MANURE... IT HAPPENS!

Manure Management
Come learn different application practices
and the efficiency and effectiveness of each

Monday
September 12, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lunch $10 per person
Please register by 9/7/16
dp253@cornell.edu or 607-664-2300

Joe Dyckman Farm
Look for the sign at the intersection
of Black Creek Hollow Road and
County Route 36 in Cohocton

Equipment
provided by:
Larry Romance and Son and Ortel
Supply Inc.
Value of Alternative Feeds:  
Corn Silage  
Michael J. Baker PhD  
Cornell University  
Beef Extension Specialist

**Corn silage without ears**  
In certain areas of the state, corn that was planted for grain, has not had enough moisture to pollinate, or if pollinated will not fill adequately to justify harvest. For cattle producers this may be a source of feed. Corn without ears that is ensiled is similar to grass hay though lower in protein. Table 1, below lists the nutrient composition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Hay-mixed mostly grass</th>
<th>Corn silage-no ears</th>
<th>Corn silage-with ears</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry matter</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude protein</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDN</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>.67</td>
<td>.52</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorous</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.31</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Nutrient composition of dry hay and corn silage with and without ears**

The corn silage without ears will meet the nutrient requirements of a mature cow (dry or lactating), as her protein requirements are low. That being the case, the value, and therefore what you can afford to pay depends on the dry matter of the corn silage. Table 2 shows the value of hay at different corn silage prices and dry matter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dry matter, %</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>35</th>
<th>40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn silage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(as fed), $/t</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For example, if you can purchase corn silage for $45/ton with a dry matter of 25%, this equates to dry hay at $162/ton. If you can get that corn silage with a 35 less water, for example 35% dry matter, then the value of the hay drops to $116/ton. If you are in a drought region, hay will very likely be more than $116/ton, so purchasing corn silage makes sense.

**Fully eared corn silage**  
Fully eared corn silage is approximately 50% grain, therefore containing more energy. As such it should have a higher value. Indeed that is the case. Table 3 compares the value of fully eared corn silage to dry hay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dry Matter, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Silage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(as fed), $/t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this case, corn silage purchased at $45/ton with a dry matter of 25% is equivalent on an energy basis to hay at $195/ton, or if the corn silage is 35% dry matter the hay value is $139/ton. In this scenario, if you can purchase hay for less than $139/ton, it is a better deal than fully eared corn silage at $45/ton (35% dry matter).

A rule of thumb for valuing fully eared corn silage, out of storage is 9 – 10 times the price of...
a bushel of corn. Corn is currently selling for $3.25/bu. This puts corn silage at $30 – $35/ton, making it more economical to feed hay, if you can purchase it for $93 - $108/ton.

**Other considerations:**
1. Fully eared corn silage will not meet the protein requirements of a lactating cow, therefore protein supplementation is needed.
2. A 100% corn silage (fully eared) diet will make fat cows. On an as fed basis feed approximately 1/3 hay and 2/3 corn silage.
3. Feeding fully eared corn silage requires Ca supplementation.
4. Neither corn silage without ears nor fully eared corn silage will meet the protein requirements of growing cattle.
5. Feeding corn silage may require different feeding systems and equipment if you have been an all hay feeding operation.
6. In warmer weather of fall and early spring, corn silage will not keep will once taken out of storage.

The bottom line is that given the tight feed supplies and lower calf prices, having a forage analysis and a sharp pencil is critical to reducing the risk of making the wrong decision.

---

**Forage Management**

Late Summer Alfalfa Harvest? Take Labor Day off?

**Joe Lawrence**, Cornell PRO-DAIRY

**Jerry Cherney**, Cornell University

**Mike Hunter**, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County

Alfalfa harvest schedule is an annual discussion as day length begins to shorten and with many areas facing short forage supplies the topic has even greater emphasis. The bottom line is that the underlying principles for risk to an alfalfa crop remain the same regardless of forage inventories; however, your tolerance for the risk involved certainly changes based on forage needs.

**Decision making factors**
- Is it alfalfa or grass?
  - Stand decisions for fertility and harvest management should be derived from stand composition.
    - Stands with >50% alfalfa should be managed as alfalfa.
- Stand Health?
  - Healthy alfalfa stands are more tolerant to fall cuttings.
    - Soils with high soil test potassium (K) levels and pH above 6.5 contribute to healthy alfalfa stands and will reduce the risks associated with fall harvest.
    - Weather conditions such as prolonged drought can add to plant stress.
- What are your forage goals?
  - Is your goal to maximize quality or to maximize the lifespan of the stand?
    - Many arguments have been made that “babying” an alfalfa stand for longevity does not gain you anything if it results in over mature low quality forages.
- What is the age of the alfalfa stand?
  - Alfalfa stands (3rd year or older) are at higher risk than younger stands (1st or 2nd production year).
  - Is it worth the time and effort?
Generally speaking, fall harvested alfalfa does not yield very well.

- Take into consideration the time, effort and harvesting costs.
  - In many cases, the total amount of harvested forage is worth less than what you spent on harvest costs.
  - You may be further ahead to buy additional hay or haylage if it is available in your area.

**Harvest Timing Risk Management**

The critical time for alfalfa in the fall relates to the ability of the plant to build root reserves prior to a killing frost (28°F). Following a cutting the plant depletes root reserves to begin regrowth before putting energy back into the roots. A killing frost during this time is most detrimental.

Data for Central and Northern NY indicate that late August and early September provide the lowest chance of falling into the correct windows for adequate GDD accumulation with a fall cutting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ithaca</th>
<th>Watertown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Range in 1st 28°F frost date</td>
<td>Sep. 29-Nov. 5</td>
<td>Sep. 20-Oct. 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average date of 1st frost</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The longstanding recommendation for NY is to leave 6-7 weeks between the last two cuttings of the year (Critical Fall Rest Period). Studies have shown that with this cutting interval harvest during the critical fall rest period is less likely to cause stand losses.

The 6-7 week cutting interval can be further refined using growing degree day data, using 900 growing degree days (GDD, base 41°F) as a minimal interval between the last two cuttings. The following Figures show cutting dates and average growing degree day accumulation for Ithaca, NY (Figure 1) and Watertown, NY (Figure 2). Additionally it is assumed that if less than 360 GDD’s accumulate between last harvest and frost alfalfa regrowth will be minimal and at less risk of frost injury. Figures 3 & 4 shows the odds of accumulating greater than 900 GDD’s between the last two cuttings and less than 360 GDD’s following the last cut for Ithaca (Figure 3) and Watertown (Figure 4).
Figure 3. Approximate chances that fall cutting will not cause winter injury to alfalfa in Ithaca, NY. Based on 1982-2011 weather data and GDD base5°C (500 and 200 equivalent to 900 and 360 GDD base4°F). This is based on killing frost dates considered as the first 28°F temperature.

Figure 4. Approximate chances that fall cutting will not cause winter injury to alfalfa in Watertown, NY. Based on 1982-2011 weather data and GDD base5°C (500 and 200 equivalent to 900 and 360 GDD base4°F). This is based on killing frost dates considered as the first 28°F temperature.

Reference
Cherney; J.H, D.J.R. Cherney, and P.R. Peterson, Cornell University. Alfalfa Fall Harvest Guidelines in NY – Should They Change?. What’s Cropping Up? Vol. 22, No.3 

A Double Whammy – Weather and Milk Price
Virginia A. Ishler
Extension Dairy Specialist
Posted: August 16, 2016

The last several months Pennsylvania dairy producers have received less than $16/cwt for their milk. The average breakeven milk price on many farms hovers around $18 to $19/cwt, so right now producers are hurting financially. If that was not bad enough, many dairies are suffering through drought conditions. The following website http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx shows conditions in the U.S. and for individual states. These are both situations producers have endured before however it never gets any easier. If not already, now is the time to be forward thinking. Forage quality and quantity could be issues and purchasing additional forage is a real possibility. What contingency plans are in place if the worst case scenarios play out: continued low milk price and low forage inventories?

Production Perspective
When strategizing options, cow performance and animal growth should not be compromised. Setbacks in either of these areas can have long lasting ramifications to the dairy operation. The first step is to assess forage inventories. Some areas in the state may have very limited aftermath cuttings of hay-crop forages. Planning hay purchases sooner versus later may be prudent. Don’t overlook the alternative of purchasing wet wrapped bales. Harvested under good management they can provide excellent feed for both lactating and non-lactating animals.
The corn crop is extremely variable. Assessing fields to evaluate the best corn to ensile for the lactating cows is one strategy. Fields with extremely short corn having little to no ears ideally should be segregated to a storage structure earmarked for dry cows and young stock. Even if putting up an Ag Bag is a new experience, it may be worth the expense. This could definitely be an option for farms that have to utilize all their corn for silage. Maintaining adequate forage supplies will be the priority and an Ag Bag may provide that critical extra few months of feed.

Shrink can erode away profits and feed inventory very quickly. Optimizing management practices during storage, feed out and feeding can go a long way to minimizing losses. If not monitoring what is being fed it is difficult to visualize the impact shrink has on the quantity available to feed. Fine tuning practices during ensiling and feeding can add several weeks of additional forage inventory.

Working with a nutritionist will be instrumental on evaluating the quantity of forages available for all animal groups. Frequent monitoring of forage dry matters and overall analyses may be necessary to account for increased forage variability. Cows thrive on consistency so the priority should be on the milk cows followed by the dry cows and heifers. The best quality corn silage and hay crop forage should go to the lactating cows. Dry cows and heifers do not require the highest energy forages and there can be more flexibility on what they receive. Their requirements can be more easily met through purchased hay, byproducts and supplementation compared to the milk cows.

Develop a cash flow plan if not already. Determine the farm’s breakeven income over feed cost and monitor this metric monthly. This is a great tool for examining if changes being made are working or not. If the producer’s advisory team knows where the operation currently stands, it makes for smarter decisions. Regardless of how well cows are performing, a $15 to $16 milk price will not generate enough income to cover all expenses. The goal right now is to control the amount being lost so that when the market does improve producers are positioned to rebound faster.

**Action plan for improving milk income.**

**Goals**

With a team of advisors that includes the crop consultant, assess the crop status across the farm and make a plan for improving practices related to harvest, storage, feed out, and feeding for 2016-2017.

**Steps**

- **Step 1:** Close to harvesting date for corn silage, evaluate fields and make a list on which ones would work best for the lactating herd and if any fields should be separated from the main storage structure.
- **Step 2:** Assess the current hay-crop inventory and examine options for compensating the inventory.
- **Step 3:** As best as possible, determine the amount of forage going into the storage structure and weigh forages coming out to determine losses. Set goals on what shrink should be from each structure, i.e. 10% shrink from a bunk.
- **Step 4:** Set a realistic goal for milk cow refusals (i.e. 2 to 3%) and work with the nutritionist on how to incorporate them into the appropriate heifer diet.
- **Step 5:** Develop a cash flow plan to evaluate feed costs associated with the current feed inventory and any projected changes. Make adjustments as needed to maintain income over feed cost as close to the breakeven that is realistic.

**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: July's PSU milk price: $16.81/cwt; feed cost/cow: $5.29; average milk production: 81 lbs.

**Feed cost/non-lactating animal/day.**

"These numbers once again demonstrate the resiliency and reliability of U.S. farmers and ranchers in the face of continued challenges," stated Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today issued the following statement on the first forecast for U.S. agricultural exports for fiscal year 2017 and a revised forecast for fiscal year 2016. Both forecasts indicate U.S. agricultural exports have begun to rally and will continue the record-setting pace that began in 2009.

“These numbers once again demonstrate the resiliency and reliability of U.S. farmers and ranchers in the face of continued challenges. The projected $133 billion in total exports for FY 2017 is up $6 billion from last forecast and would be the sixth-highest total on record. The United States’ agricultural trade surplus is also projected to rise to $19.5 billion, up 40 percent from $13.9 billion in FY 2016. The United States has continued to post an agricultural trade surplus since recordkeeping began in the 1960s.

“The projected growth in exports in 2017 is led by increases in overseas sales of U.S. oilseeds and products, horticultural goods,
cotton, livestock, dairy and poultry. And with a rise in global economic growth, global beef demand is expected to strengthen. While USDA continues working to eliminate the remaining restrictions on U.S. beef exports that were instituted by some trading partners as a result of the December 2003 BSE detection, U.S. beef exports have recovered. U.S. beef exports are expected to reach $5.3 billion in 2017, well above the $1.5 billion exported in FY 2004. This progress is due to USDA’s work under the Obama Administration to eliminate BSE-related restrictions in countries around the world, including 16 countries since January 2015. BEEF FACT SHEET

“China is projected to return as the United State top export market in 2017, surpassing Canada as the number one destination for U.S. agricultural goods.

“USDA also revised the forecast for FY 2016 exports to $127 billion, up $2.5 billion from the previous forecast. This would bring total agricultural exports since 2009 to more than $1 trillion, smashing all previous eight-year totals.

“Exports are responsible for 20 percent of U.S. farm income, also driving rural economic activity and supporting more than one million American jobs on and off the farm. The United States has the opportunity to expand those benefits even further through passage of new trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Such agreements are key to a stable and prosperous farm economy, helping boost global demand for U.S. farm and food products, increasing U.S. market share versus our competitors, and ensuring that our farmers and ranchers have stable and predictable markets for the quality goods they produce.”

–USDA

Fall Will Continue Warm But Wet
Michael J. Baker, PAS, PhD, Beef Cattle Extension Specialist

I know that the severity of the drought across the state ranges from “What drought?” to “Extreme” (http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?NY). For those needing rain the most recent Extended Weather Outlook from CattleFax shows warm wet weather through mid-Fall. They predict “temperatures to +2F through mid-fall; precipitation rising to 120% of normal by early fall.”
LOCAL MEAT MARKET

Tuesday
September 20, 2016
5:00-8:00 p.m.
Corning Meat Locker
55 1/2 Ferris St. Corning, NY

Local Producers will have meat for sale and samples

Let’s Celebrate
1 year

with the Corning Meat Locker

www.PutKNOWLEDGEToWORK.org
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Creating a tight market for near fluid demand, supply is meeting short term demands and current orders, by finding spot term butter needs. However, some processors are still able to slow production schedules for some processors. Lower manufacturers notice a reduction in available milk supply, while cheddar stocks are mostly long. Market participants in the Midwest, leaving less milk for cheese production. Mozzarella milk into Class I is strong in the East and picking up in the Midwest; many U.S. cheese vats are less full this week as fluid yogurt; and provolone orders are strong in the East. Domestic demand of cheese is strong and industry contacts anticipate that demand will continue to climb. Inventories vary depending on the variety of cheese. Overall, stocks for young and fresh cheeses are tight while cheddar stocks are mostly long. Market participants in the East report balanced inventories.

Butter: Across the nation, butter production has slowed. Most manufacturers notice a reduction in available milk supply, slowing production schedules for some processors. Lower cream availability has pushed many butter makers to slow down butter churning rates, creating a tight market for near term butter needs. However, some processors are still able to meet short term demands and current orders, by finding spot loads of creams. Some suppliers are expecting a turnaround in supply as the expectation of increasing availability follows in the coming week.

Cheese: Many U.S. cheese vats are less full this week as manufacturers face declining milk intakes. The pull for fluid milk into Class I is strong in the East and picking up in the Midwest, leaving less milk for cheese production. Mozzarella and provolone orders are strong in the East. Domestic demand is strong and industry contacts anticipate that demand will continue to climb. Inventories vary depending on the variety of cheese. Overall, stocks for young and fresh cheeses are tight while cheddar stocks are mostly long. Market participants in the East report balanced inventories.

Flavorful 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Butterfat</td>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>I (Boston)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>$2.11</td>
<td>$2.61</td>
<td>$19.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>$2.27</td>
<td>$2.57</td>
<td>$19.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
<td>$17.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>$2.91</td>
<td>$1.70</td>
<td>$19.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>$3.18</td>
<td>$1.32</td>
<td>$19.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
<td>$1.35</td>
<td>$19.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>$2.31</td>
<td>$1.82</td>
<td>$19.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>$2.38</td>
<td>$1.74</td>
<td>$16.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
<td>$1.92</td>
<td>$17.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>$2.23</td>
<td>$1.84</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>$2.28</td>
<td>$1.49</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>$2.41</td>
<td>$1.48</td>
<td>$16.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>$2.59</td>
<td>$1.91</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**July Utilization (Northeast): Class I = 29%; Class II = 25%; Class III = 26%; Class IV = 20%.**

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**: Many U.S. cheese vats are less full this week as manufacturers face declining milk intakes. The pull for fluid milk into Class I is strong in the East and picking up in the Midwest, leaving less milk for cheese production. Mozzarella and provolone orders are strong in the East. Domestic demand is strong and industry contacts anticipate that demand will continue to climb. Inventories vary depending on the variety of cheese. Overall, stocks for young and fresh cheeses are tight while cheddar stocks are mostly long. Market participants in the East report balanced inventories.

**Butter**: Across the nation, butter production has slowed. Most manufacturers notice a reduction in available milk supply, slowing production schedules for some processors. Lower cream availability has pushed many butter makers to slow down butter churning rates, creating a tight market for near term butter needs. However, some processors are still able to meet short term demands and current orders, by finding spot loads of creams. Some suppliers are expecting a turnaround in supply as the expectation of increasing availability follows in the coming week.

**Fluid Milk**: Throughout most of the country, farm milk production is lower, excluding those areas where cow comfort avoids the frustration of persistent daytime heat and humidity. Bottled milk demand continues to increase as more school districts begin the school year. The increasing demand for fluid milk has generated additional cream volumes, however, there is some tightness reported in pockets of the East and Midwest regions. Ice cream and frozen dessert demand is also strong, as operations continue to run full production schedules. Condensed skim is mostly moving under contract agreements versus spot load sales.

**Dry Products**: Prompted by mounting fluid demand, manufacturing milk declines affect the production of most dry ingredients. Condensed skim availability is well below most plants’ drying capacity, thereby causing nonfat dry milk production to decline. Prices are mixed, with both the Central-East and West observing steady to higher prices in the mostly series. As well, dry buttermilk market prices are mixed. Inventories have tightened. Markets show signs of firmness. Dry whey prices are mostly higher. As buyers anticipate a firming market, volume purchases are on the rise. Whole milk prices are steady on light trading. Whey protein concentrate 34% prices are higher. The lactose price range is steady to higher. Active demand from export markets is helping to drive current lactose prices. Casein prices moved higher, with a drop in New Zealand and EU casein output expected in the months ahead.

**Friday CME Cash Prices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Butter</th>
<th>Cheese (40# Blocks)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>$2.29</td>
<td>$1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/29</td>
<td>$2.13</td>
<td>$1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/5</td>
<td>$2.27</td>
<td>$1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/12</td>
<td>$2.25</td>
<td>$1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/19</td>
<td>$2.19</td>
<td>$1.86</td>
</tr>
</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 steadily waning in all regions of the country. Lactose prices are unchanged to slightly higher. Casein prices are unchanged and the market is steady.

Comments: Prices have continued to increase slowly, especially in Class III where we’ve seen a much higher increase than previously expected over the past few weeks, and prices continue to strengthen as compared to our lows in April and May. Class III price should be near $17 for August, which will put it $1.75 higher than in July and $4.25 higher that May’s $12.76. Cheese prices are at their highest since November of 2014, which along with improvements in dry whey prices, have helped with Class III’s boost. August’s Class IV price should be near $14.77, $2.09 higher than April’s low of $12.68. Exports still aren’t helping milk prices, and it doesn’t look like they will come into play until late in 2017. June exports continued to remain below levels seen a year ago, 9% lower for nonfat dry milk, 33% lower for butterfat, 12% lower for cheese, and 2% lower for dry whey. Whey Protein Concentrates did see a jump, however, as China bought a record amount that pushed exports up by 52%. June exports were 14.9% of milk production on a total solids basis, the highest since April 2015; while imports amounted to 4.1% of milk production. Milk production in the EU has slowed from running 5% higher earlier this year to just 1% higher, and production is also expected to slow down in Australia, New Zealand and Argentina. World dairy products prices are improving, but are still lower than our domestic prices, keeping it difficult to compete on the world market. Milk prices should continue to climb incrementally, but will be impacted greatly by the rates of increasing milk production. Milk production for July was 1.4% higher than a year ago as milk production per cow was up 1.2%. Cow numbers were up for the second month in a row by 2,000. July’s milk production in New York was up 4% in spite of the hot and humid weather. Continued increases in milk production will hamper price increases through the rest of the year. Class III futures are near $17 for August through November, and drop to the $16’s in December and into 2017, which are probably optimistic as buyers prepare for the Holiday season. The Class III price might end up near the $15’s by November and December, more realistically, and it will take strong cheese sales and slower milk production growths to support the higher Class III futures prices. (Cropp, Bob. Memo to Dairy-L. August 19, 2016). The USDA announced this week that they will purchase $20 million worth of surplus cheddar cheese. While this is just a drop in the bucket for our dairy industry (amounting to 1.5% of inventory), it will result in 770 million pounds of cheese that will be donated to food banks across the country. The USDA also announced that they are extending the deadline to enroll in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy from September 30th to December 16th, 2016. (Novakovic, Andrew. Memo to Farmmgt-L. August 23, 2016).
COMING EVENTS:

September 8-WNY Young dairy manager Discussion Group, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Wyoming Agriculture and County Business Center, 36 Center Street, Warsaw, NY. For more information and to register call: 585-786-2251, ext. 123

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

September 14-Pasture Walk, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 4812 Barnard Road, Hemlock, NY. For more information and to register call Nancy Anderson at 585-394-3977, ext. 427 or register on line at: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/Pasture_232

September 26-27-Bovine Reproduction & A.I. Training Course, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Willow Bend Farm, 1159 CR 7, Shortsville. Or September 29-30, HY-Hope Farms, 5908 Horseshoe lake Rd., Stafford. For more information or to register call Zach at 585-786-2251 or online at: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/BovineReproduction-2_256. Must register by September 19.

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

September 24-Beef Field Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Shining Star Cattle Company, 9167 May Road, Springville, NY

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