

# Milk Prices To Reach Record Levels In November

LOUISVILLE, KY — Class I milk prices will be noticeably higher to dairy processors and Southeast consumers alike come November, as a result of shrinking supplies, increased demand for the product, and record-high Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) Series and Federal Order prices.

Milk prices set two records in September, both of which will impact November Federal Order Class I milk prices.

"The M-W Series price -- the starting point from which the minimum Class I price in federal milk marketing orders are deter-

mined -- jumped 73 cents in September to \$13.10 per hundredweight of milk," observes Dr. Albert J. Ortego Jr., senior vice president of marketing/planning, for Dairymen, Inc., a regional milk-marketing cooperative. "The September price is a record high for the M-W Series and represents the largest month-to-month increase in the history of the M-W. The next highest month-to-month M-W Series price increase on record was the 61 cents per hundredweight increase between July and August of this year."

The M-W price is the average price per hundredweight that Minnesota and Wisconsin dairy processing companies pay for manufacturing-grade milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat. The M-W price has been climbing steadily ever since last March and dairy industry observers, like Ortego, are projecting that it will soar even higher by year-end 1989.

Likewise, the November Class I Federal Order prices, which are based upon the September M-W Series price, will increase by

\$1.62 cents per hundredweight over year-ago levels -- up \$2.12 cents per hundredweight from a low in March 1989 of \$10.98 per hundredweight. As a result of these factors, dairy processors will have to pay more for the raw milk they buy.

Dr. Emerson Babb, an agricultural economist with the University of Florida at Gainesville, attributes the sharp increases in the M-W Series and Class I prices to tight milk supplies; the increased demand for milk to manufacture cheese, butter and nonfat dry milk powder; and the depleted federal government inventories of dairy commodities.

"Tight milk supplies and the increased demand for milk for manufacturing purposes -- particularly in Minnesota and Wisconsin -- have resulted in tremendous bidding among dairy processors for a rather limited supply of available milk," Babb observes. "In addition, the federal government's stocks of butter, powder and cheese have become extremely low. All of these factors in the

market are being reflected in sharp increases in fluid milk prices."

Babb says that Southeast milk supplies will continue to remain tight through the end of the year and perhaps well into 1990, thereby keeping milk prices elevated.

In addition to tight milk supplies, the growing demand for raw milk, and the sharp increases in the M-W Series and Class I Federal Order prices, several other factors have driven milk prices up over the past two months. They are: hot, humid weather experienced during the summer months which has curtailed Southeast milk production; the reopening of schools which increases the demand for milk; and the exodus of farmers from the dairy business due to the low prices they have received for their milk for several years.

Dairymen Inc., is a farmer-owned, milk-marketing cooperative serving its 5,200 member dairy farmers who are located in 17 Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest states. The cooperative is headquartered in Louisville, Ky.

## Winter Cover Crops Can Prevent Nitrogen Pollution

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The Maryland Department of Agriculture, the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, and the Agriculture Experiment Station are studying the growth of cereal grains in the winter to prevent excess nutrients from getting into groundwater supplies and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

For example, at the Wye Research and Education Center on the Eastern Shore rye has been grown during the winter in corn fields to prevent nitrogen contamination of groundwater. Rye is an excellent winter cover crop because it grows well in cool weather.

"This research on planting cereal grains cover crops in the winter to prevent nutrient run off is another example of what the farm-

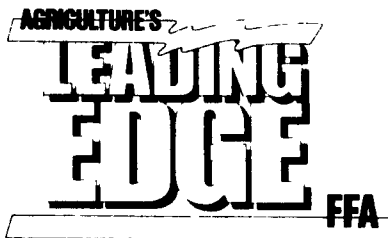
er is doing to protect our environment and restore the Chesapeake Bay," said Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley Jr.

"I am very excited about the effectiveness of planting winter cover crops to control nutrients and prevent soil erosion," Cawley added.

Anyone interested in learning more about nutrient management for farmers is invited to attend a field day, Tuesday, October 24, at

Indiantown Demonstration Farm in Queen Anne's County. The focus of the day's activities will be on what the farmer is doing for the Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort. There will be a presentation on using cover crops as a nitrogen management tool.

For more information, please contact Sharon Hogan 301/454-4787 or James Wood 301/827-8056.



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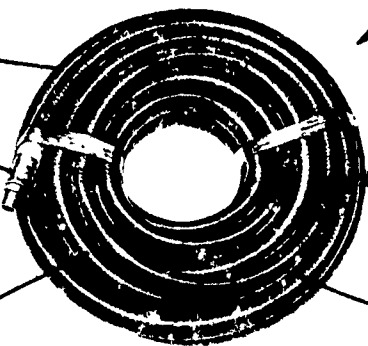
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