			
Dale & Linda Hesselink	21	66	1.4	Jeff Mallow	50	168	2.1			
Todd Bodden	49	45	1.5	Randy Kamphuis	140	174	2.1			
Paul Kehl	44	55	1.5	Koepke Farm Inc	304	190	2.1			
Kevin & Kelly Hundertmark	31	60	1.5	John Lehman	23	103	2.2			
Allan & Mary White	44	94	1.6	Glen & Gordon Zuehlke	110	104	2.2			
Perry & Kris Goetsch	79	95	1.6	Robert Schwandt Jr. & Sr.	72	136	2.2			
Eugene Kegler	64	98	1.6	Jerome & Karen Sterr	142	137	2.2			
Norbert Feucht	73	105	1.6	Pete Land Farm Inc	196	144	2.2			
Zwiegs Maple Acres	42	180	1.6	Ed & Janice Koffman	68	163	2.2			
Daryl & Lori Hoffman	41	70	1.7	William Nass	73	172	2.2			
Greg Lambert	37	72	1.7	Calvin Geertsma	66	175	2.2			
Lloyd Hilgendorf	52	88	1.7	Robert & Dan Butler	39	94	2.3			
K & S Farms LLC	82	108	1.7	David Schlieve	80	113	2.3			
David Hafemeister	72	69	1.8	Thomas Meyer	50	141	2.3			
Dennis & Anthony Brossard	135	80	1.8	David & Sharon Wegner	125	156	2.3			
Don Wen Farms	77	91	1.8	Alvin & Roger Hildebrandt	65	177	2.3			
Carl Werner	43	106	1.8	Paul Sigrist	60	192	2.3			
Zinke Dairy Farms LLC	132	163	1.8	Ron & Mary Wiskerchen	44	111	2.4			
Ralph & Patty Lange	41	79	1.9	Dale & Linda Hesselink	11	116	2.4			
Gary & Karen Zastrow	121	107	1.9	Randal Woltman	59	126	2.4			
Jim & Kathy Hurtgen	141	116	1.9	Norman & Joyce Uglow	24	163	2.4			
Jim Christ	54	123	1.9	Lee & Brian Reklau	109	169	2.4			
John Schmitt	75	146	1.9	Crave Brothers Farm	692	170	2.4			
Owen Breitreutz	50	172	1.9	Chason Acres Inc	139	170	2.4			
John Cull	83	175	1.9	Tom & Luann Bunkoske	114	200	2.4			
Gene & Janet Nehls	16	80	2.0	Sauers Boondock Vly Farm	80	171	2.5			
Held Farm	44	92	2.0	Jonathan Luck & Family	72	177	2.5			
David Roskopf Farm LLC	127	107	2.0	Daniel Bos	88	181	2.5			
Andrew & Aaron Schraufnagel	61	135	2.0	Kevin Bunksoke	38	183	2.5			
Brett & Carrie Bruins	61	135	2.0							
Ver-Jan Acres Inc.	193	140	2.0							
Matt Jahnke	48	142	2.0							
Mar-Rand Farms	138	142	2.0							
Budjon Farms	95	170	2.0							
Earl Neuberger	43	100	2.1							
Sheldon Stangler	53	103	2.1							
Dave&Joan Dan&Deb Siewert	71	111	2.1							
Norman & Joyce Uglow	32	117	2.1							



UDDER HEALTH HONOR ROLL

Herds With An Average Linear Score of 2.5 or less and Less Than or Equal to 200,000 Somatic Cells Per ml

Report Ending February 24, 2006

(1) Number of Cows

(2) Weighted Average SCC

(3) Average Linear Score

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>(1) COWS</u>	<u>(2) SCC</u>	<u>(3) LS</u>
Hilmer Strobel	50	76	1.2
Paul Kehl	44	44	1.3
Mic-Mon-Dou Acres	47	66	1.3
Eugene Kegler	64	69	1.4
Ralph & Patty Lange	37	53	1.6
Dale & Diane Beine	52	54	1.6
Robert & Sheila Boeder	48	70	1.6
Norbert Feucht	77	78	1.6
Dennis & Dale Pieper	50	121	1.6
Donald White	48	64	1.7
David Hafemeister	73	76	1.7
Allan & Mary White	44	83	1.7
John Schmitt	76	97	1.7
Carl Werner	43	155	1.7
Mike & Cathy Pamperin	134	92	1.8
Andrew & Aaron Schraufnagel	60	95	1.8
Don Wen Farms	79	98	1.8
Dave&Joan Dan&Deb Siewert	67	111	1.8
Calvin Geertsma	66	135	1.8
Daryl & Lori Hoffman	41	148	1.8
Alvin & Roger Hildebrandt	68	174	1.8
Glen & Gordon Zuehlke	109	83	1.9
Kenneth & Laura Held	77	90	1.9
Ver-Jan Acres Inc.	195	105	1.9
Hobz Dairy	80	89	2.0
Lloyd Hilgendorf	53	91	2.0
Steven Guell	32	158	2.0
Jeff Mallow	52	167	2.0
Christian Hill Dairy LLC	416	178	2.0
Schmidt Family Farm	142	193	2.0
Norman & Joyce Uglow	31	92	2.1
Ross Heidemann	58	130	2.1
Thomas Meyer	51	133	2.1
Norman & Joyce Uglow	26	146	2.1
Robert Schwandt Jr. & Sr.	70	174	2.1
Josh Schlieve	20	92	2.2
Paul Sigrist	59	101	2.2
David Schlieve	83	103	2.2
Held Farm	44	117	2.2
David & Sharon Wegner	124	127	2.2
Sauers Boondock Vly Farm	79	132	2.2
Budjon Farms	95	148	2.2

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>(1) COWS</u>	<u>(2) SCC</u>	<u>(3) LS</u>
John Cull	83	150	2.2
Koepke Farm Inc.	305	161	2.2
Dean & Karla Zimmerman	70	173	2.2
Terry Neuman	48	113	2.3
Gene & Janet Nehls	60	128	2.3
Brian & Cindy Krull	52	134	2.3
Earl Neuberger	43	141	2.3
Todd Bodden	48	158	2.3
Crave Brothers Farm	685	169	2.3
Bob & Therese Guenther	51	174	2.3
Perry & Kris Goetsch	82	177	2.3
Paul Vande Zande	73	134	2.4
Sielaff Farms Inc.	63	152	2.4
Steven Griswold	122	153	2.4
Roy & Mark Kuhlman	132	158	2.4
Marvin Twardokus & Sons	76	173	2.4
Gault Valley Farms LLC	141	149	2.5
Donald Van Egtern	89	162	2.5
William Holz	39	166	2.5
David Schwantes	358	183	2.5
Larry Buwalda	127	186	2.5
Randy Kamphuis	139	200	2.5



Milk production appears to have no limits.

During January, the top 23 dairy states pumped out 14 billion pounds of milk — up a whopping 5.4 percent versus a year ago, according to the January “Milk Production” report, released February 17.

Milk output per cow led the production gain — up 4.1 percent in the top 23 dairy states. Per-cow output averaged 1,711 pounds for the month, or about 55 pounds per cow per day. The monthly average also represents a gain of 68 pounds versus January 2005.

The 23-state cow herd also continued to grow — up 1.3 percent during January versus a year ago. Cow numbers in the top 23 states totaled 8.19 million head — 103,000 head more than January 2005 and 11,000 head more than December 2005.

Only three of the top 23 dairy states posted losses in total milk output during January. Those states were Florida, down 3.3 percent; Oregon, down 2.7 percent and Kentucky, down 2.5 percent.

Meanwhile, total milk output grew 15.8 percent in New Mexico, 14.1 percent in Texas and 10.3 percent in Idaho. Indiana came in fourth, posting a gain of 9.1 percent versus a year ago.

California and Wisconsin, up 5.1 percent and 5 percent, respectively, nearly tied for gains in milk production during January. The table at right shows total milk output in each of the top 23 dairy states during January.

The USDA report also included 2005 annual milk production. U.S. annual production was 177 billion pounds — up 3.5 percent versus 2004 annual production. Production per cow averaged 19,576 for 2005 — a gain of 609 pounds versus 2004. The U.S. cow herd averaged 9.04 million head in 2005 — up 3.2 percent versus 2004.

Here are some other highlights from the report:

- Annual milk production in the U.S. has increased 15 percent over the past 10 years.
- Annual milk output per cow has increased 19 percent over the past 10 years.
- Annual cow numbers have decreased 4 percent over the past 10 years.

- The average number of licensed dairy operations in the U.S. was 64,555 in 2005, down from 66,825 in 2004.

Top 23 Dairy States January Milk Production			
	2005	2006	%
(Million Pounds)			
1. CA	3078	3234	5.1
2. WI	1871	1965	5.0
3. NY	998	1038	4.0
4. ID	798	880	10.3
5. PA	869	919	5.8
6. MN	695	714	2.7
7. NM	545	631	15.8
8. MI	546	587	7.5
9. TX	526	600	14.1
10. WA	461	461	0.0
11. OH	390	399	2.3
12. IA	333	353	6.0
13. AZ	326	340	4.3
14. IN	254	277	9.1
15. VT	223	226	1.3
16. CO	186	198	6.5
17. KN	189	198	4.8
18. OR	188	183	- 2.7
19. FL	210	203	- 3.3
20. IL	170	170	0.0
21. VA	154	154	0.0
22. MO	157	164	4.5
23. KY	120	117	- 2.5

Tiny Animals Aid *Salmonella*

By Marcia Wood
February 16, 2006

Salmonella, one of the planet's most problematic food-poisoning bacteria, may have an accidental ally: transparent, nearly invisible animals called protozoa. Agricultural Research Service microbiologist Maria T. Brandl has provided new evidence of the mostly mysterious interaction between these microscopic protozoa and *Salmonella*.

Brandl's discoveries from her work at the agency's Western Regional Research Center in Albany, California, may lead to new, more powerful, and more environmentally friendly ways to reduce the incidence of *Salmonella* in meat, poultry and fresh produce.

During their lives, *Salmonella* bacteria may encounter a commonplace, water-loving protozoan known as a *Tetrahymena*. Brandl's laboratory tests showed that the protozoan, after gulping down a species of *Salmonella* known as *S. enterica*, apparently can't digest and destroy it. So, the *Tetrahymena* expels the *Salmonella*, encased in miniature pouches called food vacuoles.

The encounter may enhance *Salmonella*'s later survival. Brandl found that twice as many *Salmonella* cells stayed alive in water if they were encased in expelled vacuoles than if they were not encased.

What's more, Brandl found that the encased *Salmonella* cells were three times more likely than unenclosed cells to survive exposure to a 10-minute bath of two parts per million of calcium hypochlorite, the bleachlike compound often used to sanitize food and food-processing equipment.



Research assistant Aileen Haxo (left) and Maria Brandl examine confocal micrographs of green fluorescent-labeled *Salmonella* cells enclosed within food vacuoles of *Tetrahymena* protozoa.

The research is the first to show that *Tetrahymena* expel living *S. enterica* bacteria encased in food vacuoles and that the still-encased, expelled bacteria can better resist sanitizing.

Brandl and colleagues Sharon G. Berk of Tennessee Technological University-Cookeville and Benjamin M. Rosenthal at ARS' Henry A. Wallace Beltsville (Maryland) Agricultural Research Center documented their findings in a 2005 issue of *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. Brandl now wants to pinpoint genes that *Salmonella* bacteria turn on while inside the vacuoles. Those genes may be the ones that it activates when invading humans.

Read more about the research in the February 2006 issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

Herd Size Dilemma

Pam L. Ruegg, DVM, MVPM
Extension Milk Quality Specialist, UW Department
of Dairy Science

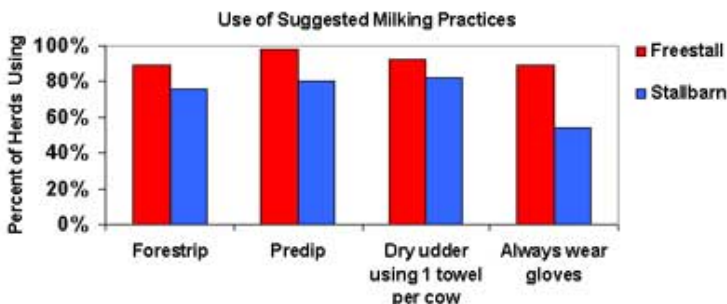
Many people are surprised to learn that bulk tank somatic cell count (BTSCC) tends to decrease as herds get larger. It's a trend shown by research around the nation and we recently documented a similar phenomenon in herds enrolled in our [Milk Money](#) program.

The BTSCC of 101 enrolled herds that used freestall housing (average number of lactating cows = 377) was 335,762 cells/ml whereas the BTSCC of 78 enrolled herds that used stallbarns (average number of lactating cows = 87) was 430,221 cells/ml.

Operators of stallbarn herds also reported a higher monthly rate of clinical mastitis (8.0% versus 6.0% for freestalls). When we looked closer at the data, we found some interesting relationships that may help to explain why this trend occurs.

In this data, adoption of most recommended practices (including forestripping, predipping, using a single towel to dry the udder on each cow and wearing gloves during milking) was higher for herds housed in freestalls as compared to herds housed in stallbarns.

These practices are universally recommended because they help to prevent the development of new mastitis infections. While our data can't be used to show cause and effect it does emphasize the importance of using these procedures.



We don't know for sure why these practices are less adopted in small herds, but we suspect that many owners of small herds are extremely busy and have less time to devote to specifically managing the milking process. Adoption of these relatively simple suggested milking processes is recommended for all herds regardless of herd size.



Increase in Records Processing Fees Passed On

Effective March 1, 2006 AgSource CRI increased record processing fees it charges member milk testing cooperatives, including Dodge County Dairy Testing Association, by 7.5 percent. At the January and February Board of Directors meeting this issue was discussed and it was determined that our Association was unable to absorb this cost without significantly eroding equity. In an effort to recover a majority of the increased record processing fees charged by our parent organization, Board action was initiated to increase member fees (both Supervised and non-Supervised) by 3 cents per cow, beginning with the March billing cycle.

If you have questions or comments regarding how or why, we as a Board of Directors decided to pass on this cost, please feel free to contact one of us. Our respective contact information is located on page 2 of the Udder News. Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued patronage of our Dodge County Dairy Testing Association.

**DODGE COUNTY DAIRY
TESTING ASSOCIATION
244 South Fairfield Ave
P.O. Box 122
Juneau WI 53039**

**Dated
Material**

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Calendar of Events

March 14 & 15 – Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW), 2006 Annual Business Conference, Alliant Energy Center, Madison

March 20 – Marketing Holstein Calves, Milwaukee Stockyards, Reeseville 11AM – 12:30 PM

March 28-30 – EAA Farm Show, EAA Grounds near Oshkosh

April 7 – Quality Tested Hay Auction, Equity Livestock, Lomira, 12 Noon

April 8 – Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) Show Judges Workshop, UW-Madison Stock Pavilion, 9:30 AM – 4:15 PM, Contact Ted Halbach, Extension Dairy Youth Specialist at 608-263-3305 or tjhalbach@wisc.edu

April 14 – Dodgeramma Spring Fling Sale **Open House**, Kranzdale Sales, N3325 Cty Rd. T, Columbus, 3PM-9PM.

April 15 – Dodgeramma Spring Fling **Sale**, Kranzdale Sales, N3325 Cty Rd. T, Columbus, 12 Noon
30 cows plus 35 show-age heifers.