



MemberConnection

CONNECTING MEMBERS TO THE LATEST CO-OP NEWS | AUGUST 2026



MMPA names Bryan & Molly Benson as 2026 OYDCs

MMPA is pleased to announce Bryan and Molly Benson as the 2026 Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators (OYDCs). Bryan and Molly farm on their fifth-generation farm, Benson Dairy Farm, located in Cadillac, Mich. As the winning cooperators, Bryan and Molly will represent MMPA at various industry and association activities.

The Bensons milk 490 Holstein cows and operate 1,700 acres. Established in 1870, the farm has been part of the community for more than 150 years. Today, Bryan and Molly Benson are carrying their tradition forward with a focus on producing quality milk and building a lasting legacy for their family.

"Our mission for our farm is simple, to provide quality milk while building a legacy for our family," the Bensons said. "The goals of our farm include streamlining efficiency as well as upgrading our facilities."

Alongside Bryan and Molly, Brandon Gingrich of Leroy, Mich., will serve as the 2026 runner-up OYDC. At his farm, Gingrich Meadows, they milk 480 cows and operate 1,400 acres. OYDC finalist Joy Doezeema, a second-generation farmer from Saranac, Michigan, milks 30 cows since first starting her herd in 2024.

Selection of the OYDC is done by a selection committee representing leaders in the Great Lakes dairy industry. Applicant's farming operations, farm-related and community activities, and demonstrated leadership abilities are considered during the process.

MMPA has been identifying future leaders through the OYDC program since 1950. The purpose of the program is to strengthen leadership abilities in young farmers, broaden young farmers' knowledge of milk marketing and MMPA, and recognize the abilities and stewardship of young dairy farmers.

EU to rollout new antimicrobial rules, impacting dairy exporters

New European Union requirements governing antimicrobial use in livestock will take effect Sept. 3, 2026. The requirements apply to animal products exported to the EU, including dairy products and dairy ingredients. Because MMPA supplies dairy products and ingredients that may ultimately be exported to the EU, all MMPA member farms must comply with the new requirements.

The regulation prohibits the use of certain antimicrobials reserved for treating human infections in animals whose milk may be used in products destined for the EU. These include carboxypenicillins, ureidopenicillins, ceftobiprole, ceftaroline, combinations of cephalosporins with beta-lactamase inhibitors, siderophore cephalosporins, carbapenems, penems, monobactams and others.

Members should review their farm's animal health and treatment protocols with their veterinarian to ensure these antimicrobials are not administered to animals producing milk marketed through MMPA.

A complete list of prohibited antimicrobials can be found in the MMPA policy booklet on the Member Center in the member portal. Members with questions should contact their member representative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16: MMPA Dairy Promoter Meeting

October 25: MMPA Young Cooperator Fall Fest

News from Novi

As we close out another fiscal year, we remain focused on operating a financially strong and fiscally responsible cooperative. Following the completion of our annual audit, we will once again share our financial results with you, the member-owner. That transparency is important. It gives you the opportunity to understand the financial strength of your cooperative, the market conditions we are operating in and how we continue to invest on your behalf.

Not every cooperative is positioned to make the investments we are making today. That's a testament to you, the member-owner, and the investments you've made over the years that allow us to pursue opportunities when they present themselves. We don't take that responsibility lightly. Our board of directors continues to evaluate our strategy, manage expectations and make decisions with the long-term interests of the membership in mind.

That member leadership is an important part of who we are as a cooperative. As we look toward the upcoming year, the MMPA Nominating Committee is once again seeking members interested in serving on the MMPA Board of Directors. If you have considered becoming more involved in your cooperative, I encourage you to learn more about the opportunity.

There are also opportunities to make your voice heard beyond MMPA. The National Dairy FARM Program is seeking producer input on proposed Version 2028 updates to its Animal Care and Workforce Development programs. These programs directly impact your farm, and I encourage you to provide feedback and help shape what comes next.

Making sure dairy farmers have a voice is equally important in our work with policymakers. Even with many legislators in recess, our team continues to stay engaged, communicate our message and strengthen the relationships that allow us to advocate for our members and the dairy industry. We will soon host U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin at one of our facilities, providing an opportunity to showcase the investments you, our member-owners, have made and talk about the important role dairy plays in providing nutritious products to consumers and communities.

All of these efforts depend on members who are willing to be involved and lead. Bryan and Molly Benson of Cadillac, Mich., are great examples of that commitment. Congratulations to them on their recent success being named the 2026 MMPA Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators! Developing the next generation of leaders is important to the future of MMPA and our industry.

As we finish this fiscal year and prepare for the next, we have a lot to be proud of and even more to look forward to. Thank you for your continued investment, involvement and commitment to MMPA.

—Joe Diglio, MMPA President & CEO

UPDATES & REMINDERS

MMPA Nominating Committee accepting applications for MMPA Board

Four district positions on the MMPA Board of Directors are up for election at the District Meetings to be held in December. The district directors with terms expiring in 2027 are Paul Keener from District 1, Brian Preston from District 2, Eric Frahm from District 4, and Corby Werth from District 4.

To be nominated and run for one of these positions on the board of directors, candidates must submit an application by Sept. 17. The District Nominating Committees will meet virtually in September to determine the slate of nominees. Contact Jessica Welch at jessica.welch@mimilk.com or at 248-897-3400 to receive an application.

MMPA Food Bank Legacy Award

Applications are now available for the 2027 MMPA Food Bank Legacy Award. Members involved in supporting their local food bank or pantry are encouraged to fill out an application. The recognition, created in honor of past MMPA Board President Ken Nobis, recognizes members for their efforts supporting local food banks and pantries. This annual award gives you the chance to support a Michigan food bank or pantry to receive a \$1,000 donation toward their hunger relief work. Interested members can contact Jessica Welch at jessica.welch@mimilk.com or at 248-897-3400 to receive an application. Deadline to submit nominations is Nov. 2, 2026.

MMPA Scholarship Opportunities

MMPA members, children of members and employees of members attending Michigan State University (MSU), Purdue University or The Ohio State University (OSU) are eligible to apply for MMPA scholarships. MSU and OSU scholarship applications are due by Oct. 1. Purdue University scholarships are due in accordance with their general scholarship program. Learn more and apply online at mimilk.com/scholarships.

FARM Program opportunity for input

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has kicked-off its open comment period for both the Animal Care and Workforce Development programs' proposed Version 2028 updates to compile and incorporate farmer and industry feedback. As part of this process, you have an opportunity to provide comments, feedback and concerns related to the proposed revisions by Oct. 2 at nationaldairyfarm.com. If you prefer a paper survey, contact your member representative.

MMPA match campaigns support MSU dairy

MMPA's history with Michigan State University (MSU) began with our founding in MSU's Agriculture Hall, and for generations MSU has helped strengthen the dairy industry through research, education and outreach. To support that legacy, MMPA is backing two MSU dairy fundraising efforts through matching campaigns utilizing funds from the dedicated Applied Research Fund which was initiated by delegates in 2007 as a way to support research efforts. Members and employees are encouraged to note their MMPA affiliation when giving and can learn more in the July/August *Milk Messenger* or at <https://bit.ly/MMPAMSU>.

MARKET REPORT

Statistical Summary | FOR MILK MARKETED IN JUNE 2026

MMPA Reporting

Average All Milk Price

\$21.45

Average Butterfat

4.15%

Average Protein

3.23%

Average SCC

178,000 cells / mL

Total Milk Production

+2.13% over June 2025

AMS Survey Prices

(monthly average, per pound)

Cheese

1.5642 / LB

Butter

1.6227 / LB

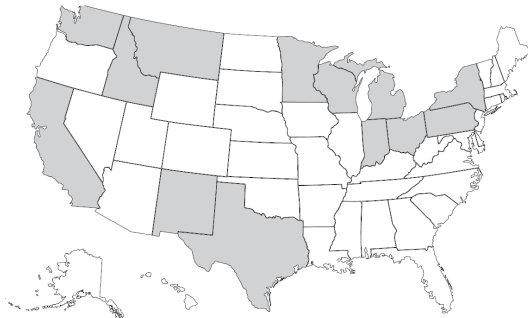
Milk Powders

Nonfat Dry Milk

1.9327 / LB

Dry Whey

0.6428 / LB



*For 24 States

Market Statistics - Mideast Federal Order #33

	# This Month	# Year Ago	% Change
Total Class 1 Sales	527,921,388	516,806,147	2.15%
Total Class 2 Sales	190,015,280	450,953,358	-57.86%
Total Class 3 Sales	698,370,968	582,505,584	19.89%
Total Class 4 Sales	160,780,151	242,363,487	-33.66%
Total Production	1,577,087,787	1,792,628,576	-12.02%
Class 1 Utilization	33.5%	28.8%	

Mideast Federal Order #33

Total Producers.....	3,325
Avg. Daily Production per farm.....	15,810
Avg. Protein Test	3.29%
Avg. Butterfat Test	4.22%
Avg. Oth Solids Test	5.78%

Component Pricing Information -
Mideast Federal Order #33

Protein Price /lb.	\$2.4553
Butterfat Price /lb.	\$1.6900
Other Solids Price /lb.	\$0.3873
Class III Price @ 3.5%	\$15.98
Prod. Price Diff /cwt. - Mich Mkt	\$4.27
Uniform Price @ 3.5%	\$20.05
SCC Adjustment /cwt /1000	\$0.00078

National Trends*

(production in millions of pounds)

	2026	2025	% Change
California	3,437	3,429	+0.2
Wisconsin	2,741	2,699	+1.6
Texas	1,577	1,503	+4.9
Idaho	1,571	1,537	+2.2
New York	1,400	1,378	+1.6
Michigan	1,072	1,035	+3.6
Minnesota	902	879	+2.6
Pennsylvania	801	800	+0.1
New Mexico	486	484	+0.4
Washington	478	480	-0.4
Ohio	482	480	+0.4
Indiana	395	380	+3.9
Total U.S.*	18,930	18,489	+2.4
U.S Y-T-D*	114,132	111,023	+2.8

Save the Dates for upcoming MMPA events!

Dairy Promoter Webinar: Oct. 16

MMPA Dairy Promoters will meet virtually on Friday, Oct. 16 to hear from Hailey Gilbert, manager of the Michigan Ag Council, about the organization's efforts to promote Michigan agriculture. The meeting will also give Dairy Promoters an opportunity to learn more about statewide promotion efforts and consider ways those initiatives can complement dairy promotion in their own communities. Registration information and additional meeting details will be shared with Dairy Promoters via email in the coming weeks.

Young Cooperator Fall Fest: Oct. 25

MMPA members under the age of 41 are invited to join peers at Dick Haven Farms on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. for a farm tour, corn maze and pumpkin patch! Spend the afternoon connecting with fellow young farmers while enjoying a fun fall outing on the farm. Don't miss this opportunity to network and celebrate the season together. Registration by Oct. 21 is required attend: <https://bit.ly/26YCFF>.

MARKET NEWS | USDA Dairy Market News - August 14, 2026

BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS: Milk supplies in the East remained steady, the Central region showed week-over-week improvement following seasonal weather, and the West's supply met demand, though spot milk availability was minimal. All regions report that cream is readily available, spot sales are active, and churns remain full. Butter demand throughout the United States is steady and is prepared for school year needs. The East region noted higher retail engagement this week. Contacts say inventories of 80 percent butterfat butter remain ample, while 82 percent butterfat stocks are still tight. Spot loads of 80 percent salted butter are trading around the CME weekly average. CME spot trading of butter is active, with prices sliding lower.

FLUID MILK: Eastern fluid milk availability remains sufficient despite recent hot weather. Class I demand is trending upward as schools reopen on a staggered schedule, though no significant volumes are pulling fluid milk from manufacturing. Class II demand is steady as the summer cream pull eases with tapering ice cream production. Class III supplies support consistent cheese operations, and ample Class IV cream keeps churns running ahead of the late-season holiday imbalance. Condensed skim demand is outpacing supply. In the Central region, mild weather improved cow comfort, steadying milk volumes. Class I demand is strengthening ahead of school openings, keeping spot availability tight. Cheese production is active, Class II and IV demand is strong, and cream markets are firm. Western milk and cream production are mixed amid heat, fires, and smoke. California output is up slightly, Idaho is tight, Utah is heavy, and the Pacific Northwest is steady. Class I demand is increasing; Class II is soft, Classes III and IV steady. Cream supplies are long. The market tone is steady.

CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS: Cheese production remains steady in the East, active in the Central region, and robust in the West. In the East, retail and food service demand are stable, supported by a 25 percent year-over-year increase in cheese retail ads. Export interest continues but is constrained by higher domestic prices for premium cheese, pushing most international business toward lower priced commodity styles. CME spot cheese prices moved moderately higher, and inventories remain within desired ranges due to active bulk cheese shipments to the Midwest for repackaging. In the Central region, cheesemakers report strong demand amid tightening milk availability. Inventory remains manageable but closely linked to evolving milk supplies. Domestic demand ranges from steady to lighter, even as cheese stands out as the most advertised retail commodity this week. Export demand is steady, but manufacturers report production continues to outpace demand, keeping spot loads available and inventories growing.

DRY PRODUCTS: Central and East region low/medium-heat nonfat dry milk (NDM) prices strengthened, rising at both ends of the range and the mostly price series. High heat NDM prices also moved higher at both ends of the range. In the West region low/medium-heat nonfat dry milk prices moved up at both the bottom and top of the range, and the mostly price series increased as well. Prices for high-heat NDM also moved up at both the bottom and top of the range. Dry buttermilk prices remained unchanged this week throughout the country. Dry whey prices increased slightly at both ends of the range in the Central region while remaining unchanged in the East and West. Lactose prices increased at the bottom of the range while holding steady elsewhere throughout the series.



**FARM SUPPLY
STORE**

The MMPA Farm Supply Store, based in Mt. Pleasant, offers a variety of products including sanitation chemicals, udder and milk prep supplies, minerals, milk replacers, hoses, filters, inflations, testing equipment and MMPA apparel. To order products, call 877-367-6455 or visit mimilk.com/farm-supply-store.



Featured Product: Fly-Rid Plus Insect Control Spray [32 oz] (\$9.37 OR \$8.90*)

*Valid on online orders only through September 23, 2026.

