Greetings:

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and has stayed warm with all this cold weather!

The Calumet County UW-Extension Office is updating its office mailing and e-mail list. This allows you to update or add a mailing or e-mail address for the Calumet Pipeline Newsletter. You will also have the opportunity to receive the Dairy Partner/El Compañero Newsletter, which is an English/Spanish newsletter for dairy farm employees. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information directly to farm employees to help them improve their dairy cattle knowledge, maintain farm safety, and improve their way of life.

I am also creating/updating the e-mail list serves of dairy, crops and nutrient management, livestock and farm business management. I plan to pass along useful information and programs geared towards these topics. Your e-mail address will not be shared outside of the Calumet County UW-Extension Office.

To update your e-mail or mailing address, sign up for the Dairy Partner/El Compañero Newsletter, or to be included on the new e-mail lists, please visit the link below or scan the QR code. You can also call the UW-Extension Office at 849-1450, ext. 5.

http://goo.gl/sWZYpU

As always, take a look at some of upcoming programs, and please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Take care,

Eric Ronk
Agriculture Agent
UWEX – Calumet County
January 2015
29  ARC/PLC Meeting 10:00 am, Millhome Supper Club, Kiel

February 2015
3  CAFO Meeting, 8:30 am, Tundra Lodge, Green Bay
4  CAFO Meeting, 8:30 am, New London
4 & 11 How Prepared Are You? Managing Dairy Employees Effectively – A Bilingual Middle Manager Training on Employee Management, 9:00-3:00 pm, UW-Fond du Lac
6  Forage Council Annual Meeting, 10:00-3:00 pm, Neighborhood Pub and Grill
9  Dairy Promotion Committee - Sundae on the Farm Meeting, Hilbert
10 CAFO Meeting, 8:30 am, UW-Fond du Lac
10 Raising Quality Steers – Beef & Dairy Cattle Feeder Clinic, 5:30 pm, Chissy’s Pub and Grill, Waldo
10 & 17 How Prepared Are You? Managing Dairy Employees Effectively – A Bilingual Middle Manager Training on Employee Management, 9:00-3:00 pm, The Ravine, Green Bay
12 Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 9:00-3:00 pm, Courthouse, Room #017, Chilton
17 Mardi Gras (Rural Farm/City Night)
18 Grain Crops Clinic, 10:00-3:00 pm, Cobblestone Creek, Brillion
23-25 Midwest Manure Summit, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay

Private Pesticide Applicator Training
Thursday, February 12, 9:00-3:00 pm, Calumet County Courthouse, Room #017

For those interested in becoming certified or recertifying as a private pesticide applicator, there will be training offered on Thursday, February 12. This training will take place in Room #017 of the Calumet County Courthouse from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Participants need to stop in at the UW-Extension Office to pick up the manual at least one week prior to the training. Cost for the manual and certification process is $30.00 per person and is payable at time of registration.

The training session will begin with presentations, there will be a 45 minute break for lunch, but lunch is own your own and finish up with the exam in the afternoon. The minimum score to pass the examination for those attending the training session is 50 percent.

The State of Wisconsin requires any person taking a certification exam to provide positive identification and their Social Security Number. Positive forms of identification include a birth certificate, state-issued identification card, or a driver’s license. Also, on the day of the training, please bring your training manual and a calculator.

If you have any questions, please contact the Calumet County UW-Extension Office at (920) 849-1450.

Forage Variety Update for Wisconsin – 2014 Trial Results (A1525)

Before buying seed, find out which forage varieties perform the best in Wisconsin. This annually updated publication covers alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, red clover, meadow bromegrass, smooth bromegrass, meadow fescue, tall fescue, orchardgrass, reed canarygrass, ryegrass, and timothy varieties (24 pages; November 2014).

You can view, download, or order this publication on the UW-Extension Learning Store at http://goo.gl/eGWTJu or by contacting the Calumet County UW-Extension Office at 849-1450 x5.

WI Oats and Barley Performance Tests – 2015 (A3874)

This publication contains results of the previous season's performance trials for oats and barley. Use these data to help choose the best varieties to plant for your growing conditions (6 pages; November 2014).

You can view, download, or order this publication on the UW-Extension Learning Store at http://goo.gl/y3EhNo or by contacting the Calumet County UW-Extension Office at 849-1450 x5.
New Dairy Team Webpage

UW-Extension Dairy Team strengthens the competitiveness of the Wisconsin dairy industry through statewide leadership in education and research.

Resources
Providing up to date resources related to:
- Milk Quality
- Dairy Nutrition
- Dairy Reproduction & Genetics
- Dairy Replacements
- Dairy Facilities
- Animal Well-Being

Calendar
Listing of local, district and state sponsored UW-Extension Dairy Team meetings providing you information that is current and relative to your farm.

Who We Are
Listing of dairy team workgroups and team members from across the state.

Subscribe today for updates and posts by visiting the website or scanning:

http://fyi.uwex.edu/dairy/
Grain Crops Clinic

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Registration: 9:30 am
Program 10:00-3:00 pm

Cobblestone Creek Dining & Banquet, 740 W. Ryan Street, Brillion
Doxbee’s Banquet and Buffet, N6744 County C, Seymour

Presentations:

Wet Corn Mitigation: How Do We Keep Drying Costs Down?
- Joe Lauer, UW-Extension Corn Specialist

Systematic Optimization of Yield-enhancing Applications in Soybean: A Regional and National Overview
- David Marburger, Soybean PhD Candidate

Managing N, P, and K in a Low Grain Price Environment
- Carrie Laboski, UW-Extension Soil Fertility Specialist

Opportunities for Improved Crop Management Using Remote Sensing
- Brian Luck, UW-Extension Precision Agriculture Specialist

Agricultural Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage – Which is Right for Me?
- Kevin Jarek, UW-Extension Crops, Soil & Horticulture Agent
- Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Crops, Soils & Horticulture Agent

Presentation times will vary by location. 4 CCA credits have been applied for.

Grain Production Clinic Registration Form
Register by Friday, February 13

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _______________________________ Zip____________
Phone ____________________________________________

Cost:  $25.00/person. Make checks payable to UW-Extension

Where do you plan to attend?

___ Cobblestone Creek, Brillion ___ Doxbee’s, Seymour

Return registration to:
Grain Crops Clinic
Calumet County UWEX
206 Court Street
Chilton, WI 53014
(920) 849-1450 x5

Registration deadline: February 4, 2015

Please mail registration form and check to:
UW-Extension Sheboygan County
Attn.: Ag Programs
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Or call: 920.459.5902
Or email: ann.herzog@sheboygancounty.gov

Raising Quality Steers – Beef and Dairy Cattle Feeder Clinic

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
5:30 pm-8:30 pm
Chissy’s Pub & Grill, Waldo

Fed dairy steers make up approximately 15-20 percent of all fed cattle sent to market for beef production. Dairy steers are a significant contributor to the US beef supply and can be a revenue generating center for farming operations. Join us as UW-Extension faculty share the latest in market outlooks, risk management, health management and research regarding raising quality steers.

5:30 - 6:00 pm  Registration & Buffet Meal
6:00 pm  Program

• Market Outlook
  Dr. Brenda Boetel, UW Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

• Using Feed Intake, Growth Models, and Market Conditions to Market Fat Holsteins and Beef Cattle
  Mitch Schaefer, PhD, Grad Student UW Madison

• Risk Management Tools for Putting in Price Floors
  Dr. Brenda Boetel, UW Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

• Cattle Health Management - Focus on Receiving Protocols
  Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM, UW-Extension Oconto County Agriculture Agent

8:30 pm  Adjourn

Presented by the:
Livestock Team

2015 Cattle Feeder Clinic – Registration Form
Tuesday, February 10, 2015
Registration & Buffet Meal: 5:30 pm
Program: 6:00 to 8:30 pm

Name(s):_________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City: ______________________________________ Zip___________
Phone:__________________________________________________
E-mail: __________________________________________________

Registration fee: $15 per person (includes meal, speaker fees, and materials)
Make checks payable to UW-Extension

Check payable to: UW-Extension
Registration deadline: February 4, 2015

Please mail registration form and check to:
UW-Extension Sheboygan County
Attn.: Ag Programs
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Or call: 920.459.5902
Or email: ann.herzog@sheboygancounty.gov
Calumet County Forage Council Annual Meeting

Friday, February 6, 2015
10:00-10:30 am – registration
10:30 am – program
Neighborhood Pub and Grill, Brant

10:00 am  Registration and Membership Sign Up
10:30 am  Midwest Forage Association Update
- Chelsea Russell, Midwest Forage Association
10:45 am  “Cover Crops in Dairy Production Systems”
- Matt Ruark, Assistant Professor and Extension Soil Scientist at UW-Madison
11:30 am  “Forage Preservation and Feed Out”
- Jon Rasmussen, Dairy Technology Specialist at Vita Plus
12:00 pm  Lunch
12:45 pm  “Local Producer Panel on Feed Management”
1:15 pm  “Corn Silage Processing: Dairy Farm Survey”
- Eric Ronk, Agriculture Agent, Calumet County UW-Extension
1:30 pm  “ARC/PLC Farm Bill Choices”
- Scott Ruess, Agriculture and Horticulture Agent, Marinette County UW-Extension
2:15 pm  Calumet County Forage Council Annual Meeting

Cost: $20.00 per person for those registered by February 4. Late registrations and “walk in” registrations will be assessed an additional $5.00.

To register, call (920) 849-1450 x5 by February 4 (voicemail is available).

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs 10 days preceding the scheduled program, service, or activity. Call the Calumet County Extension Office at (920) 849-1450 to request an accommodation.

Be Part of the First Annual 2015 Dairy Futurity

The Calumet County Holstein Association is preparing to showcase the dairy industry through the first annual Calumet County Futurity. The futurity event will celebrate the top caliber genetics and high producing herds of Calumet County. The event showcases three year old cows shown by exhibitors in formal wear. The first annual Dairy Futurity will take place on Sunday evening, September 6, 2015, at the Calumet County Fair.

Entry forms are available if you are interested in exhibiting at this event, at the Calumet County Extension office or website at www.calumet.uwex.edu/agriculture. Entry forms are also available from Calumet County Holstein Association members. Entry deadline for the 2015, 2016, and 2017 futurities is January 31, 2015.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for businesses interested in being part of the upcoming futurity. There are a number of sponsorship levels for those interested in supporting Calumet County dairy producers, and also promoting your business.

If you have questions, please contact Larry Meyer, Futurity Committee Chairman, at (920) 841-0444 or at jenlar.meyer@gmail.com.

Photo supplied from Wisconsin Holstein Association
2015 Annual CAFO Meeting Update & Registration

An update meeting for WPDES permitted CAFO owners & managers, nutrient management plan writers and engineers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 3, 2015</td>
<td>Tundra Lodge Conference Center 865 Lombardi Avenue Green Bay, WI</td>
<td>Improve nutrient management plan implementation; improve communication between plan writers, permit holders and WDNR; and also provide other information on regulations that may affect large farming operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 4, 2015</td>
<td>Crystal Falls 1500 Handschke Dr. New London, WI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 10, 2015</td>
<td>UW Fond du Lac 400 University Dr. Fond du Lac, WI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration: 8:30 am

Meeting topics (session times: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm)

- Why Every Heifer Should be Raised on Pasture/Heifers on Pasture & Permit Impact – (Adam Abel; NRCS)/(Jones, Block, Uvaas; WDNR)
- Understanding Citizen Concerns – (Sarah Williams; Midwest Environmental Advocates)
- Implements of Husbandry Update - (Liz Binverise, Green Bay; Tina Kohlman, Fond du Lac; Greg Blonde, New London UWEX)
- Karst Reminders: Recognizing Features, Preventing Problems - (Baeten; WDNR)
- EPA Update – (Cheryl Burdett); Fond du Lac Only
- Fall/Winter Spreading Panel - (Agronomists, Farmers, & Haulers)
- New Fields Submittals using SharePoint – (Baeten; WDNR)
- Updating and Reviewing Emergency Response Plans – (Jones; WDNR)
- Ask DNR Panel – (Jones, Baeten; WDNR staff)

$30 in Advance; $45 after registration deadline and walk-ins (at the door)
Lunch included

Make check(s) payable to: BCT (Brown County Treasurer) or cash only; NO Credit/Debit Cards

To register mail, fax, or email the following information to:
Brown County UW-Extension, Attn: Joan, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI 54302
Fax: 920-391-4617
Email: Laehn_jm@co.brown.wi.us

Name(s) of Attendee(s)___________________________________________________________________________
Firm/Farm Name ______________________________________ Phone___________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________________________
Email ________________________________________________________________________________________

Circle location attending: Green Bay New London Fond du Lac

Before date: Number of people_______ x $ 30.00 = $________
After date: Number of people_______ x $ 45.00 = $________

Topic you are most interested in (circle one or write in): Public Notice New Land Manure Irrigation

Spreading setbacks/monitoring Recordkeeping Enforcement Other: ____________________

Office use: Date received: ___________________; Payment Enclosed: Check □#_________ Cash □ No Payment □: Initials__________

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer. University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements. Contact Kevin Erb at 920-391-4652 for more information on this program.
"The key to success in any business is to help other people be successful in their jobs.\" Effective employee management is a critical aspect of any successful agri-business. Developing the necessary management skills doesn’t happen overnight, and they are difficult to achieve without some guidance. The challenge of training good managers is important to the profitability of any business.

The transition from employee to manager can be a tough road to navigate. In this two day workshop, UW-Extension agents will share “people skills” with participants to help them be successful in their jobs: communication, conflict management, trust and respect, and leadership.

**Agenda**

**Day 1:**
9:00 am: Introduction—Why are we here?
9:30 am: Maximizing your Potential: Using the REAL Colors System
11:30 am: Communication Cultural Barriers
12:15 pm: Lunch
1:00 pm: Using Style to Manage Conflict
2:15 pm: Behaviors and Characteristics of a Good Leader

**Day 2:**
9:00 am: Review of Day 1
9:30 am: Assertive Management
10:30 am: Establishing Trust and Respect: Multicultural Aspects
11:30 am: Lunch
12:15 pm: Conducting Performance Reviews, Firing with Dignity
1:15 pm: Leadership Through Time Management
The transition from employee to manager can be a tough road to navigate. This program geared toward middle managers who have an interest in learning more about effective employee management. Provided in English and Spanish, participants will:

- Learn about and develop their own management style
- Learn effective ways to improve communication
- Learn to effectively manage conflict

Pricing for one: 3 or more individuals from the same farm:
1 Day: $60 per person
2 Days: $100 per person

How Prepared Are You? Managing Dairy Employees Effectively
3 different locations-Bringing Employee Resources to Farmers

For more information please contact...
Heather Schlesser
Dairy Agent
UWEX Marathon County
715.261.1230
heather.schlesser@uwex.edu

Tina Kohlman
Dairy & Livestock Agent
UWEX Fond du Lac County
920.929.3180
tina.kohlman@uwex.edu

Aerica Bjurstrom
Agriculture Agent
UWEX Kewaunee County
920.388.7138
aerica.bjurstrom@uwex.edu

UW-Extension Dairy Team

How Prepared Are You? Managing Dairy Employees Effectively
Register Online http://goo.gl/7nm631 or return form to appropriate location:
Name:__________________________________________ Phone:____________________________
Address:_______________________________________ City:_________________________ ZIP:__________
E-Mail Address:_______________________________Farm:_____________________________________

Make Check Payable to: UW-Extension
_____ X Two Day Session
_____ X Day 1 only
_____ X Day 2 only
_____ X Spanish speaking individuals attending
_____ X English speaking individuals attending
$________ Total Enclosed

Please select location:
- January 21st and 27th
  MAIL TO:
  UWEX Marathon County
  Attn: Heather
  212 River Dr. Suite # 3
  Wausau, WI 54403
  Registration deadline Jan 9
- February 4th and 11th
  MAIL TO:
  UWEX Fond du Lac County
  Attn: Tina
  227 Admin/Extension Bldg
  400 University Drive
  Fond du Lac, WI 54935
  Registration deadline: Jan 28
- February 10th and 17th
  MAIL TO:
  UWEX Kewaunee County
  Attn: Aerica
  Kewaunee Co Admin Ctr
  810 Lincoln Street
  Kewaunee, WI 54216
  Registration deadline: Feb 3
LOCATION
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
2040 Airport Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313

REGISTRATION
Conference early-bird registration is $195 for the two-day conference or $125 for a single day. Registration fees increase after February 16th. Registration includes Tuesday lunch, Wednesday breakfast and lunch, daily refreshments, and conference proceedings. CEUs have been applied for.

Please register online at www.midwestmanure.com or by mailing/faxing the enclosed registration form and payment.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Platinum
Bauer North America
DairyBusiness
Manure Manager
Komro Sales

Gold
AgSource Laboratories
Digested Organics
Livestock Water Recycling, Inc
Puck Custom Enterprises, Inc

For more information...

www.midwestmanure.com
- OR -
Liz Binversie
Brown County Agriculture Educator
(920) 391-4612
elizabeth.binversie@uwex.edu

Eric Ronk
Calumet County Agriculture Agent
(920) 849-1450 Ext 2
eric.ronk@uwex.edu

Presentation Highlights...

Dr. John Chastain
Planning a Solid-Liquid Separation System to Meet Manure Treatment and Management Goals
There are many reasons to add solid-liquid separation to the manure management system on a particular farm. One of the critical steps in the planning process is to clearly define the immediate and future treatment and management goals. This presentation will provide a decision framework to assist in the selection and implementation of solid-liquid separation technologies that will meet farm-specific goals.

Dr. Kevin Janni
Manure Odor Management
Animal feeding operation owners and managers need to be aware of their emissions and the impact they have on their neighbors and community. Good neighbor relations and effective communications help identify odor problems and communicate actions to manage them. When considering mitigation practices weigh the costs, expected effectiveness, and how the practice fits into the overall operation while being mindful of neighbor and community concerns.

Dr. Mark Powell
The Rations We Feed Dairy Cattle Impact Manure Chemistry and Nutrient Dynamics in Soil, Water and Air
This talk will illustrate how different types and amounts of forages, concentrates, protein supplements and phosphorus (P) fed to dairy cows impact carbon, nitrogen and P in manure. Our results demonstrate that profitable rations can be fed to satisfy the nutritional demands of healthy, high production dairy cows while reducing manure nutrient excretion, and therefore, the environmental impacts of milk production.

Dr. Ariel Szogi
Nutrient Recovery Technologies from Animal Manure
Nutrient pollution is one of America’s most widespread, costly and challenging environmental problems, impacting many sectors of the U.S. economy. The presentation will feature a new ARS technology developed for recovery of nitrogen and phosphorus from animal manure and their potential use in dairy manure management systems.

Aaron Wunderlin
Evaluation of Feed Storage Leachate and Runoff System Design and Operation
As the use of bunker silos, stacking pads, silo bags, and commodity sheds are used more extensively for feed storage, concerns have arisen regarding the potential of leachate and runoff moving from these storage systems to waters of the state. On-farm research efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of current leachate system designs and provide new optimized design recommendations to maximize nutrient collection and minimize volume collection will be presented.

2015 Midwest Manure Summit
February 24 – 25, 2015
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
Green Bay, Wisconsin

www.midwestmanure.com
2015 Midwest Manure Summit—
Registration
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Business / Farm Name ____________________________
Name ________________________________________
Address ______________________________________
City __________________________ State _____
Zip _______ Phone ____________________________
Email ________________________________________
Payment Options
Check—Payable to UW-Madison
Credit Card—circle one:  Visa  Mastercard
Card # ____________________________
Expiration Date ________________________ 3-digit Code ______
Name on Card _________________________
Signature ________________________________
Early registration ends February 16th!

Pre-Conference Agenda
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Anaerobic Digestion System
Management
9:00 am  Registration and Refreshments
9:30 am  Welcome and Introductions; Current
State of Digestion in WI, the US, and
the World
9:45 am  Anaerobic Digestion Basics
Including Key Operating Parameters
10:50 am Anaerobic Digester Operator
Panel; Overview from Operators and
Q&A session
12:00 pm Lunch
1:15 pm  Generator Operation and Biogas
Treatment (to reduce impurities)
2:30 pm  Regulations and Safety
3:45 pm  Break
4:00 pm  Optimizing Anaerobic Digestion
Systems: Performance Evaluation
and Monitoring
4:50 pm  Wrap-up, Current Research and
Research Needs
5:00 pm  Break
5:30 pm  Dinner and Social

Conference Agenda
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
9:00 am  Registration and Refreshments
10:00 am The Rations Fed Dairy Cattle Impact
Manure Chemistry and Nutrient
Dynamics in Soil, Water and Air
- Mark Powell, USDA-ARS
11:00 am  Manure Irrigation in Wisconsin and
the Human Health Risk
- Dr. Mark Borchardt, UW-Madison
Manure Irrigation Practices and
Recommendations for Use
- Dr. Becky Larson, UW-Madison
12:15 pm Lunch
1:15 pm  Manure Economics
- Dr. Mark Stephenson, UW-Madison
2:00 pm  Breakout Sessions
A – Composting Virtual Tour
B – Manure Processing: Livestock
Water Recycling Systems
- Gordon Speirs, Shiloh Dairy, LLC
3:15 pm  Breakout Sessions
A – Evaluation of Feed Storage
Leachate and Runoff System Design
and Operation
- Aaron Wunderlin, UW-Discovery
Farms
B – Compact, Containerized
Anaerobic Digester: On-Farm
Energy Creation for Small-Medium
Dairies
- Doug Renk, BioFerm USA
4:10 pm  WI’s Livestock Facility Siting Law
- Richard Castelnuovo, WI DATCP
- Jerry Halverson, Manitowoc SWCD
5:00-7:00 pm Social / Cash bar

UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and
programming, including Title IX requirements. UW-Extension
programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color,
ethnic background, or economic circumstances. Please make
requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure access to
educational programs as early as possible preceding the event.
Requests will be kept confidential.
Milk prices for 2015 have been lowered from earlier forecasts. Milk prices are forecasted lower for two reasons—lower dairy exports and a higher level of milk production. The Class III price set a new record monthly high every month this year accept for December and will average about $4 higher for the year than last year. These record prices were driven by milk production increasing less than 2% for the first half of the year, good domestic sales and record dairy exports. But, exports are now declining. Milk production has been strong amongst major exporting countries. USDA, FAS estimates for 2014 milk production over 2013 are: Australia +3.2%, EU-28 +4.7%, New Zealand +7.4%, U.S. 2.4% and Argentina the exception with -0.9% for a total growth of 3.9%. While world milk production was higher two factors softened world imports of dairy products—the Russian ban on dairy imports from the EU and China reducing its imports from the first part of the year by more than 50%. China is the world’s largest importer of dairy products and Russia ranks 3rd with the combined total of these two countries accounting for about 20% of world imports. The net result has been a drop in world dairy products well below U.S. prices making U.S was no longer competitive. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar is also impacting exports. U.S. dairy exports were setting new records accounting for 17.7% of U.S. milk production back in March. But, with falling world prices exports started to slow. Butter exports through April were more than double the year before, but by May they fell below year ago levels. Nonfat dry milk exports fell below year ago levels by August and cheese by October. October exports compared to a year ago were down 82% for butter, 3% for cheese, 25% for nonfat dry milk and 9% for dry whey. October exports had fallen to 14.4% of U.S. milk production. While exports were declining higher U.S. prices were attracting dairy imports. Quota Imports January through November compared to the same period last year were 42% higher for butter and 12% higher for cheese.

Dairy exports could show some recovery during the second half of 2015. Milk prices are considerably lower for all major exporting countries which should slow the growth in world milk production in 2015. However, relatively low feed prices will help to sustain milk production. Russia is to stop the ban on EU imports in August, but this is uncertain. As China works off accumulated dairy stocks they are likely to resume importing by the second half of the year, but at a more conservative level. But, for the year U.S. dairy exports will be lower than 2014 exports.

USDA estimated total November milk production to be 3.4% higher than last year. Milk production for the past 5 months was 3.5% higher than a year ago. Milk cow numbers have been increasing slowly with November numbers just 4,000 head above October putting the increase since the end of last year at 78,000 head. November cow numbers were 0.9% higher than last year. Fourteen of the 23 reporting states had more milk cow than last year, 4 had no change and 5 had fewer cows. The biggest increase in cow numbers occurred in Texas with 30,000 head, followed by Michigan with 19,000 and Idaho with 12,000. Cow numbers were unchanged for California and down 1,000 head in Wisconsin. For the year cow numbers are estimated to average 9.255 million head, 0.4% higher than last year.

Improvement in milk per cow has been much bigger factor for increased milk production than more cows. November milk per cow was 2.4% higher than last year. For the year milk per cow is estimated to average 22,261 pounds, 2.0% higher than last year.

States having the highest increase in November milk production over a year ago were: Utah 7.9%, Texas 7.7%, Colorado 7.7%, Michigan 7.0%, and South Dakota 6.7%. California had 2.2% more milk and Wisconsin 2.8%. Total milk production for the year is estimated at 205.8 billion pounds, 2.3% more than last year.

The December Class III price will be near $17.75 compared to the peak of $24.60 back in September and $21.94 in November. But, as we move into 2015 increased milk production and lower exports means milk prices will fall further. By January the Class III price could be down to about $16.30 and falling to the $15's February through August before showing some strength and peaking in the high 16's in October or November. Some forecasters have the Class III price falling below $15 this spring which is not without a possibility. Not until the growth in milk production slows to 2% or less and/or exports pick up can we expect milk prices higher than this. Lower feed cost will easy some of the pain of lower milk prices, but margins will be far from the record margins experienced this year. One positive is an expected stronger growth in the economy during 2015 and dairy product prices will be lower, both of which should result in good growth in domestic sales to help to support milk prices.
THE CALUMET PIPELINE

We Extend the
CALUMET
to All Mankind