

Lancaster Farming

OPINION

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of social and political union among us. Again, if happiness is our being's end and aim, our fairs contribute much to that end and aim, as occasions of recreation, as holidays.

Constituted as man is, he has positive need of occasional recreation, and whatever can give him this, associated with virtue and advantage, and free from vice and disadvantage, is a positive good. Such recreation our fairs afford. They are a present pleasure, to be followed by no pain as a consequence; they are a present pleasure, making the future more pleasant.

But the chief use of agricultural fairs is to aid in improving the great calling of agriculture in all its departments and minute divisions; to make mutual exchange of agricultural discovery, information, and knowledge, so that, at the end, all may know everything which may have been known to but one, or but few, at the beginning, and to bring together especially all which is supposed to be not generally known because of recent discovery or invention.

And not only to bring together and to impart all which has been accidentally discovered and invented upon ordinary motive, but by exciting emulation for premiums, and for the pride and honor of success — of triumph, in some sort — to stimulate that discovery and invention into extraordinary activity.

Weekly Dairy Market Outlook

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look. Your guess is as good as mine. But, if the market did factor this into their September/October prices and the plan is not approved by NMPF on Monday, June 30, than expect Class III futures to suffer.

So, what should you do? My expectation is that a Class III price of \$13 for the fall months is fairly optimistic. I'm expecting a Class III peak of \$11-12. This assumes nothing about the CWT plan — expect higher prices if the plan is adopted and is effective. I'm assuming that imports of dairy products will continue since world prices are still fairly weak, the U.S. economy is still struggling, and there is no clear evidence that yield per cow will suffer the rest of this year. That said, I have been known to be wrong about my milk price forecasts!

So here is what I'd suggest

dairy farmers consider. A Class III price of \$13 is pretty good, especially if you add in your basis. In Pennsylvania, most of our producers would add \$2.50 per CWT for basis. Consider locking in a portion of your fall milk marketings, say 20-40 percent per month, depending on your risk preferences. That way, if the CWT plan is adopted and Class III milk prices jump to \$14-\$15 per CWT, you will make more money on the 60-80 percent of your marketings that were not protected. On the other hand, if my pessimistic forecast is right and Class III prices only rise to \$11-\$12 per CWT by the fall, you have some protection.

And now for my weather forecast! Expect hot and humid weather, or cool and dry weather, or somewhere in between, for some, or most, or all of the remainder of the summer. I could be more specific, but it really depends!

Co-Winners For Excellence In Conservation Award Named

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently presented its 2003 Excellence in Conservation Award to Dr. Bernard Sweeney, president and senior research scientist at the Stroud Water Research Center in Pennsylvania, and Robert Boettcher, a Montana farmer.

"We received nominations from across the country. These individuals were selected for their outstanding efforts to conserve, maintain and improve the natural resources and environment on America's private lands," said NRCS Chief Bruce Knight.

Sweeney directs a staff of 65 scientists, technicians and college interns at the Stroud Water Research Center.

The Center is recognized nationally and internationally for its research on the structure and function of both natural and disturbed streams throughout the Western Hemisphere, with laboratories in Avondale, and Costa Rica.

Natural stream water from White Clay Creek at Avondale has been supplied to indoor streams at the Center for the past 35 years to provide unique research opportunities. The Center has one of the largest and longest-term (30-plus years) research efforts in the world regarding how riparian forest buffers can improve habitat and water quality of streams and rivers.

Sweeney and staff currently are performing a multi-year study to assess the sources and impact of point and nonpoint pollution in all the streams and rivers providing drinking water to New York City.

The Center also has ongoing work on some of the largest rivers in the country (Mississippi, Hudson, Savannah, Susquehanna, Flint and Schuylkill).

Under Sweeney's leadership, the Center shares high-level research to develop practical field applications and educates 4,000 to 5,000 middle and high school students each year with hands-on conservation programs.

Boettcher has been instrumental in using sustainable agriculture practices and is well-known throughout Montana for his conservation accomplishments.

NRCS initiated the Excellence in Conservation Award last year to recognize the voluntary contributions of nongovernmental individuals and groups to the conservation effort in such areas as technical assistance and other types of program delivery, technology transfer, outreach or communications. Any nongovernmental individual group, tribe or organization is eligible.



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importers are demanding assurances that U.S. beef products are born, raised, and processed in the U.S. Any weakening of the mandatory country-of-origin law at

this time may jeopardize both our domestic and foreign markets for meat products.

Mandatory country-of-origin labeling would help reassure consumers and those that import our products by differentiating our domestic products from countries that may have disease or food safety concerns. It's about educating consumers and providing opportunities for producers to promote their high quality products.

— Dave Frederickson
National Farmers
Union President

Quality hay production is the focus of the July 12 edition of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council's *Foraging Around* newsletter in *Lancaster Farming*. Also scheduled: Project Grass youth contest coverage, conservation updates, reports on forage preservation, and a calendar of events.

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