



National
Milk Producers
Federation

News for Dairy Co-Ops

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Market Prices

House Agriculture Committee Markup of Farm Bill Postponed Until July

The full House Agriculture Committee was expected to take up the dairy title and other elements of the Farm Bill this week, but that hearing has now been postponed until after Congress's July 4th recess. NMPF continues to urge its members to contact their Representatives regarding the need to include producer safeguards in the forward contracting language contained in the bill, and including the import assessment on imported dairy products.

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Senate to Tackle Immigration Reform Again

The Senate is expected to bring the immigration bill back to the floor this week in another attempt to pass a comprehensive package of reforms. The bill number of the compromise legislation that NMPF supports has been changed from S. 1348 to S. 1639 to incorporate the amendments passed under the previous round of debate.

Some amendments could impact the agricultural provisions that dairy and other farm interests are supporting, but NMPF will be working diligently to make sure the provisions stay favorable to the dairy industry. We urge members again to contact their senators, urging sensible comprehensive reform and expressing support for the bill's agricultural provisions in particular.

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WTO Talks Again Produce No Agreement

A meeting of four highly-influential World Trade Organization members - the U.S., the EU, Brazil and India - suddenly broke down last week before negotiations were scheduled to end. The primary reason for the breakdown in negotiations was an inability to move forward on the issue of Non-Agricultural Market Access. The meeting among the four was to be an important precursor to achieving the necessary progress to allow the discussions with the full WTO membership to move forward this summer.

WTO countries plan to continue to negotiate, but specific talks are not expected to resume among this group of four. Negotiations will likely now revert to the broader WTO membership for continued dialogue throughout the coming weeks. The Chairmen of the WTO negotiating committees are expected to release new papers aimed at forging compromise among the membership. A complicating factor in achieving a deal, however, is the lack of time that remains to achieve an agreement by very early 2008. The collapse of discussions among these four key players will significantly complicate the ability to reach a deal by then.

Also, President Bush's Trade Promotion Authority expires this week, without which the prospect of passing a large trade bill through Congress becomes more daunting.

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U.S. and Cuba Trade Legislation Introduced

New legislation has been introduced in the Senate and House to improve agricultural trade between the U.S. and Cuba. The "Promoting American Agricultural and Medical Exports to Cuba Act of 2007," introduced by Sens. Baucus and Crapo, and Representatives Rangel and Emerson, would help better facilitate the export of U.S. agricultural goods to Cuba.

Specifically, the legislation would put an end to Treasury Department rules that make trade with Cuba all but impossible for small U.S. exporters, would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote sales to Cuba, and would lift the travel ban that keeps nearly all Americans out of Cuba, including ranchers and farmers trying to facilitate trade deals.

Cuba was a relatively good market for U.S. exports of skim milk powder with sales topping \$30 million in 2005. Once the impact of the Treasury Department's revised payment rules took full effect in the market, however, sales plummeted by over 50% the following year. NMPF/USDEC has been working diligently to try to rectify this situation. Because of this, NMPF/USDEC strongly supports S. 1673 and H.R. 2819, since their provisions would address the additional costs and barriers to export that the U.S. dairy industry now faces.

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NMPF Awards National Dairy Leadership Scholarships

The NMPF Scholarship Committee recently awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to four deserving Ph.D. and graduate level students pursuing research in the dairy industry as part of the 2007 NMPF National Dairy Leadership Scholarship Program.

The four scholarship recipients are all conducting research in areas that will benefit dairy cooperatives and producers.

This year the Murray Hintz Memorial Scholarship, which is given to the top candidate, was awarded to Marcus Hollmann. Hollmann is pursuing his Ph.D. in animal science at Michigan State University. His research addresses the mitigation of methane emissions for both pre- and post-excretion in the cow. This timely research will provide feed management strategies to reduce and quantify the reduction of methane emissions from dairy animals.

The Hintz Memorial Scholarship was established in 2006 to honor the late Murray Hintz, former Chairman of the Board for Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc., one of the cooperatives which played a key role in establishing the NMPF Scholarship Program.

The three other scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Gregory Golombeski, a student from the University of Minnesota who is pursuing his Ph.D. in animal science. Golombeski's research is focused on enhancing the trace mineral status of replacement heifers through transition cow management.
- Jessica Wheelock, a Ph.D. student from the University of Arizona, who is

researching the effects of heat stress on liver glucose production in lactating Holstein cows.

- Nicole Olynk, who is pursuing her master's degree in agriculture economics at Michigan State. Olynk's research aims to help producers make reproductive management decisions by developing a user-friendly computer program.

Each year the NMPF Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to Ph.D. and graduate level students pursuing research in the areas of animal health, dairy product development, agriculture economics, environmental science and dairy food science. For more information about the NMPF Scholarship Program, visit the [NMPF website](#).

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Associate Member Focus: The Dairy Institute of California

The Dairy Institute of California is a non-profit trade association that represents milk and dairy processors in California on legislative and regulatory matters at the state and federal levels.

The Institute's office is located in Sacramento, California. In addition to an Executive Director and Economist, the Institute also provides the services of legal counsel. The Dairy Institute is governed by a Board of Directors elected at the annual membership meeting. The Board meets at least three times annually - February, May, and November - and other times as necessary.

Dairy Institute's representative is Rachel Kaldor. To learn more about them, please visit their [website](#).

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