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\$22,550
for Youth Exhibitors



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Kentucky Milk Matters produced by Carey Brown

President's Corner Freeman Brundige



I have been involved in the milk marketing side of our business for about 50 years, guess that dates me, but I have never witnessed the amount of energy being spent on ways to reform or restructure our current pricing system. We in the Southeast have a lot at stake in the outcome of any changes that may take place. Therefore, it is important for our input in this discussion to represent our Kentucky dairy farmers and our neighbors.

As I have stated earlier, we at KDDC are working with national and regional organizations to make sure our views and interests are well represented. The American Farm Bureau and Ky Farm Bureau, along with the American Dairy Coalition and Southeast Stake Holders all are working hard to come up with changes that bring help to our farmers and have enough support to actually get it enacted.

The election this fall and the writing of a Farm Bill in 2023 increase the importance of the issues to be looked at this time. We feel our time and effort on this front is well justified. Please feel free to comment to me or any of the groups. Every dairy farmer in Kentucky is very important to us.

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- One-time full page black/white advertisement in KDDC Annual Report
- Name recognition in KDDC Milk Matters Newsletter
- Free booth space at KY Dairy Partners Meeting, includes one lunch ticket
- Voting Member of KDDC



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Full Page	\$400/\$450	\$380/\$428	\$360/\$405
1/2 Page	\$300/\$350	\$285/\$333	\$270/\$315
1/4 Page	\$200/\$250	\$190/\$238	\$180/\$225
Business Card	\$100/\$125	\$95/\$119	\$90/\$113

AD SIZE SPECIFICATIONS

Full page (bleed).....	8.75 x 11.25
Full page (no bleed).....	7.5 x 10
Half page (horizontal).....	7.5 x 4.875
Half page (vertical).....	3.625 x 4.875
Business Card.....	3.625 x 2.3

Executive Director Comments

H H Barlow



The dairy show just finished at the State Fair I believe it was very successful with over 500 entries. Sometimes I believe we miss another success at the State Fair and that is the general public actually seeing our beautiful

dairy animals as exhibited by this young family picture. It's the closest many of them will ever be to the farm. Congratulations to all the exhibitors who did a great job of showing their animals with their neat stalls and pretty displays.

For several years now KDDC has sponsored the cheese auction at the end of the youth show. We raised over \$22,000 for our 4H and FFA youth dairy exhibitors. Every year I'm amazed at all the new faces I see showing. Kentucky has an abundance of kids showing dairy cows. I honor all the parents, grandparents and friends who have helped getting these children excited about showing.

Milk pricing is still good at this time. July is the first month since October of 2021 that milk production was higher than the corresponding month a year ago. The European Union and Oceania's milk production is down as well.

The tightness of supply and demand remaining strong are good signs for milk pricing going into the fall. The June milk price of \$28/ cwt was an all time high. Predictions of the October milk price are \$25/cwt.

Unfortunately feed prices are not dropping as crop reports show that most states have a smaller yield average than last year. It appears the rains came late for our corn but the soybean crop looks excellent.

Fuel has dropped a little but overall inflation is a real problem for all of us. A major concern is what happens to dairy demand when all product prices are higher in the grocery store.

Two more Borden processing plants closed in the South this past month, one in Hattiesburg, MS and the other one in Dalton, Alabama. In talking with Borden officials in Dallas, both plants were unprofitable and the real estate these plants were on was very valuable. There were no producers put out of business with these closures because the farm production shifted to other plants.

I was assured the London, Ky. Borden plant was totally safe from closure. It's profitable and adding new equipment for expansion at this time. This is good news since we have 70 Kentucky producers who sell milk to this plant.

When you have these southern plants closing, it highlights the lack of milk production across the South. Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina and Louisiana all have under 50 dairies today. Tennessee is approaching only 100 dairies. Milk production needs to increase in the South to keep our southern processors operating.

KDDC's beef on dairy semen cost share program is going full steam ahead and will create some high value crossbred calves next year.

The KDDC grant proposal from the Ag Development Board that takes place every two years is coming up. As we plan for the next two years, we are looking for ideas that could help our industry.

The year 2022 has proven to be a better year than the past several years for dairymen. The 2023 farm Bill will play a major role in determining our milk price. Ky. Dairymen are supporting the "higher-of" Class III or Class IV price as the Class I mover instead of the average. KDDC is working hard to be involved in Federal Milk Marketing reform to benefit our producers.

Hallelujah, it's football season. I love football and tailgating. It's a great place to use a lot of cheese and celebrate Dairy!!!



KDDC Welcomes Tori Embry

KDDC is pleased to announce the addition of Tori Embry to our staff as central region consultant. Tori lives in Grayson County. Her dairy experience, education and enthusiasm will be an asset to all Kentucky dairymen and overall dairy industry. Thank you, Tori, for coming aboard.

I grew up on a small dairy farm in Richmond and received my Bachelors degree in Animal Studies from Eastern Kentucky University. I worked at Stateland Dairy while I was at Eastern and spent most of my time in the parlor and feeding bottle calves. After graduation, I spent a summer as a dairy research intern at WH Miner Agricultural Research Institute in upstate New York.

I continued to study dairy at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and earned my Masters in Animal Science. My research project looked at the behavior, welfare, and mastitis on organic, pasture-based dairy farms in Tennessee and Kentucky. I also helped with the Southeast Quality Milk Initiative, assisted with Dairy Science classes, and participated in a variety of industry meetings and conferences.



After graduating with my Masters in 2018, I moved to my husband's family farm in Leitchfield where we raise registered Charolais cattle with our son. I began working for Perdue Farms as a Flock Advisor and helped chicken farmers meet production goals and welfare standards. After 3 years with Perdue, I took a position with the University of Kentucky as an Agriculture Regulatory Specialist and inspected feed, seed, and fertilizer.

I'm looking forward to getting back into the dairy industry and working with farmers in the central region. I've always been interested in troubleshooting issues with mastitis, cow comfort, and overall milk production and I'm also very excited about combining my experience in the beef and dairy industries to help with KDDC's Beef on Dairy program. Please don't hesitate to reach out and say hi and let me know if there's anything I can help with!

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Dr. Ryan Quarles Agriculture Commissioner

The 118th Kentucky State Fair has wrapped up and once again hundreds of thousands came to witness the 11-day festival that is the Kentucky State Fair.

I was excited to see this year's fair return to more normal numbers of the past as attendance continued to increase over 2021 figures, along with an increase in the number of entries. Livestock competitors filled the West Wing, Hall, and Pavilion with 7,935 entries. FFA and 4-H participants contributed 7,938 entries, which were displayed in the South Wing. It was tremendous to see what these young people, the future of agriculture in our state and beyond, are doing to prepare themselves to take on their latest challenges.

From raising and showing their award-winning animals, to showcasing their skills on the FFA and 4-H stages, the future looks like it's in good hands. It was an honor to see them work, speak with them, and for many, award their hard-work with a ribbon and check.

But, the state fair is much more than competition, it's also a time to showcase our state's agricultural roots and to reintroduce many to the way of life their ancestors once knew. In the South Wing, AgLand, with more than an acre of agriculture exhibits, welcomed people to get better educated about the basics – and the science – behind agriculture. At the Kentucky State Fair, you see why we're Kentucky Proud of our agriculture industry and why you should feel the same.

That pride for Kentucky agriculture was felt on the green shavings of Broadbent Arena as livestock competitors competed against the best of the best for the honor to be named top in their class. While the competitors came away with prize money and award banners, we all won a little on the night of the Championship Drive presented by Farm Credit Mid-America when I had the pleasure to announce that the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board had awarded the Kentucky Exposition Foundation a \$1 million endowment to invest in Kentucky's agricultural youth.

The Kentucky Exposition Foundation is the result of conversations we've had at the State Fair Board about ways to strategically invest in the future of 4-H, FFA and youth programs at the Kentucky Exposition Center. While the \$1 million endowment is a great seed investment, there's one string attached. Over the next 10 years, we are asking FFA, 4-H, and the public to match it, enabling us to increase premiums and support youth activities at the State Fair and other State Fair Board hosted events for our youth.

Just minutes after our announcement, Kentucky's "Mr. Agriculture," Warren Beeler pledged the first \$10,000 to the cause, sharing that he was pledging \$1,000 a year for the next 10 years on behalf of himself and his family. If we all pull together

for Kentucky's agricultural youth, we can reach this milestone and far beyond over the next decade.

While this endeavor takes place, we were also pleased to have the General Assembly recognize the popularity and importance of the home for our State Fair and several youth programs when state lawmakers approved a \$180 million appropriation for renovations for the Kentucky Exposition Center this past session. With the plans being developed, we look forward to newer and better facilities in the coming years.

We look forward to all the exciting changes in the future of our agricultural shows.

If you want to be a part of these exciting changes, you can pledge your sponsorship, too. Contributions or donations to the Kentucky Exposition Foundation can be sent to:

Kentucky Exposition Foundation, Inc.
401 West Main Street, Suite 400
Louisville, KY 40202
Attention: Scott Shoenberger



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How Do I Know My Inoculant Is Working?

Andy Skidmore DVM, Ph.D., Lallemand Animal Nutrition

It's difficult for farms to precisely evaluate the impact of an inoculant. Field characteristics, planting and harvesting decisions, weather, feedout timing and inoculant choices all affect silage quantity and quality..

Here's what we do have: Volumes of research data to indicate specific inoculants help improve forage quality, dry matter nutrient retention and aerobic stability. One university, farm-scale research program was published in the Journal of Dairy Science. Eight, 12-foot bag silos were filled with corn silage. Bag filling was alternated between MAGNIVA Titanium-inoculated forage and forage not inoculated at all. After 166 days of ensiling, 1,100 pounds of silage was removed every day for 35 days. The silage was separated into good and spoiled silage (visibly moldy or darker). The amount of spoiled silage was reduced by 56% in the inoculated group.

Item	MAGNIVA Titanium	Control
DM of good silage	34.8	34.1
Crude protein of good silage	9.55	9.47
NDF of good silage	41.3	41.7
pH of good silage*	3.91	3.99
Yeast count (log CFU/g)*	2.59	4.62
Spoiled silage (% of total silage)*	3.4	7.8

*P-value <0.05

Research like this helps isolate the impact of an inoculant when evaluating its effect on silage. Still, there are many indicators that can be seen during ensiling and feedout, such as:

- Heat given off by the silage when covering it
- The amount of spoilage on the top of the silage
- The amount of shrink observed over time on the sidewalls of the silo or via drone technology
- How long it takes feed to heat up in the feed bunk, especially in the summer
- Fermentation profiles of the silage
- How well the cows perform on the feed
- The amount of effluent seeping out after harvest

Here's my top recommendation based on reviewing reams of research and talking to producers across the country: Always use a research-proven inoculant with data from independent institutions and universities. Remember that data is specific to the products and strains used in those studies and not generic.

A proven inoculant can help preserve nutrients you have worked so hard to produce. I really love the following quote:

"You wouldn't lime, fertilize, till, and roll a new hayfield and then let whatever grows to be your hay crop. You plant what you want to grow. The same with silage. Don't grow and harvest highly digestible forage and let whatever garbage is floating in the air that day do the 'fermentation.'" - Tom Kilcer, Advanced Ag Systems, Crop Soil News, September 2021

Let a research-proven inoculant be your tool to help produce a quality, consistent nutrient source for your cows.



Kentucky 4-H State Dairy Judging Contest held at EKU's Meadowbrook farm on August 4th was another successful competition with 40 youth across the state coming out to judge at this year's event. This year there were 5 classes total to judge, Holstein 3 year olds, Holstein 2 year olds, Brown Swiss 2 year olds, Brown Swiss Summer Yearlings and Holstein Senior calves.

Preparation for the event started well before the August 4th date as UK 4-H youth specialist Larissa Hayes came months before to select animals that would put the skills of the youth participants to the test. Staff at the Stateland Dairy helped prepare the animals by breaking them to lead and prepping them the day of the judging contest. The contest was concluded by an awards banquet including milk and ice cream at the Madison County Extension Office where participants were recognized for their achievements of the day.





Kentucky State 4-H Dairy Judging Results

Junior Division - Team

Overall, Holstein and Brown Swiss Team Winner went to Shelby County

Team members were Sophie Franklin, Virginia Sageser, Caleb Lipps, and Mason Way.

Senior Division - Team

Overall, Holstein and Brown Swiss Team Winner went to Cumberland County

Team members were Cannon Stanley, Matthew Spears, Autumn Sells, Sidney Acree and Lance Willen

Junior Division - Individual

In the Overall individual placings were 1st place, Payton Towe of Allen County, 2nd place, Cade Huffman of Metcalfe County and 3rd place, Sophie Franklin of Shelby County.

In the Brown Swiss Class individual placings were 1st place, Sophie Franklin, Shelby County, 2nd place, Attie Taylor of Barren County and 3rd place, Payton Towe of Allen County.

In the Holstein Class individual placings were 1st place, Cade Huffman of Metcalfe County, 2nd place, Abby Jewel of Barren County and 3rd place, Payton Towe of Allen County.

Senior Division - Individual

In the Overall individual placings were 1st place, Kendall Shepherd of Spencer County, 2nd place, Cannon Staley of Cumberland County and 3rd place, Matthew Spears of Cumberland County.

In the Brown Swiss Class individual placings were 1st place, Kendall Shepherd of Spencer County, 2nd place, Autumn Sells of Cumberland County and 3rd place, Cannon Staley of Cumberland County.

In the Holstein Class individual placings were 1st place, Cannon Staley of Cumberland County, 2nd place, Seth Morgan of Spencer County and 3rd place, Matthew Spears Cumberland County

Dixie Dairy Report

September 2022

Calvin Covington

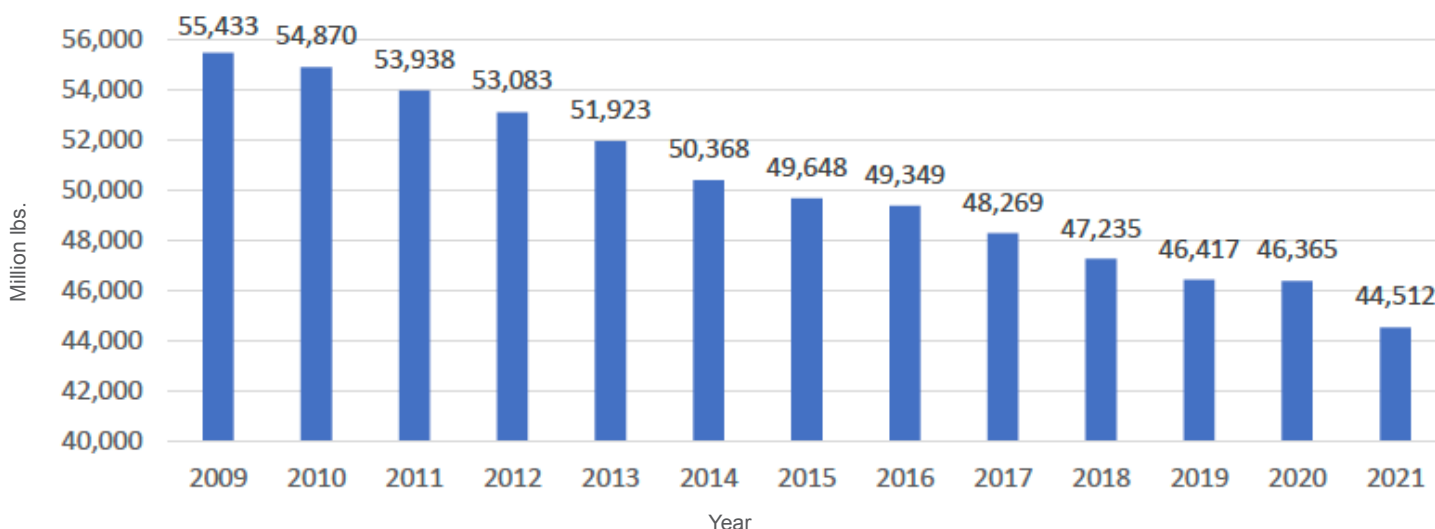
Fluid milk sales. On August 31, USDA released its annual fluid milk sales report. 2021 fluid sales totaled 44.512 billion lbs. which is 4% lower than 2020. Since 2009, fluid milk sales declined almost 11 billion lbs. or 20%. See table below. A review of the historical data shows between 1985 and 2010, annual fluid milk sales were relatively stable, between 54-55 billion lbs. The downward spiral in fluid sales started in 2010. This is the same year federal legislation was enacted limiting fluid milk in the school lunch program to skim or unflavored 1% milk. Granted they are other reasons contributing to fluid milk's decline, but in my opinion this legislation is a primary reason.

Whole milk continues to increase its share of total fluid milk sales. In 2011, whole milk represented 26% of total fluid sales.

Last year whole milk's share increased to 36%. During the same time period reduced fat dropped from 65% to 51% of total sales. 2021 was a good year for flavored milk sales increasing 14.5% from the previous year. Flavored milk sales exceeded skim sales in 2021. Even though buttermilk only represents about 1% of total fluid sales, buttermilk sales increased 8% in 2021. And, for the third consecutive year eggnog sales increased.

So far in 2022 fluid milk sales are declining less than 2021. Through the first six months of 2022, packaged fluid milk sales are down 2.3%, better than last year's 4.0% decline. All of 2022 sales decline is reduced fat milk, down 5.1%. Conventional whole milk sales are up 1.2% and flavored whole milk is up 2.1%. Even though the total reduced fat category is down, flavored reduced fat sales are up 11.2%. Compared to the rest of the country, fluid milk sales in the three Southeastern federal orders, especially Florida, are doing much better than the national average. As shown below, first half fluid sales are only down 0.9% in the three orders, combined, but are up 3.2% in Florida and 1.2% in the Appalachian orders.

ANNUAL FLUID MILK SALES (2009-2021)



SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL ORDERS • PACKAGED FLUID MILK SALES— 2022 VS 2021 (JANUARY-JUNE)

ORDER	2021	2022	Change
	(Million lbs)		(%)
APPALACHIAN	1,640	1,660	1.2%
FLORIDA	1,273	1,314	3.2%
SOUTHEAST	1,928	1,823	-5.5%
TOTAL	4,841	4,797	-0.9%

Milk production. USDA reports July milk production 0.2% higher than last July. June milk production was revised down to 0.1% instead of up 0.2%. For the year-to-date, production is 0.6% lower. In the 24 milk reporting states, production was higher or no change in 11 states and lower in the other 13 states. South Dakota and Georgia continue to lead the pack in higher production up 13.1% and 12.3%, respectively. Florida showed the largest production decline, down 11.4%. In the nation's two largest milk producing states, July production was up 2.2% in California and down 0.3% in Wisconsin. Dairy cow numbers grew by 1,000 head in July to 9.416 million head, but 67,000 head less than a year ago. USDA estimated milk per cow was 0.9% greater in July compared to a year ago.

As stated above, milk production continues to expand in Georgia and shrink in Florida. Through the first seven months of the year, Florida and Georgia production are almost identical. Florida production is 1.206 billion lbs. 10.6% lower than last year. Georgia production is 1.194 billion lbs., 11.6% more than a year ago. Year-to-date production in Virginia, the other Southeast reporting state, is 855 million lbs., down 3.0%.

Dairy product prices. Butter set another record high price in August, while other dairy product prices moved lower. The August National Dairy Products Sales Report (NDPSR) butter price was \$2.9792/lb. July butter inventory is 20.7% lower than last July and the lowest July butter inventory in several years. Market reports indicate cream availability remains tight, with much cream going to uses other than butter. Cheese declined over \$0.20/lb. in August to \$1.9761/lb. July cheese inventory was a record monthly high. Through June, American cheese disappearance is 1.8% lower than last year. Nonfat dry milk powder (NDM) fell over \$0.13/lb. to \$1.6690/lb. in August. Compared to a year ago, domestic skim milk powder disappearance is down 9.3% and exports down 18.2%. The August dry whey price was \$0.5045/lb., \$0.04 lower than July. Based on current CME activity, butter will continue its record high price in September with cheese prices trending lower.

Blend prices. The continuing wide spread between Class III and IV skim prices keeps lowering the Class I Mover compared to the previous "higher of" method. For September the Mover was \$1.69/cwt. lower compared to the previous method. As shown below, July blend prices were lower in all three orders compared to June. The smaller decline in the Southeast order was due to Class I utilization increasing from 62% in June to 70% in July. August blend prices are projected about \$0.50/cwt. lower than July. Blend prices are projected to continue declining through the remainder of the year. December blend prices in all three orders are projected about \$4.00/cwt. lower than the year's peak blend prices in June. For the coming months, butterfat will make up a higher percent of the total blend price. Producer butterfat prices will exceed \$3.40/lb. in all three orders, a record high price

PROJECTED* BLEND PRICES – Base Zones – SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL ORDERS			
MONTH	APPALACHIAN	FLORIDA	SOUTHEAST
	(\$/cwt. at 3.5% butterfat – base zone)		
JUNE 2022	\$28.52	\$30.60	\$28.74
JULY	\$28.14	\$30.29	\$28.71
AUGUST	\$27.74	\$29.74	\$28.26
SEPTEMBER	\$26.36	\$28.47	\$26.67
OCTOBER	\$25.32	\$27.20	\$25.64
NOVEMBER	\$25.02	\$26.92	\$25.20

*projections in bold

Calvin Covington, ccovington5@cs.com, 352-266-7576

Milk Prices

FMMO 5

www.malouisville.com

August 2022

Class 1 Advanced Price

(@3.5%BF)

\$28.80

September 2022

Class 1 Advanced Price

(@3.5%BF)

\$27.29

FMMO 7

www.fmmlatlanta.com

August 2022

Class 1 Advanced Price

(@3.5%BF)

\$29.43

September 2022

Class 1 Advanced Price

(@3.5%BF)

\$27.92



H&S Dairy

Farm Family Feature

H&S dairy is located on the Butler- Warren County line. H&S is a 3 way partnership between Ben Hunt, Jeff Schwartz and Michael Hunt.

The partnership started in a unique way. Ben and Jeff were UK roommates in 1977 and they stayed close throughout their college career. Upon graduation they went to Ben's home farm and started milking with 45 cows. Jeff is a native of Boone County in Northern Kentucky.

They grew their dairy to over 135 cows and in 1996 they put up four chicken houses. They all agreed the chicken houses were a strong addition to their farm's financial health.

In 2002, Ben's son Michael graduated from UK. He went to Eastern Kentucky for a while but the freedom of farming in his blood brought him back to his home farm in Butler Co. Michael became a partner in H&S dairy in 2014 and expansion was the order of the day.

Their major expansion included a new compost bedded pack barn, a new dry cow and transition barn and improvements to their forage handling facilities. They also have a new calf barn

with automatic group calf feeders and some modern ventilation systems.

For the last three years H&S has a herd average over 30,000 pounds while milking 250 to 300 cows. Michael credited this increase in milk production to 3 times a day milking, dry cow cooling and extremely good nutrition directed by Joe Sparrow.

H&S is an example of one generation passing on to the next one. In discussing this with them and observing them for several years, one common theme has been one of cooperation among the three partners. They have a common goal, trust each other and strive for improvement in everything they do. They understand the importance of financial analysis and planning. Michael is concerned about the lack of competition in milk marketing and the control one Coop has over the price received for milk. He is concerned about the future of his size farm to continue to be successful when compared to larger scale dairies.

H&S will continue to be successful in the future, because of the many attributes this partnership exhibits in every aspect of dairy farm management. It was a pleasure to meet with the families and talk about our mutual future in dairying.



Dairy Pricing and the Farm Bill

The 2023 Farm Bill is incredibly important for agriculture, but for the dairy industry, many say it is crucial for the survival of farms across the country. Since the 2018 Farm Bill the industry has experienced a global pandemic, supply chains issues, and increased feed costs. What felt like a minor change to Producer Price Differentials (PPDs), made a large deficit in many producers' bottom line.

In the last year and a half, numerous dairy organizations and legislators have given input on how to fix dairy pricing through different avenues ranging from simple legislation to Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) hearings. In April, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack stated that the dairy industry needs to nail down a milk pricing plan and come to a consensus as an industry before changes can be made. This poses a challenge to an industry with marketing structures varying by region. However, this has not stopped organizations from bringing together producers, state commodity groups, and industry representatives, to dive in on what methods

truly help those producing the milk while maintaining a marketing structure. The American Dairy Coalition released its Federal Milk Pricing Policy Priorities mid-July after months of webinars, emails, and surveys of their membership (priorities can be found at <https://bit.ly/3TTBpwT>). That same week, the National Association of State Dairy Organizations held a meeting in Chicago, IL, sponsored by National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). Among other topics, NMPF presented their draft FMMO reform package and accepted feedback from state representatives present.

Next up is American Farm Bureau Federation, who will be hosting an industry-wide dairy conference to discuss dairy pricing and meaningful changes to the FMMO system. This meeting will be October 14-16 in Kansas City, Missouri with both Kentucky Farm Bureau members and Kentucky dairy producers registered to attend (information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3AUoS3B>).

Secretary Vilsack stated, "the only way this works for the industry is to do the hard job of listening to one another." I believe the dairy industry is taking that statement and running with it, and what better time than going into the 2023 Farm Bill.



Wildcat Wisdom

Donna Amaral-Phillips

UK Dairy Extension Group



Higher Commodity Prices, Forage Shortages, Lower Energy Corn Silage—Now What Do We Do?

Mother Nature sure has played havoc with many planned dairy feeding programs for the upcoming feeding season. Lack of timely rains and higher than normal temperatures at key corn plant development stages have resulted in reduced corn silage yields and/or variable grain-fill within and between fields at some locations. The weather also has resulted in an earlier than expected feeding of stored forages to grazing heifers and dry cows for some; thus further reducing forages available for feeding this winter season. Recent rains and moderating temperatures may help reverse some of these trends, but a lot of the damage to crops has already occurred. To add insult to injury, grain commodity prices are currently higher than a year ago; more than likely increasing contracted-grain costs this fall on top of the need to feed more purchased grain mixes to replace lower energy content of corn silage. All of these feeding program challenges are occurring along with higher overall input costs. Thank goodness, milk prices are more favorable at this time.

From a farm business management standpoint, these multiple challenges can be overwhelming. To design economical feeding programs which concurrently maximize income over feed costs, one must step back and develop a proactive, not reactive, feeding plan for not only the milking herd, but dry cows and heifers. By breaking this process into manageable pieces, one can more easily develop a plan for feeding this fall and winter which capitalizes on stronger milk prices and uses one's stored forages most efficiently.

Begin by Taking Stock of Your Situation

Managing the unknown, or worse yet an assumed situation, often results in inefficiencies and higher costs in the end. Without accurate assessments of the quality and quantity of forages available, one could easily run out of forage before the next crop is ready for harvest, have even greater feed costs than necessary, or misuse your forage supply on cattle not requiring a particular quality of forages. Thus, taking stock of one's assets and using them wisely can pay dividends in more optimal feed usage, feed costs, and resulting milk production for the upcoming winter feeding season.

One of the first indications the amount of forages or corn grain in storage may be limiting, revolves around noticing that storage structures (i.e. barn, silos/numbers of bags, bins) are "less full" than normal. Although this assessment indicates the forage supply may indeed be limiting, no clear shortfall amounts can be discerned and then used for planning purposes. At the conclusion of the forage harvest season, the first step, regardless of the year's crop growing conditions, is to take an accurate inventory of stored forages (and corn grain, if grown on-farm) on hand (i.e. alfalfa hay, corn silage, small grain silage), including those harvested this year or left over from previous years. This inventory should be sorted and labeled regarding different

cuttings, crops, and whether different amounts of grain-fill were noted for corn harvested as silage. Different types and quality of forages then can be allocated for feeding to different classes of dairy cattle on the farm. This approach allows one to best match the nutritional needs of different groups of cattle with the best choice of available forages and to prevent running out before the start of the next harvest season.

Forage samples should be taken such that they reflect the different qualities of forages available. With this information, one can parcel out the available forages to various groups of milking cows, dry cows, and heifers, determine additional amount of grain needed, and decide the best way to correct for the shortages of various nutrients, i.e. energy or fiber, usually provided by forages. The highest quality forages need to be reserved for the milking herd, especially the fresh and early lactation cows. For example, if one field harvested as corn silage has less corn grain, it would be best used for the heifers and dry cows versus the milking herd, if it was stored or can be accessed separately. Older heifers and dry cows do not have as high of energy needs as cows in the milking herd, and are a better fit for the lower energy corn silage. Besides the routine analysis for nutrient content, nitrate content should be measured to avoid problems at feeding. (Nitrates are reduced by approximately 50% in the fermentation process for silages.) Most feed companies routinely ask for this component to be included in lab testing, especially in years with drought conditions, but check to make sure it was run.

Think Outside the Box When Developing a "Feeding Plan" for the Year

Once one has a true understanding of what quality and quantity of forages are available to be fed, a game plan can be developed with the help of your nutritionist which best utilizes the available forages along with the addition of economical commodities available for purchase. Remember that cows require nutrients and not ingredients per se in their diets. Different combinations of forages, byproducts, and grains can be used to meet the nutritional needs of the group of cattle. From a price standpoint, byproducts, i.e. soyhulls, corn gluten feed, or wet brewer's grains, tend to move with the prices of corn and soybean meal, so all have seen price increases along with increased prices for corn and beans.

Nutritionists balance rations that optimize performance at a reasonable cost. From year-to-year, different amounts and ingredients are used to reflect the nutrient content of forages, availability of byproducts, and advanced-purchase prices of commodities. If your corn silage is lower in energy this year, understand that additional commodities and by-products will need to be purchased to replace the missing corn grain in the silage. Thus, these diets will have more purchased feeds and carry higher cash outlay for them.

Some considerations to decrease feed costs or replace forages in the diet could include:

- Corn silage with less than optimal corn kernel development contains less energy and this reduced amount of energy (i.e. starch) needs to be replaced if milk production, reproduction, and overall health is to be maintained. In normal years, 50% of the weight of corn silage comes from the corn grain itself and thus the energy associated with this crop. Generally, these rations contain more grain than those in normal years, and cost more unfortunately.
- If balanced to provide adequate, but not excessive amounts of starch in the diet, greater amounts of commodities, i.e. grains, can be fed to replace forage as well as provide the missing energy content. However, adequate amounts of effective fiber, i.e. chew factor, are needed in the diet for sufficient cud chewing activity and saliva production to maintain butterfat production and prevent health problems associated with acidosis. Butterfat is at a premium in today's market, so this should be a priority to maintain.
- Wet by-products can replace some of the forage in the diet. When pricing the use of this by-product, the moisture (dry matter) content and expected shrink needs to be considered. Generally, shrink (or what some call waste) is higher with wet-commodities, usually at 20 to 30% compared to dry commodities at 3 to 5%. A concrete pad is needed to store this product, it works best in a TMR, and unless stored in a bag, needs to be fed out within 2 to 3 days in the summer and less than a week during the colder parts of the year.
- Purchase additional forage in the form of hay or late-planted standing corn from a neighbor as long as the corn plant is not too dry. (Moisture content of the chopped corn plant needs to be greater than 60% or less than 40% dry matter.) Plant additional/different crops for supplemental forage production this fall or spring. Rye is harvested earlier than wheat in the spring. Winter mixtures of forages (i.e. brassicas- turnips) can be grazed by heifers to extend forage supplies for the milking herd, but timing for planting these is getting late.
- Remember to review rations with your nutritionist on an on-going basis to reflect changing forage availability and quality.
- Review production records and sell cows that are no longer profitable. If one raises their own replacements, make sure that an adequate, but not excessive, number are being raised. Commonly, dairy herds have 75 to 80% the number of replacements compared to number of mature cows.
- Make sure to balance rations for the dry cows and heifers. If one can reduce the amount of grain needed daily by 2 lbs per head, a savings per head of approximately 550 lbs of grain can be realized over a 9-month feeding period. Just think of the feed cost savings this would result in over the stored feeding season.
- Limit feed heifers a specially formulated diet. Heifers are usually fed forages, hay, or grass-based silage more or less free choice. With limit-fed type diets, heifers are fed a higher energy diet that might contain less total pounds of forages. Thus, these heifers are fed less total pounds of feed, but receive the nutrients they need in a smaller package.

Don't Take for Granted Ongoing Feeding Practices- Poor Habits Can Be Costly

Feeding practices impact the cost and amount of forages, grains, and

other feeds used on a dairy. Feeds must be kept fresh and free of mold, stored in a manner to reduce waste, and fed in the correct amounts to ensure cows and youngstock get the nutrients they need for optimal milk production and growth. By reviewing feeding practices with those directly involved in feeding the cows and heifers, one can make the best use of financial and forage resources. Remember that this review process is one that must be continuous throughout the year.

- Make sure that the milking cows can easily reach and consume "quality feed" at all times. Pay attention to the amount of feed remaining at the next feeding, but especially at the morning feeding to ensure that feed is available over-night. If you are one that likes to feed for minimal feed wastage, cows should be fed when the bunk becomes close to "empty" and not just at the scheduled feeding time.
- If cows consume all of their TMR feed, the group should be fed as if more cows are in the group with an increase in the amount of all feeds, not just the forage or cheaper component. A feeding sheet with different numbers of cows can help make this process easier at feeding times. Feeding software programs are available to track amounts fed to groups of cows, calculate feed usage and feed shrink on farm, and thus provide a valuable piece of information when managing the feeding program.
- Review that the proper amounts of all ingredients are added to the TMR mixer or fed to individual cows in tiestall barns. Scales should be checked for accuracy and the contents of scoops and "5-gallon buckets" should be weighed to make sure adequate, but not excessive, amounts are being fed.
- Minimize feed shrink or feed wastage at feed out (i.e. spillage) and when placed in the grain or commodity shed bin (minimize wind losses).
- Cover all silage storage structures with plastic and oxygen barrier film so that the "plastic" is in constant contact with the silage top surface (the role of tire walls that touch). Ensure that plastic remains in tight contact with the silage surface throughout the feeding year.
- At feedout or when loading silage into a TMR, remove silage from the storage structure such that a smooth, fresh silage face is left at the conclusion of removing silage for a feeding. In bunkers and piles, silage should be removed using a top down action with either a skid steer/tractor bucket or defacer. Removing silage by inserting the bucket into the middle or bottom floor of the face and lifting upward allows air to enter the silage directly behind the face and initiates silage heating and silage losses.

Don't Become Complacent

Forage inventories, rations, and feeding practices should be continually reviewed. Many times, it is easier to put a feeding plan in place in the fall and just assume that nothing has changed as the feeding season progresses. Today's financial climate requires that one constantly look for ways to more frugally use one's resources, in this case homegrown and purchased forages and commodities. Sometimes challenges that Mother Nature provides us may be a blessing in disguise. By re-examining feeding programs and being willing to alter tried-and true previous practices, the end result may be better and result in as, if not more, economical business practices. Sometimes we just need to make lemonade out of those lemons we are challenged with.

Congratulations to all the Youth Dairy Exhibitors

Author

Ayrshire

Junior Champion: Tre Wright,
Elizabethtown. Reserve Junior Champion:
Rylan Pike, Hardyville.

Grand Champion: Tre Wright,
Elizabethtown. Reserve Grand Champion:
Chelsie Watts, Harrodsburg

Champion Showperson: Payton Towe,
Scottsville

Brown Swiss

Junior Champion: Colt Buckley
Lawrenceburg. Reserve Junior Champion:
Luke Buckley Lawrenceburg

Grand Champion: Emily Goode Liberty.
Reserve Grand Champion: Kelly Jo
Manion Edmonton

Champion Showperson: Emily Goode
Liberty

Guernsey

Junior Champion: Leah Jenkins,
Harrodsburg. Reserve Junior Champion:
Katie Oesterritter, Eminence

Grand Champion: Caden McIntire,

Edmonton. Reserve Grand Champion:
Caden McIntire, Edmonton

Champion Showperson: Morgan
Berryman, Nicholasville

Holstein

Junior Champion: Luke Buckley,
Lawrenceburg. Reserve Junior
Champion: Colt Buckley Lawrenceburg

Grand Champion: Hudson Spoonamore,
Stanford. Reserve Grand Champion:
Emily Goode, Liberty

Champion Showperson: Brooke Bennett,
Cynthiana

Premier Breeder: Brooke Bennett,
Cynthiana

Premier Exhibitor: Emily Goode, Liberty

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Springs. Reserve Junior Champion: Elise
Carpenter, Russell Springs

Grand Champion: Jackson Powers,
Salvisa. Reserve Grand Champion: Elise
Carpenter, Russell Springs

Champion Showperson: Elise Carpenter,

Russell Springs

Milking Shorthorn

Junior Champion: Tre Wright,
Elizabethtown. Reserve Junior Champion:
Skyla Lawless, Russell Springs

Grand Champion: Tre Wright,
Elizabethtown. Reserve Grand Champion:
Payton Towe, Scottsville

Champion Showperson: Virginia Sageser,
Shelbyville

Red & White

Junior Champion: Brooke Bennett,
Cynthiana. Reserve Junior Champion: Tre
Wright, Elizabethtown

Grand Champion: Emily Goode, Liberty

Champion Showperson: Skyla Lawless,
Russell Springs

Supreme Heifer

Colt Buckley

Supreme Cow

Jackson Powers



Milk. A part of everything that's good.

Southland Dairy Farmers Fall 2022 Calendar of Events

We invite you to join our Mobile Dairy Classroom at one of our public events! See a live milking demonstration and receive a great education on the benefits of dairy in a daily diet.

Kentucky State Fair – August 18 – 28, Louisville
Monroe County Farm Bureau Farm Day, August 30, Tompkinsville
Madison County 4-H Farm Field Day, September 6 & 7, Richmond
CPC Field Day, September 8, Location, Fountain Run
Campbellsville Elementary School, September 9, Campbellsville
Rockfield Elementary School, September 13, Bowling Green
Pleasant Grove Elementary School, September 14, Mount Washington
Mt. Washington Elementary School, September 15, Mount Washington
Hawthorne Elementary School, September 16, Louisville
Fall on the Farm, September 21 – 24, Murray
Farm to Plate Ag Day, September 29 & 30, Princeton
Crittenden Elementary School, September 30, Marion
Creeside Elementary School, October 12, Sonora, KY
Booker T. Washington Elementary School, October 13, Lexington-Fayette Urban
New Highland Elementary School, October 14, Elizabethtown
Stockmans College, October 15, Shelbyville
Henderson Co. G&T, October 17 – 20, Henderson
Barren Ag Day, October 21, Temple Hill
Dairy U, October 22, Shelbyville
Shelby Valley Visit, October 28, Pikeville
Western Kentucky Football Game, October 29, Bowling Green
Cornerstone Christian Academy, November 1, Shelbyville
Science Hill Ind, November 2, Science Hill
Guild Elementary School, November 3, Gallatin
North American International Livestock Exhibition, November 4 – 17, Louisville
Daviess Co Schools, November 16 & 17, Owensboro
Richardsville Elementary School, November 18, Bowling Green
Christmas on the Farm – Scholarship Fundraiser, November 19, Cave City

Popular The Dairy Alliance Offerings Encourage Milk Consumption Amongst Students

As schools return for the fall semester, The Dairy Alliance has held meetings for program offerings and trainings on numerous dairy-focused programs, but Moo Brew has been of special interest to many school systems.

The Dairy Alliance offers Moo Brew to middle and high school students for breakfast and lunch service. Moo Brew is a program designed to appeal to older students' tastes while providing nutritious milk. Cafeteria staff simply prepare iced coffee to be blended with 8 oz of real milk and a pump or two of flavored syrups. Students love the customization of their iced beverages.

Another popular program returning this school year is bulk milk dispensers. In addition to the dispensers reducing mealtime waste, by offering fresh, cold milk, students are happily choosing milk at mealtimes, often returning during their meal for more.

Staff member Alan Curtsinger has been busy traveling around Kentucky to help school cafeteria staff prepare for the influx of students. These trainings provide dairy delicious samples and grant opportunities for cafeteria equipment that will help safely and efficiently serve students.

These milk-focused programs help students not only receive healthy meals, but also to have the energy they need to succeed during their school day and after-school programs.

Dairy Good Times at Kentucky State Fair

The Kentucky State Fair, held this year August 8-18, puts agriculture in the spotlight. The fair traditionally brings 600,000 people from across Kentucky to Louisville, making the event a great opportunity to share dairy's story with people ready to celebrate the state's products and traditions. With daily milking demonstrations, livestock shows (including the Youth Dairy Costume Contest), and sponsorships and exhibitions from The Dairy Alliance and Kentucky's dairy farmers, visitors were sure to get an up-close glimpse at the daily lives of the state's producers.

The Dairy Alliance exhibits across the Southeast during fair season to share ice cold milk and dairy nutrition information with attendees. The Dairy Alliance has become a part of the state fair tradition for many, with guests stopping by yearly for cow fans, fresh milk, and chats with dairy farmers.



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Calendar of Events

SEP 22 KDDC Board Meeting, Adair Co. Extension Office, 10:30 AM C.T.

OCT 03-06 KDDC Young Dairy Producers Bus Tour, World Dairy Expo. Madison, Wi

NOV 1-17 North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY
