



National
Milk Producers
Federation

News for Dairy Co-Ops

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Market Prices

Mad-Cow Case Closed, Demonstrates Need for National Animal ID System

U.S. Department of Agriculture investigators have closed their investigation into the most recent U.S. case of mad cow disease case in Alabama without learning the animal's origins, and said that their fruitless search highlights the need for a proposed national livestock identification program.

The ten-year-old Alabama beef cow, which was diagnosed with BSE in March and didn't enter the food chain, was breeding stock and most likely contracted the disease by eating contaminated rations in the first year of its life. Investigators were trying to find the infected cow's birthplace to track down other cows that probably ate the same feed.

"If we had been dealing with a highly-contagious disease, we wouldn't have reacted quickly enough," said Ron Sparks, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

The U.S. is far behind Canada, the European Union and other countries that have elaborate systems to trace sick animals in order to isolate disease outbreaks.

National Milk has taken the necessary steps to push the dairy industry to the forefront of the animal ID program through IDairy. The group has posted tag standards for producers benefit and distributed those standards to tag manufactures so they can comply with the industries needs. For more information on IDairy visit the [website](#).

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NMPF Works in Congress to Clarify Superfund Regulation of Farms

NMPF has joined a recently formed coalition, the Farmers for Clean Air and Water Coalition, to address the issue of whether livestock operations, including dairy farms, should be regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

The intent of the coalition is to petition to Congress to clarify that livestock manure should not be included in the meaning of "hazardous substance" or "pollutant or contaminant" under CERCLA, or be subject to the reporting requirements of EPCRA.

Because of the efforts of the coalition, House bill HR 4341 has been introduced, and now has 142 cosponsors. There will soon be companion bill introduced in the Senate. You can contact your Representatives and ask them to cosponsor HR 4341 by using NMPF's [Dairy GREAT website](#).

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NMPF Works to Secure Funding for National Johne's Disease Program

The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee recently approved its version of the Fiscal Year 2007 spending bill. The dairy industry had three items of particular interest in the bill.

The first was funding for the Johne's Disease Control Program. Funding for this program was approved by the subcommittee at \$7.7 million. This was slightly above the funding proposed by the Appropriations Committee last year, but well below the final funding figure ultimately agreed to with the Senate in 2006, at \$13.5 million. It is also higher than the \$3 million included in President Bush's proposed budget this year. The full House Appropriations Committee will take up the bill shortly, and is expected to incorporate the \$7.7 million funding level set by the appropriations subcommittee in the final bill.

NMPF will focus on urging the Senate to include funding of \$18.7 million in its version of the bill, which is expected to be dealt with later this spring.

The other two programs of note for dairy producers in this year's appropriations process are the Market Access Program (MAP), and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program. The subcommittee's bill included funding of \$200 million for MAP and \$34.5 million for FMD, thereby meeting the levels authorized for each program under the 2002 Farm Bill.

Dairy producers benefit from both these programs, as they are important funding sources for the U.S. Dairy Export Council, and as such play a key role in boosting U.S. dairy exports. NMPF will be urging the Senate to match this funding level in its version of the fiscal year 2007 Appropriations bill.

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New Associate Member - Ohio Dairy Producers, Inc.

The Ohio Dairy Producers, Inc. (ODP) provides leadership to the Ohio dairy industry in the areas of legislative and regulatory activities, environmental affairs, dairy research as well as other member benefits.

ODP's mission is to support the Ohio dairy production industry by optimizing profitability and productivity by addressing issues that affect dairy producers.

ODP is headquartered in Columbus, OH and is represented by Tim Demland, Director of Producer Services. To learn more about ODP visit their [website](#).

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Johanns Announces Sign-Up Begins in May for 2005 Hurricane Assistance Programs

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced that sign-up begins May 17, 2006, for four crop and livestock assistance programs providing aid to producers affected by the destructive 2005 hurricanes. These programs are funded by \$250 million authorized immediately following these destructive storms.

"We will do everything we can at USDA to continue to help people who have suffered through hurricanes and lost their crops, or who need help with cleanup or rebuilding their communities," said Johanns. "I strongly support targeted assistance to help people who are in need. USDA has been very aggressive in finding the resources to provide nearly five billion dollars in Hurricane assistance."

To be eligible for this assistance, a producer's loss must have occurred in one of 261 counties that received a primary presidential or secretarial disaster designation due to 2005 Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita or Wilma. A list of the eligible counties in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas is available [online](#).

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) will provide payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock due to the hurricanes. To determine payments, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will multiply the number of eligible livestock by the payment rate of: (1) for livestock owners, 75 percent of the livestock's average fair market value; or (2) for contract growers, 75 percent of the average sustained income loss. More information is available in the [online LIP fact sheet](#).

Feed Indemnity Program

The Feed Indemnity Program (FIP) will provide payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs due to the hurricanes. To calculate program payments, FSA will multiply the national payment rate established for each livestock category by the number of eligible livestock. More information is available in the [online FIP fact sheet](#).

Hurricane Indemnity Program

The Hurricane Indemnity Program (HIP) will provide payments to eligible producers who suffered crop losses and received either a Federal Crop Insurance Corporation crop insurance indemnity or a FSA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payment. Producers' HIP benefits will equal 30 percent of the crop insurance indemnity or 30 percent of the NAP payment. More information is available in the [online HIP fact sheet](#).

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Johanns Announces Funds To Research Economic Impact Of Cooperatives

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns last month announced that a half-million dollars will be made available to institutions of higher learning to conduct research on the economic impact of cooperatives.

"Cooperatives play an important role in the growth of our rural economy," said Johanns. "This research will help to measure the full impact cooperatives are making in rural communities across America and provide USDA with an overview of what is working and how cooperative businesses can play central roles in vibrant rural economies."

The competitive funds will be used to establish cooperative research agreements with institutions to examine the impact of cooperatives, in cooperation with USDA Rural Development. Each agreement will include guidance on the development of a methodology for collecting and assembling basic impact data; applying the methodology to collect data and analyze the economic impact of cooperatives and other appropriate studies to examine the socio-economic impact of cooperatives on local communities. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2008.

