Manure… It Happens
Manure Management Day
Monday
September 12, 2016
10am -2pm
Call DeLisa 607-583-3359
or email dp253@cornell.edu
for more details

Local Meat Market
Corning Meat Locker
Tuesday September 20, 2016
5pm – 8pm
If you sell meat by the cut, ¼, ½ or whole please contact DeLisa 607-583-3359 or email dp253@cornell.edu for more details
The drought conditions and hot weather are a double whammy for corn during the critical stage of pollination. I am getting questions from growers and reporters on how much yield are we losing right now. Ohio State agronomist, Peter Thomison, just put out an article reviewing the effects of dry hot weather on corn from Midwest research. He states that according to Iowa State University agronomists, high temperatures may have a double impact on corn “The first is the increase in rolling of corn leaves in response to moisture deficiency. By rule-of-thumb, the yield is diminished by 1 percent for every 12 hours of leaf rolling - except during the week of silking when the yield is cut 1 percent per 4 hours of leaf rolling.” See the full article at http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/hot-dry-conditions-stressing-corn.

As if the drought conditions weren’t enough to possibly hurt corn pollination, we have at least three insects that are making it even harder. As much of our corn is tasseling and has finally putting an ear out, I am getting calls on insects feeding on the silks.

Corn rootworm (CRW). I have received four calls on CRW beetles feeding and cutting emerging silks this week. This was a concern of mine because there had been plenty of earlier reports of CRW beetles stripping the green tissue off corn leaves and actually cutting off leaves prior to tassel emergence. This has only been an issue where continuous corn has been grown. The adults prefer the silks and pollen as this is a needed protein source particularly for females that are producing eggs. These beetles will continue to emerge and be around until the first frost kills them off so there is plenty of time to lay eggs. The last planted fields should be watched closely as they will serve as a trap crop and last corn pollen source for all emerged beetles. Cornell treatment threshold for CRW: 10 or more beetles per plant at silking, less than 50% of corn silks are brown, and silks are clipped down to ½ inch or less. If these levels are met, an insecticide for beetle control is warranted. Lambda-cyhalothrin (Warrior II) or chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) can be applied for adult control. Chris DiFonzo of Michigan State has a nice fact sheet with pictures of damage to leaves and silks, http://msuent.com/assets/pdf/04CRWAdults.pdf. There are some recommendations in the Midwest states to lower the CRW threshold to 5 beetles per plant when corn plants are under drought stress.

Japanese Beetle. Adults are still hanging around. I talked previously about them feeding on corn and soybean foliage. They too are attracted to corn silks and can clip silks and affect pollination. Heavy populations are usually not spread throughout the whole field and normally clumped on the edges. The main concern is clipping the silks under ½ inch.

Pasture/Forage Management During a Drought
Nancy Glazier, Small Farms, Livestock, NWNY Team

The continuing precipitation shortage which began in March 2016 has brought many challenges this grazing season. Questions have arisen regarding pasture management during a drought. Here are some steps to take now and as we move through the rest of the grazing season.
Short-term:
1. Get livestock off the pastures. Pastures will suffer greatly from overgrazing and hoof traffic. It opens the soil to additional heating and moisture loss. Feed hay in a barnyard or sacrifice area.
2. This may be time to sell some animals. Feeding stored feed now can be very expensive. Restock your herd or flock when grazing conditions improve.
3. Make sure adequate clean water is available. Pasture plants have much less moisture in them and hot temperatures increase consumption.
4. To clip or not to clip? If pastures are dense, otherwise healthy, don’t clip or graze below 4-6”. It is tempting to do that, but hurts the pastures long-term. If pastures are weedy, clip to prevent seedheads from forming, no shorter than

Mid-term:
1. Take inventory of your stored feed [(upright or bunk silo capacity: http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=589&crumb=forages), (estimating hay needs: http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfn/f13wtrhay, (Hay Calculator: http://economics.ag.utk.edu/haycalculator.html)]. Drought has reduced forage yields so purchase enough for the remainder of the grazing season and winter. Store hay properly to prevent losses. Cover if possible.
2. Wean early. Non-lactating livestock have lower nutrient requirements and can be fed lower-quality feed. Save higher quality forage for youngstock. Another option would be to sell youngstock earlier than you normally would.
3. Plant cool season annuals, such as rye, oats, turnips, or radishes for fall grazing or harvest. Success will be dependent on return to normal rains. Bale corn stalks or soybean residue or set up temporary fence and graze crop residue or cover crops (http://beefmagazine.com/mag/beef_nutritional_content_crop).
4. If some significant rains occur, apply 50 lbs actual nitrogen to pastures and hayfields to boost fall growth. Leave plenty of residual (6”) heading into winter. Fertilize with potassium and phosphorus as needed according to soil test reports.

Long-term:
1. Plan to frost-seed in March any pastures that were impacted from overgrazing or drought conditions (http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=515&crumb=grazing4).
2. Apply 100 lbs actual nitrogen at green-up to boost early grazing. Harvest any surplus pasture.
3. Work to improve soil health so pastures are more resilient in drought conditions. Develop a rotational grazing system if not currently utilizing one. Move livestock often and provide sufficient periods of recovery http://www2.ca.uky.edu/grazer/May14_Rotational_vs_Continuous_Grazing.php

Springwater Agricultural Products
8663 Strutt Street, Springwater NY
585-315-1094 or 607-759-0405
Crop Production Materials, Foliar Nutrition & Adjuvant Sales
SeedWay, NK&WL, Seed Sales:
Corn, Soybeans, Small Grains, Forage & Pasture Grasses
Open Every Day – Dave Votypka, Owner
Quality Products with Farmer Friendly Prices!
Cover Crop Options in 2016  
By: Mike Stanyard

Wheat harvest should be just about wrapped up. That leaves about 115,000 acres out there in NY to plant some cover crops. Throw in the other acres of small grains (barley, rye, and oats) and the acres continue to add up. There is also an opportunity to grow some more forage acres. So far, this extremely dry growing season has not been stellar for hay yields and if it continues corn silage production could be down. Crops like sorghum, forage oats and triticale can help fill in some of those forage losses. The past couple of years have shown us that the first half of August has been the optimal planting window for success of most cover crops.

There has been a huge emphasis on soil health and cover crops are an important piece of this puzzle. There are a lot of options when it comes to choosing a cover crop species (See table). You have to ask yourself, “What do I want to accomplish?” Is it soil conservation, increase organic content, a trap crop for nitrogen, comply with conservation payments or weed control? Another thing to consider is cost (See table). Do you want a species that winterkills or overwinters? Is compaction an issue? Do I need some extra forage? We know that there is a benefit to keeping something growing and covering our fields at all times. It looks like there is also a benefit to planting multiple species together. Mixing tap root and fibrous root species together helps create soil microorganism biodiversity.

We know radishes do a great job of loosening up the soil when there is a compaction issue. However, there is some concern that we may not get the nitrogen back that we put into them. Radishes degrade very quickly in the early spring. Is all the nitrogen gone by the time the corn is ready for it? It might be more beneficial to plant an overwintering species like a winter grain or ryegrass with the radish to pick up that N and keep it around longer so the corn can utilize it when it needs it most.

We have seen cover crops planted with many different drills, air flowed, broadcast and aerially applied. All can be successful, however proper calibration can be tedious and frustrating. Most planters do not have settings for some of these nontraditional plants. Take the time to work it out! You do not want to waste your time by putting on too little and you do not want to waste money by putting on way too much. The cover crop seed suppliers may have worked some of the settings and rates for different seeds and planters out already and have resources available.

Preventative Planting Acres For the first time, I actually have requests for preventative planting letters because the fields were too dry to plant! If a cover crop is being planted following a planned corn or soybean crop, check herbicide labels if a pre-emerge product was applied. Some of the small seeded cover species may not be able to be planted due to plant back restrictions. Penn State has a great herbicide reference table for cover crops, http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/soil-management/cover-crops/herbicide-persistence/herbicide-carryover-table. The folks at Purdue University have also put out a good reference, “Cover Crops for Prevented Planting Acres”, https://ag.purdue.edu/agry/extension/Documents/PreventedPlantingCovers2015.pdf.

Extra Forage There are a couple of options for the early August planting date. A common choice is spring/forage oats. They are usually in the boot stage by midOctober. I have seen from 1.5 to 2 tons dry matter per acre. You can add annual ryegrass to the mix and field peas or clover if higher protein is desired. Planting winter triticale has become popular after corn silage harvest. It is harvested in May just after flag stage emergence (GS 9). We have seen 2-4 tons of dry matter per acre in NY. See the Winter Triticale Forage factsheet at http://nmsp.cals.cornell.edu/publications/factsheets/actsheet56.pdf for specifics.
Stay the Course
Virginia A. Ishler
Extension Dairy Specialist

The dairy industry as with any commodity deals with the peaks and valleys of the markets. Other commodities are in a similar situation as the dairy operation and to stay in business they have to know their cost of production. They are constantly monitoring their business’s performance so changes can be made quickly to compensate for a downturn. It can be depressing when the current income over feed cost is less than the breakeven number. Instead of focusing on how to cut costs, many times to the detriment on animal performance, focus on making adjustments that improve upon what is already being done. Many times it is honing in on a small detail that can make a significant impact on milk income.

Production Perspective
The Extension Dairy Business Management Team has been working intensively with a group of dairy producers over the past three years. There are some basic management practices that keep coming to the surface on herds that maintain a competitive margin. These operations have positioned themselves to weather the market “storms” and even during tough years like 2016, they can bounce back fairly quickly when the market rebounds. Below are some management areas to investigate for possible improvements.

When the dairy team has been evaluating a producer’s corn silage, one question keeps coming up: is it really being processed? In our project, all our producers except one stated that their corn silage was processed. However, visual appraisals showed otherwise. It was evident on some farms that whole kernels were present. Regardless if corn silage is harvested by the producer or a custom harvester, don’t assume that it is really being processed. The research and field results show a milk production response when kernels are properly processed. Equipment adjustments can be made to correct the problem.

This probably sounds like a broken record, but monitoring dry matters daily or weekly on high moisture feeds does pay off. On our project, herds incorporating this management practice are showing improved milk production and income over feed costs compared to their counterparts not implementing this practice. The investment in a microwave oven, scale, or another alternative is usually very small. However, the payback can be substantial in improved animal performance because cows are more likely receiving a consistent ration.

Another aspect of feed management is monitoring dry matter intake. This simple practice is almost as elusive as knowing a farm’s cost of production. There really is no excuse for not monitoring dry matter intake in herds feeding a total mixed ration (TMR). This is a barometer to determine the status on fresh cows, first lactation animals, high producing and late lactation cows. Herds implementing this practice are showing a financial and production benefit versus the producers not monitoring intakes.
Many farms have a feed mixer along with a software package that can track this information. However, even on farms without this added technology, it is worth the time to record batch weights and occasionally weigh refusals. If the farm is doing dry matters on the individual forages, including the TMR should not overwhelm the system. Entering the information into a spreadsheet and evaluating it will provide a wealth of information about what is happening in the herd.

Management is ultimately the key to surviving these tough times. It is attention to details that help dairy operations maximize performance and efficiency of the herd. The biggest hurdles are making practices a priority and ensure they get done routinely.

### Action plan for improving milk income.

**Goals**

With a team of advisors evaluate areas on the farm that can be improved so a plan can be developed, implemented and monitored.

**Steps**

- **Step 1:** Review current data on herd performance, income over feed cost and management practices. Examine areas that can be improved.
- **Step 2:** Discuss findings with the farm employees and get feedback on their ideas and suggestions.
- **Step 3:** With the appropriate advisors, examine the current situation and evaluate the potential impact changes will have on production and financials.
- **Step 4:** Implement and monitor all changes. Provide feedback to the employees and listen to any suggestions or comments they may have on improvements.

### Economic perspective

Monitoring must include an economic component to determine if a management strategy is working or not. For the lactating cows income over feed costs is a good way to check that feed costs are in line for the level of milk production. Starting with July’s milk price, income over feed costs was calculated using average intake and production for the last six years from the Penn State dairy herd. The ration contained 63% forage consisting of corn silage, haylage and hay. The concentrate portion included corn grain, candy meal, sugar, canola meal, roasted soybeans, Optigen (Alltech product) and a mineral vitamin mix. All market prices were used.

Also included are the feed costs for dry cows, springing heifers, pregnant heifers and growing heifers. The rations reflect what has been fed to these animal groups at the Penn State dairy herd. All market prices were used.
Income over feed cost using standardized rations and production data from the Penn State dairy herd.

Note: June’s PSU milk price: $15.56/cwt; feed cost/cow: $5.83; average milk production: 83 lbs.

Feed cost/non-lactating animal/day.

Feeding Lower Forage Rations - 2016
Dr. L. E. Chase
Department of Animal Sciences
Cornell University

It appears that many New York herds will have some limitations in terms of forage supply for the winter feeding season. This paper will provide some thoughts on how a dairy producer and their agribusiness advisors can address this situation.

1. Forage Inventory – As soon as corn silage is harvested, a total farm forage inventory needs to be done. How many tons of forage are available to feed the herd? Worksheets to do forage needs and inventory calculations are available at: http://ansci.cornell.edu/extension-outreach/adult-extension/dairy-

management/feed-fact-sheets-and-worksheets

http://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=5898&crumb=forsges12

2. Animal Inventory – How many dairy cows and heifers are on the farm? Are there any options to cull or sell some animals? Check with your lender before doing this.

3. Forage analysis – Know what nutrients you have to work with. Taking some forage samples during harvest will provide information helpful in planning the winter feeding program.

4. Forage allocation – Are forages stored by quality? Can specific forages be reserved for specific animal groups?

5. Buying Forage – If forage inventory is short, is it possible to purchase any forage?

6. Plant a winter forage crop and harvest as animal feed – A winter grain can be ready for harvest and available to feed 1-2 weeks before 1st cutting. Pasturing this ground can be another option.

7. Ration adjustments –
   a. Lower forage rations may be needed if forage inventory is short and additional forage cannot be purchased.
   b. Key principle – No matter what changes are made, animal health must not be compromised.
   c. If lower forage rations need to be fed, be conservative on starch and use non-forage fiber type feeds (soy hulls, citrus pulp, whole cottonseed, gluten feed, wheat midds, wet brewers grain, distiller grain, etc.) to replace forage. The challenge is that many of these may be in tight supply so early booking may be important.
d. Consider using a small amount of chopped straw or low quality hay to provide chewing fiber.

e. Consider multiple rations for the milking cows.

f. Consider adding buffers to the ration.

g. Consider added fat to the ration to provide energy.

h. Potentially consider limit feeding some animal groups (bred heifers). This should only be considered in situations with good management, adequate feed bunk space (all heifers can eat at the same time) and with groups with uniform body weights. This practice may only be applicable to a small number of farms.

i. Put heifers out on pasture in the spring. Other animal groups may also be candidates for this.

j. Consider having heifer’s custom raised.

8. Management adjustments –

a. Adjust rations for changes in forage dry matter. This will help keep rations on target and minimize over or under feeding of forage.

b. Adjust feeding management to lower the quantity of feed refusals. A small change here can conserve forage.

c. Improve silage face management to keep the silage fresh and lower spoilage.

How low can we go in terms of feeding lower forage rations? There are a number of ways to express forage needs for dairy cattle. Guidelines for minimum forage levels in rations are:

- 1.5% of body weight as lbs. of forage dry matter
- 15% of the total ration dry matter as forage-NDF
- 0.7% of body weight as forage-NDF

Each of these will result in a slightly different answer in terms of the quantity of forage fed and needed. Table 1 is an example for a 1,450 lb. dairy cow. A 25% reduction in forage needed per cow results if the forage feeding rate drops from 2 to 1.5% of body weight.

Table 1. Daily and Yearly Forage Needs (1450 lb. Cow)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Forage Intake, % of BW</th>
<th>Lbs. Forage DM/Cow/Day</th>
<th>Tons Forage DM/Cow/Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 2 is from the 2001 Dairy NRC. This looks at forage NDF intake as a % of total ration dry matter. These are minimum suggested values with good management. Note that as ration forage NDF decreases, that total ration ADF and NDF increase while NFC (non-fiber carbohydrates) goes down. In most dairy rations, starch is the primary source of NFC. This indicates that starch needs to be limited and the space filled up with fibrous byproduct feeds.

Table 2. Minimum Total Ration F-NDF, NDF and Maximum NFC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F-NDF, % - Minimum</th>
<th>Total Ration NDF, % - Minimum</th>
<th>Total Ration NFC, % - Maximum</th>
<th>Total Ration ADF, % - Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
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</table>

Table 3 is an example of the percent of the total ration that would be forage based on Table 2 and varying forage NDF levels. The values in Table 3 look really low in terms of the proportion of forage in the total ration. I have seen herds feed < 40% forage with good management that make milk and maintain cow health. The key to
making these lower forage rations work is ration balance, controlling ration starch levels and daily feeding management. The potential for disaster is high if they are improperly formulated and/or managed.

Table 3. % Forage in the Ration to Meet Minimum F-NDF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum F-NDF, %</th>
<th>40% NDF Forage</th>
<th>50% Forage NDF</th>
<th>60% Forage NDF</th>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>40</td>
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Based on data in Table 2

Summary:
There is a wide range in the amount of forage that can be fed to dairy cows while maintaining milk production, milk components and herd health. The key will be to determine the quantity of forages by doing a forage inventory. This will provide the base information for setting the amount of forage that can be included in dairy rations during the 2016-17 feeding season.

NYSERDA Offers No-Cost Energy Audits

NYSERDA launched the Agriculture Energy Audit Program in March 2016. The Program offers farms and on-farm producers no-cost energy audits that provide recommendations for energy efficiency measures. The Program also offers assistance identifying and accessing funding to implement the measures identified in the audits. Three levels of audits are offered:

Level 1: This walk-through energy audit provides a summary letter with limited evaluation of feasible energy efficiency measures. This level is ideal for smaller operations with minimal energy use or for quick assessments.

Level 2: This detailed energy audit analyses the farm’s previous year’s utility bills along with equipment specifications and run-time information for that equipment. This information will then be used to help calculate estimated energy savings for energy efficiency upgrades on the farm. The comprehensive report will provide a list of recommended measures with associated energy and cost savings and measure payback. This audit meets ANSI/ASABE 612 standards. This level is the most common and the best option for most farms.

Level 3: This energy audit is focused on a specific system, energy efficiency measure, or renewable energy. This report is ideal for operations with a complex system to be analyzed beyond standard energy efficiency upgrades, or if the farm is interested in renewable energy.

Once the audit report has been completed, NYSERDA’s program implementer, EnSave, will assist each farm in identifying the most appropriate measures to implement and programs to pursue for implementation funding. There are several options available, including programs through utilities and the federal government.

Funding for audits is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 800-732-1399 or email aeep@nyserda.ny.gov to discuss program options and obtain an application. Agriculture Energy Audit Program
**Dairy Market Watch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milk Component Prices</th>
<th>Milk Class Prices</th>
<th>Statistical Uniform Price &amp; PPD</th>
<th>MPP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Month</strong></td>
<td><strong>Butterfat</strong></td>
<td><strong>Protein</strong></td>
<td><strong>I (Boston)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>$2.10</td>
<td>$2.69</td>
<td>$19.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>$2.11</td>
<td>$2.61</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>$2.41</td>
<td>$1.48</td>
<td>$16.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**June Utilization (Northeast):** Class I = 30%; Class II = 25%; Class III = 28%; Class IV = 17%.

*At a milk margin minus feed costs of $8 or less, payments are possible depending on the level of coverage chosen by the dairy producer.

**Cheese:** Cheese vats are full across the U.S. this week. Northeast cheese production remains steady despite several plant maintenance projects. Northeast contacts report slowing sales and growing inventories. International interest remains light. The market undertone is mixed.

**Butter:** Butter production is active across the nation. However, a few processors are selling cream instead of churning as multiples are relatively high. Although cream supplies are generally tight, there are enough volumes for butter manufacturing. At this point, the butter market undertone is firm. Domestic demand from retailers is strong. Butter inventories are mixed throughout the country. Small scale microfixing is taking place in some eastern plants. This week, bulk butter pricing across all regions is 1 cent under market to 8 cents above, based on the CME Group with various time frames and averages used. Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) reports June 2016 U.S. imports of butter totaled 1.2 million pounds, an increase of 57.6% from a year ago, while 8.1% of the yearly quota.

**Fluid Milk:** Farm-level milk production is trending lower across the country as seasonally high temperatures advance. However, milk supplies are ahead of demand in most locales. In the meantime, milk producers in the Northeast are contending with developing drought conditions. Milk marketers are anticipating the current weak to steady Class I demand to rise. School pipelines are looking ahead to the beginning of another calendar year in several weeks. Class II demand for condensed skim and cream is unchanged to higher, as ice cream producers request increasingly larger volumes.

**Dry Products:** Overall, dry dairy commodities markets are unsettled. Buyers are hesitant to go long on most dry products. Nonfat dry milk stocks are building as strong production weighs on the market. Dry buttermilk markets are unsettled, with limited supplies in some areas, and pressure continuing from the NDM market. Dry whole milk prices are unchanged on light trading. Dry whey prices are steady in the Central and West regions, with some upward movement in the East. Active cheese manufacturing supports strong dry whey streams. The whey protein concentrate 34% prices are steady. Manufacturers’ stock availability is good in some instances, but committed in others. The lactose market is steady. Higher mesh lactose inventories are tight. Casein market prices firmed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday CME Cash Prices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheese (40# Blocks)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Fluid Milk: Farm level milk production is higher in most regions of the country as favorable weather conditions to dairy herds are boosting their comfort. Nationwide, manufacturing milk volumes are moderate to heavy. Bottled milk sales vary throughout the country depending on the current buyers needs in every region. Cream volumes are mostly moving into butter manufacturing. However, ice cream makers continue pulling moderate cream loads as the summer season approaches.

Dry Products: The low/medium heat nonfat dry milk market undertone is weak. Spot sales in the f.o.b. market are light to moderate. Production is active as condensed skim volumes continue to increase with heavy seasonal milk output. Drying schedules for high heat nonfat dry milk are irregular as production is mostly driven by contractual needs. Spot prices for dry buttermilk are steady to lower in the East and Central region, but steady in the West. The market continues weakening. Prices for dry whole milk are mixed on an unsettled market. Demand from the confectionery sector is active. Prices for whey are unchanged in the Central region, but mixed in the Northeast and West regions. Demand is

Comments: It looks like, for now, that milk prices bottomed out in May and are headed upwards into June and July – though not as quickly as we all need. May Class III was at $12.76, with June increasing to $13.22, and July looking like it will be around $15.35. Class IV followed a similar trend, with $13.09 in May, $13.77 in June, and $15.10 projected for July. Class III futures look to be in the $16’s for the remainder of 2016, and Class IV futures should also reach the $16’s in September – still to be determined, though, if those prices will hold as projected, especially if cheese and dry whey prices don’t dramatically increase in the near future.

The export market doesn’t look like it will be of any help for a price boost in the near future as world dairy product prices are still low. Domestic prices can’t compete, and there is still too much product on the market to move. Domestic stocks have also been steadily decreasing, with butter 22.5% higher than a year ago and cheese stocks 12.4% higher than a year ago.

June and July’s price boost came in spite of increasing milk production, 1.5% higher than a year ago and relatively stable cow numbers, at 9.37 million head, 5,000 head higher than a year ago. Milk production per cow was up 1.4% in June, which we may see a decline due to seasonally high temperatures and summer conditions. New York’s milk production was 4.2% higher than a year ago.

Time will tell if actual product prices will reach the peaks seen on the dairy futures market, but reaching the $15’s should be achievable, at least, for Class III and Class IV. This would put Class III averages for 2016 at $14.50, as compared to $15.80 in 2015 and $22.34 in 2014. Class IV would average $14.45 for 2016, as compared to $14.35 last year and $22.09 in 2014. USDA forecasts are lower for 2016, with both Class III and Class IV around a $14 average. (Cropp, Bob. Memo to Dairy-L. July 21, 2016).

May’s prices look like they may have been the bottom, as June’s prices improved and July’s are looking like they will improve as well. In spite of decreased prices, milk production per cow and as a total and continued to increase, although we may start to see a slow due to seasonally high temperatures and humid conditions.

Income Over Feed Cost increased by a whopping 18.5% as product prices increased and feed prices decrease. June’s IOFC was $6.74.

Looking like we’ll be up in the $15’s for Class III and Class IV by the end of the year, possibly even the $16’s.
COMING EVENTS:

August 16, 21 Steuben County Fair, Bath, NY. For more information go to: www.steubencountyfair.org

September 12-Manure Management Day, 10am-2pm, Call DeLisa at 607-583-3359 or email dp253@cornell.edu for details.

September 20-Local Meat Market-Corning Meat Locker, 5-8pm, Call Delisa at 607-583-3359 or email dp253@cornell.edu for more details.

TRADING POST:

For Rent: 3 acres that was in CRP and mowed annually, most of it level, additional adjacent 2 acres that was not mowed. Located on Willey Road, South Dansville, 585-729-6635

Removal: Need two silos to be removed as soon as possible. Contact Dana or Gail Sgrecci at 607-594-4169 or 607-742-5248