



the Dairy Dispatch

*A publication devoted to supporting the Kansas
Dairy Industry and farmers*

Legislative Update

Historically Short Session

The 2020 Kansas Legislature adjourned its regular session on March 19th, more than two weeks before it was officially scheduled due to the threat posed by COVID-19. The shortened session left a significant amount of issues unfinished from what was originally planned to be accomplished. The Legislature did not come back for the traditional Veto Session, which was scheduled to begin at the end of April.

Extremely Long Sine Die

The Legislature returned on May 21 for the official adjournment of the 2020 session. Typically, Sine Die (a Latin term for the final day) last around an hour. This year, however, it lasted for almost 24 hours. The legislature worked on several bills, some of which were controversial and took the most time, to deal with the emergency management statutes, which were created for a catastrophic event,

like a tornado or flood, not an ongoing global pandemic which may last for years. The Governor vetoed the legislation that would have changed the laws on emergency orders.

Special Session

The Governor called the Legislature back into Special Session starting on June 3 to deal with the emergency management statutes and to find common agreement. The Legislature and the Governor

worked together to find a short term compromise on many of the issues that weren't agreed to in the

bill passed on Sine Die. The Special Session lasted two days, until June 4 around 3:30 pm and the legislature, it appears, is done for this year.

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<https://agriculture.ks.gov/AgGrowthStrategy/ag-summit-2020>



News from the Executive Director

My heart was saddened by the news of the passing of Vernon DeWeff. He was a wonderful dairyman and a friend to many. He will be missed.

Vernon Woodrow DeWerff, 88, passed away at Ellinwood District Hospital in Ellinwood, KS on June 17th, 2020. Born in Ellinwood, KS on Oct. 26, 1931 he was the son of Chester and Clara (Scheufler) DeWerff. A graduate of Ellinwood high school in 1948 he married Marian Heiken on Nov. 2nd, 1952 in Bushton, KS.

First and foremost, Vernon was a faithful servant of his Lord, and devoted his life to honoring Him. A husband of 67.5 years, father of 5, Grandpa of 11 and Great-Grandpa to 8, he was loved, admired and respected by his family. A lifetime farmer and dairyman of Ell-Bar-Farm, south of Ellinwood, he loved the land and the Holstein cattle and passed on this love through his leadership in 4-H, Ag/FFA, and the Kansas Dairy Council.

Vernon, along with his wife Marian, invested in the lives of countless youth, teaching and promoting the dairy industry. The couple especially enjoyed hosting people from around the world.

Vernon loved anything K-state and was honored in 2018 as Kansas Dairy Leader of the year and his picture hangs in dairy row in Call Hall at K-State.



Vernon was awarded the Kansas Dairy Leader of the Year during the 2018 Kansas State Fair.

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Kansas Dairy Farmers Help Celebrate National Dairy Month



The Sabetha Community Food Pantry volunteers are thankful for the generous donations that were made by the Kansas Dairy Commission & Rokeyroad Dairy Farm, Seneca. The Rokey's had worked with Midwest Dairy to provide a cooler for the food pantry in May. As June rolled around, the family was committed to help fill the cooler with delicious and nutritious dairy products. The Community Food Pantry serves up to 100 households in the area each month. Shoppers are allowed to “shop” the pantry every two weeks. The Food Pantry also has a special contact number to provide emergency food assistance for those that find themselves in need.

Ohlde Family Dairy, Linn, worked with local business to celebrate National Dairy Month by providing free dairy products to patrons from the area. They also highlighted their hard-working employees on their Facebook page every week.

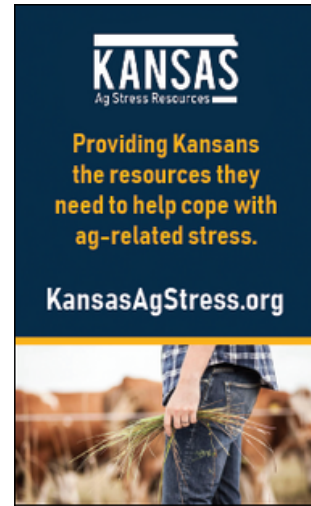
David Lane, Colwich, was active during the month of June over his Facebook Page. He highlighted activities at his dairy farm throughout the month, sharing pictures of cows, feeding & harvesting. He also posted pictures of dairy foods and recipes to help celebrate.

Hildebrand Dairy Farm also helped to highlight National Dairy Month by offering specials on their bottled milk & cream. The family dairy also offered \$1.00 ice cream cones at the store located on the farm.

The Kansas Dairy Facebook page pictured random farms throughout the state sharing positive messages of delicious dairy foods.



Sabetha Community Food Bank Volunteers



Dairy Nutrition Plus, a family of quality products by Landus Cooperative™. 800 843 4769 • DairyNutritionPlus.com

July National Ice Cream Month!

Secure Milk for Kansas

The Kansas Secure Milk Supply Plan is a tool for the Kansas dairy industry to be implemented for guidance when moving raw milk product to processing from uninfected dairy farms during a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in North America. The purpose of the plan is to provide producers with site-specific, enhanced biosecurity, designed to help prevent a disease from entering the designated premises. Adopted from the national plan, Kansas has shown to be a frontrunner in developing and exercising these plans alongside industry. Along with completing a written plan, producers complete a yearly assessment to ensure the plan is still relevant to the operation and staff.

The Kansas Secure Milk Supply program currently has 15 participating dairy facilities, resulting in approximately 210,900 dairy cows covered in Kansas. The Division of Animal Health looks forward to facilitating the development of more Secure Milk Supply plans in the coming months and encourages dairy producers to consider starting a plan. The plans are free to the producer and the Division of Animal Health serves as a resource to those interested in completing a plan. It is highly encouraged to have a conversation with your local veterinarian or the Kansas Department of Agriculture to get involved in the Secure Milk Supply Program. View more information at securemilksupply.org or contact Emily Voris directly at Emily.Voris@ks.gov or by phone at 785-210-7741.

Legislative Update Continued from page 1

Election Year

2020 is an election year for 165 legislators in Kansas, but no statewide office is up at this time. We also have our federal races, including one for the US Senate. Candidates are out now, campaigning and raising money for their races. June 1 was the filing deadline to file the official paperwork for all candidates in Kansas. The Primary Election is August 4 and the General Election on November 3. Most seats have races for the position, with just a handful of incumbents without any challenger. The Republican Primary for the US Senate seat looks like it is the race to watch this summer. With numerous candidates and what appears to be significant spending on ads and direct mail pieces, whether by the candidate or outside organizations, the primary election looks to be extremely contentious and competitive. Voter turn out will be a major factor in determining the winner and could impact how quickly a winner can be announced, especially if there are significant numbers of absentee and mail in ballots.

Have wonderful summer and please stay safe and healthy.

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Personally Penned

By Dr. Aaron Schaffer



Change – hard at the beginning, messy in the middle, and gorgeous at the end. I came across this quote the other day and thought that it fit perfectly with the change that a dairy cow goes through during the transition from being a close-up cow resting and ruminating to a lactating cow producing 130 lbs or more of milk a day. Being a male, I have never experienced the birthing process firsthand. However, my wife has, and I think she would say that the birthing process is the hardest thing, physically, that she has ever done. I don't think that we can expect the beginning of change to be any different for a cow.

However, for the dairy cow, the birthing process is only the beginning of change. From four days prior to this process to four days after this process, she doubles her energy needs, and at the same time her feed intake often dips; this sets her up perfectly to fall into a negative energy balance. She then begins to mobilize her body reserves of fat in the form of non-esterified fatty acids. Depending on the degree of fat mobilization, another energy substrate called ketone bodies may be produced. This change in energy demand and metabolism can have a negative effect on the body, modifying the insulin reaction and causing immune dysregulation.

Still, the challenges go on. In addition to a drastic change in energy needs, there is a huge change in calcium demands. A dry cow requires 21 grams of calcium a day whereas a cow that is producing 100 lbs of milk a day requires 74 grams of calcium. This is three times the amount that she is used to mobilizing and often leads to some degree of hypocalcemia. Sometimes this is manifested clinically as milk fever. However, more often (as much as 50% of the time) it results in subclinical hypocalcemia – a less than normal concentration of calcium in the blood that does not result in observed changes to the animal's attitude. Like the effects of negative energy balance, subclinical hypocalcemia can have a negative effect on immune function. It also reduces smooth muscle contraction and feed intake.

As a result of all the changes going on during this transition period things can get a little messy here in the middle. We can see retained placentas, metritis, ketosis, DAs, and it seems like the list goes on and on. However, with proper management, we can limit the degree of messiness and have a beautiful end to the change. I think all dairy farmers can attest that there is something special about seeing a group of lactating cows chewing their cud as they walk to the parlor with full udders.

To get these girls set up for this beautiful end, attention needs to be given before this change starts. I think one could argue that getting them through this change could start even at birth or before. Certainly, we need to make sure that these girls get an adequate amount of high-quality colostrum as babies, and that they are managed to grow efficiently and reach an appropriate size and body condition when they calve.

Change continued from page 5

When these heifers near the stage of parturition, it is important that a continued level of high-quality care is given to them. As with any stage of production, it is imperative that they are consistently fed an appropriate ration and that they are allowed adequate space to eat, drink, and rest. In addition, there is new research coming out that shows the value of heat abatement given to close-up cows and heifers. Not only does heat abatement improve the production of the heifer or cow, it also improves the productivity of the calf she is carrying.

These same recommendations – consistent ration, adequate space, heat abatement – should be followed for the fresh and lactating cows. In addition, I would add that limiting the time away from the pen and the time the cows spend locked-up is also critical. Lastly, as these cows go through the messy transition period, it is important that those that are struggling with the change are quickly identified and given appropriate treatment to help them progress swiftly to the beautiful end result.


Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, or CFAP, provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant market costs.


USDA is accepting applications now through August 28, 2020. Producers should apply through the Farm Service Agency at their local USDA Service Center.

NMPF has developed a new “Sharing Our Story” page on its website highlighting its member dairy-farm families and offering a place where the latest and most compelling arguments on behalf of the dairy community can be found.

<https://www.nmpf.org/latest-news/sharing-our-story/>



**KANSAS
HOLSTEIN
ASSOCIATION**



Heifer Raffle

Heifer #1
Owned by Dwight and Anita Rokey, a RC Unstopabull born March 9, 2020

Heifer #2
Owned by Maggie Seiler, a R & W Jordy born September 26, 2019

Heifer #3
Owned by Devon Benfer, a Unix born in October 2019

Heifer #4
Owned by Jacob Klipp, a R & W Rex PP Red born March 14, 2020

1 TICKET FOR \$20
6 TICKETS FOR \$100

Money raised will support Junior members attending the national conventions and other activities

Will draw at the 2020 All Breeds Junior Dairy Show in Salina, KS. Winner chooses 1 out of the 4 heifers and be will able to show her that Saturday.

Pictures, videos, and pedigrees of heifers can be seen on the KDA Facebook page @Kansas Dairy with updates over time

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact:
Bob Seiler – 316-644-2238(C) – seicows@gmail.com
Tim Klipp – 785-337-2541(H) – 785-747-6167(C) – tjklipp4streams@gmail.com

How to Protect Your Farm from Animal Activists

By: Theresa Reps
Manager, Agricultural Affairs with Midwest Dairy



Animal activist group, Direct Action Everywhere, recently launched Project CounterGlow, an interactive map that aggregates the locations of more than 27,000 farms and animal agriculture facilities across several different industries, including dairy. This information was already publicly available but is now organized via a single website. Users can view and pin new locations on the map. Additionally, activists have encouraged registered users to leave a trail behind by attaching photos and videos to document animal cruelty and health violations on specific farms.

Not all dairy farms are pinned on the map, but some are. Refrain from sharing this website or having discussions about this topic on social media, as we do not want to encourage more people to visit the website. Unfortunately, this latest tactic points to what dairy farmers already know – that it's important to protect your farm from activists. The following are best practices to keep your farm safe:

- **Keep an eye out for suspicious activity occurring around your farm and who is coming and going.**
- **Ensure all employees are aware and following your farm's security, animal care and environmental stewardship procedures.**
- **Implement security measures on the farm, including hanging "No Trespassing Signs" around your property.**
- **Reach out to your local law enforcement to inform them about any incidents. Ask them what you can do to protect yourself and who you can contact if a suspicious event should occur.**
- **Most importantly, maintain a positive farm presence online, whether that be through a farm social media account, or a farm website. Continue to post positive images and videos, as well as engage and interact with consumers to build trust. In the event an activist group should target your farm, having a positive reputation with consumers will go a long way.**

For any further questions about Project CounterGlow, or how to best take preventive measures, reach out to farmer relations manager Ron Grusenmeyer at rgrusenmeyer@midwestdairy.com or (816) 873-0351.

DAIRY DEFINED:

ON WORLD MILK DAY, U.S. DAIRY CELEBRATES AMERICAN CONSUMERS

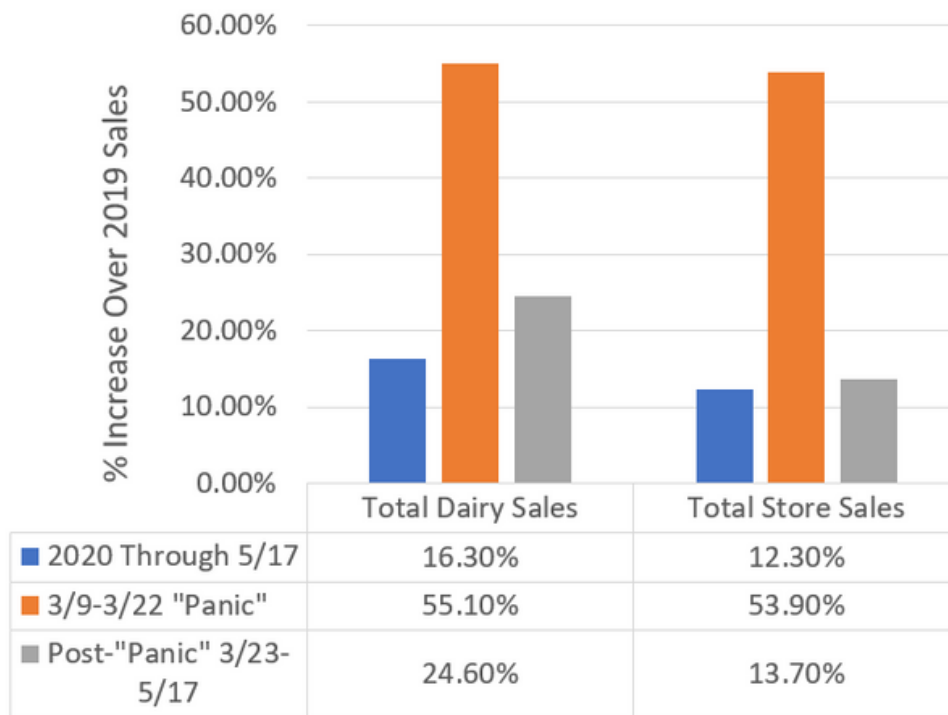
Courtesy National Milk Producers Federation

While no one can say with certainty that the slow re-openings across the U.S. mark the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 crisis, it's clear these attempts to return to a more normal existence mark the end of the beginning. The world is an experiment, both of science and of societies. Outcomes will remain uncertain for months.

But data can help draw a few conclusions. One from the consumer sector is that, in times of uncertainty, people turn to the bedrock items that they know will nourish themselves and their families. And dairy is an important choice.

Retail-sales as reported by consumer market researcher IRI over the past three months show that consumers have reacted to the coronavirus crisis first by stocking up on dairy, then by continuing to buy milk and other products at disproportionately high levels.

Dairy Sales Outpace Grocery Purchases



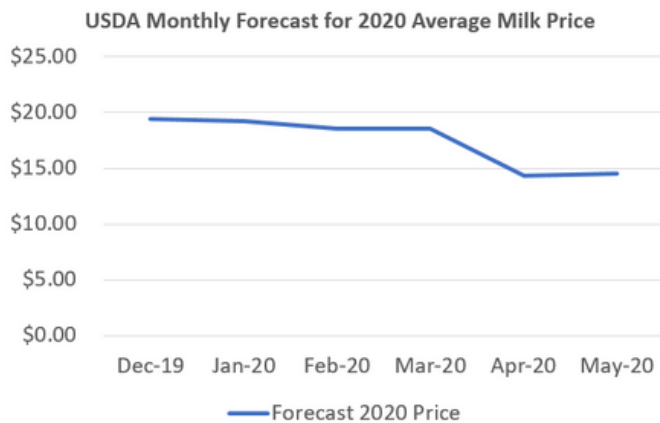
From March 8 to March 22, as stay-at-home orders and business closures proliferated nationwide, dairy products flew from store shelves. Milk sales were 43 percent higher than during the same period a year earlier. Yogurt rose 31 percent. Ice cream sales gained 40 percent and cheese 76 percent. Butter sales more than doubled during the same period.

Dairy Defined continued from page 8

Gains have continued into the “new normal,” and in fact take up more of a consumer’s retail dollar than they did during the panic peak. Retail dairy sales from late March through May 17 remain 25 percent higher than a year ago, while overall grocery sales during that same period are only up 14 percent — meaning that at a time when people are relying more on grocers to fill their needs, they’re relying on dairy significantly more than they are on other products.

That vote of consumer trust shows every sign of continuing for the foreseeable future – and that shouldn’t be a surprise, really. When milk is already in 94 percent of U.S. households, it follows that it would be especially important as families choose how to weather a storm. This real-world, real-time affirmation of dairy’s value can’t help but inspire the entire dairy community to keep working and maintain resilience through whatever comes next. Dairy owes a deep debt of gratitude to consumers whose support has helped carry farmers through this crisis.

Of course, consumer faith has been only one part of dairy’s story in the past few months. Pre-coronavirus, about half of all dairy sales came from outside the home. Even as retail consumers increased dairy buying, sales to restaurants, schools and cafeterias plunged. That turbulence prompted sharp declines in the USDA’s forecast for milk prices for 2020. That’s been a big reason why federal assistance for dairy farms has been so important.



But even that story is brightening. A recent price rally is changing the outlook from mortifying to merely difficult – still cold comfort for many producers, but more manageable in a way many wouldn’t have dared to wish for even one month ago. Restaurant sales are slowly returning, and federal aid has provided a meaningful boost to bottom lines, even as signs of stress will still need to be monitored and additional aid will be necessary.

The past few months have been difficult for dairy, as it has for everyone. The next few will be as well. But dairy is resilient. Its value to consumers is beyond dispute, and early signs of recovery give reasons for hope. Today is World Milk Day. There remains much to celebrate. Raise a glass.



For more information please visit nmpf.org

Blush Awarded Kansas Dairy Leader Award

Congratulations to George Blush for being selected as a recipient of the Kansas Dairy Leader of the Year award. George Blush started his career with the Kansas Department of Agriculture in 1985 as a dairy program field inspector. Later positions included milk processing plant specialist, FDA certified milk rating officer and was the Dairy Program Manager for nineteen years. He holds an animal science degree from Kansas State University. He is currently the Agribusiness Services Director for the Kansas Department of Agriculture overseeing all regulatory programs including food safety, dairy, animal feed, meat and poultry, pesticide, fertilizer, plant protection, weights and measures and the agriculture laboratory. A photo of George will hang on Dairy Row at Call Hall.



New Product Research Purina and Kansas State

In cooperation with Kansas State University Research and Extension, Purina evaluated two commercial supplemental fat products and their effects on body condition scores and herd-level milk yield and composition. The treatments measured intakes and dry matter efficiency, then calculations were done to determine milk fat content, energy-corrected milk and fat-corrected milk. The abstract from this work was presented at the American Dairy Science Association in June 2019. Out of that research PROPEL® Energy+ Balance supplement was reformulated to include C16:0 and C18:0 fatty acids at optimum levels. This product is manufactured in Russell, Kansas. For more information, please reach out to your local Purina representative.

An advertisement for Mies & Sons TRUCKING, LLC. The top half features a logo of a cow's head on the left and the text "Mies & Sons" in a large, cursive font, with "TRUCKING, LLC" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. Underneath the logo, the text "Colwich, KS | 316-796-0186" is displayed. The bottom half of the ad shows a large silver tanker truck driving on a road in a rural landscape under a cloudy sky. At the bottom of the image, there is a block of text: "A family-owned business with over 90 trucks and 100 tankers serving dairies across the state, Mies & Sons is committed to building lasting relationships with the dairy producers we serve."

Upcoming dates

Jr. Dairy Show- Salina

August 14-15

Kansas State Fair- Hutchinson

Sept 11-20

Governor's Water Conference-

Wichita

November 9-10



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from the Kansas Dairy Bar
During the Kansas State Fair

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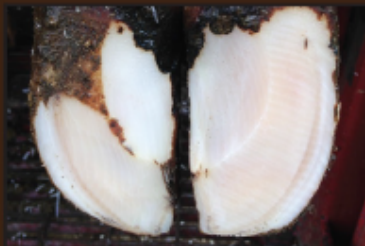
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