Weekly Market Bulletin

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From Your Commissioner . . .

Milk Prices Set to Slide in the New Year

Dairy farmers will remember 2014 fondly as the most profitable year the industry has seen in a very long time. Global supply and demand lined up with domestic supply and demand trends to keep dairy prices strong. While conditions a year ago had limited production in New Zealand, Australia and Europe, and milk prices were down there, U.S. milk prices were up. The unseasonably cool and wet spring and summer conditions in the early 1950s have pushed up prices for dairy cattle and milk, and butter is back on the table. Butter consumption has grown about 40 percent. Strong demand for butter has helped keep margarine in the refrigerator, and butter prices have increased. The value of dairy replacement heifers and milk cows. Those high beef prices probably helped to make higher milk prices last longer. Not only have cull cows brought good money at auction, but there were reports from the Midwest and elsewhere of Holstein heifers calves being purchased and used for replacement. The slow-paced expansion of dairy herds.

Dairy farmers are now bucking their seatbelts for the rollercoaster ride down from those high milk prices. Production has rebounded in New Zealand. Australia and Europe. High prices have spurred expansion, and encouraged new producers and renewed interest in dairying. The U.S. New England dairy farmers have seen farm milk prices topping $2.50/gallon in 2014. For December sales closing dates - March 15, 2015. Producers may participate in both the WFRP and the Non-Assurance Program. For example, if a calf were worth $800 pounds during the insurance period, the producer must have diversification of at least three (3) commodities. For example, a farm may have 150 acres, 100 acres in corn, 20 acres in alfalfa, and 5 acres in wheat. The revenue generated from these sources cannot exceed 35 percent of the farms total revenue and the coverage for each is limited to $1 million in revenue from those particular enterprises.

WFRP is covering revenue produced during the insurance year. WFRP insurance provides coverage against the loss of revenue that you expect to earn, or will obtain during the insurance period. WFRP insurance is the lower of the revenue expected on your current year's farm plan or your five-year average. Inventories, including harvested and unused feed, will need to provide this information to the insurance agent: 1) five years of historic Schedule F farm tax returns, 2) a farm plan for the year—what commodities you plan to produce and how much of each, 3) summaries of coverage for each commodity, 4) if you have inventories of multiple commodities, 5) if you have purchased, and 4) if you have inventories of multiple commodities. In addition, in the case of the Non-Assurance Program, the producer will be required to pay any premium and administrative costs due for WFRP as well as for the Non-Assurance Program.

Crop Insurance News

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection

The saga of the Fournier Foods major site plan application came to a conclusion December 17th as the Concord Planning Board voted to approve the proposal. Fournier Foods is planning on building a 5,500-square-foot USDA inspected facility that will enable New Hampshire’s poultry meat industry to grow. The facility will be built on a 20 acre parcel on Locke Road, just off of Exit 16 on Interstate 93. With 23 employees the plant will be able to process 2,000 birds per eight-hour shift. Fournier Foods plans on operating around the clock with three shifts, with the capability of processing 6,000 birds a day.

The bird prices observed in one day opens up many possibilities for poultry producers around the state. Amy Dowell Drogue along with her fiancé Brain Matarozzo recently purchased a farm in Center Barnstead. The young couple is looking forward to building their farming operation and is excited about the opportunities that Fournier Foods will bring. “Now that Fournier has the go ahead, we are planning on raising chickens and turkeys,” said Amy. “The USDA certification opens markets to restaurants and grocery stores, so the possibilities are endless.”

This is a huge step for New Hampshire agriculture,” said Jeff Holmes, president of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau. “Fournier Foods will open many doors for poultry farming in the state and we are eager for the construction to begin.

There were about 30 people in attendance at last night’s meeting however, no public comments were taken. Past meetings generated numerous comments from East Concord residents in opposition, with their main concern being traffic.

Planning Board Chair Gerry Drypolcher mentioned the amount of time and thorough discussion that occurred over the past three months and thanked City staff for their efforts in getting answers to questions. He also pointed out there are no grounds to deny the application and doing so would put the City at risk of litigation.

The vote enables Fournier Foods to finalize the purchase and sale to the Locke Road property and work toward breaking ground. "Our goal is to have the facility up and running by '15," said Fournier Foods owner Craig Fournier. "Now, we are looking forward to moving ahead so we can help local farmers.”
MAPLE
330gal caged food grade tanks, $165; 55gal food grade plastic barrel, $50 open top resealable food grade plastic barrels, $25; 14gal open top resealable food grade plastic barrels, $12; 5gal resealable closed top containers, closed top, $21; 5gal ss storage, $65; 5gal ss storage, $35. — LOUDON, 396-4152.

FARM EQUIPMENT
4 4/4 Grimm front pan welded stainless hood w/piping ss 4/4 flue pan tnf 4/12 arch needs work on back legs, needs tracking, $50. — CHAMBER, 463-2065.

Three Farmall Cub tractor headlamps, $100/ea; Cub sickle mower parts, $15/upa: carburetor, governor & instrument panel for Ford 8N, $50/ea. — ENFIELD, 448-1545.

6 1/2 power angle pow blade attaches to loader bucket, $20; set of forks that clamp to loader bucket as a single unit, $175; 8’ 3rd scraper blade w/removable end plates, $200. — MERRIMACK, 424-4584.

Cinder Big Ox 3rd scraper blade/plow, v.g., $400. — NORTHWOOD, 491-8132.

MISCELLANEOUS
JD calf parts MC 40 420 430 2010, $25/upa. — BETHLEHEM, 869-5819

PLEASURE HORSE EQUIPMENT
Miniature horse cart, $175; cart for 13H pony, $150. — WALPOLE, 756-4348.

Big Horn closeout: 1 1/2yd ‘sway’ back pad, blk Aztec design, v.g. $50; 15” Abetta western saddle, blk & red Ostrich print w/silver stirrups, v.g., $75. — WARNER, 456-2844.

TRUCKS & TRUCK PARTS
’02 Dodge Ram 2500 4X4, cab, $8/bed, 100K, Hi-cap, alu Tommy Gate 300lb life, tow pkg, ac., full running boards. AT tires, no rust, never plowed, $1,150. — HUDSON, 883-6764.

Please Participate: 2015 “Pulse of Agriculture” Producer Survey
Farm Credit East is once again conducting its annual “Pulse of Agriculture Survey”. This survey asks about your experience in 2014, and your expectations for the year ahead. Producers who complete the survey will be eligible to win one of two $250 gift cards! There is no purchase necessary to win, and you do not need to be a Farm Credit customer to enter. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete, and no personally identifying information will be released. Results will be released in statistical form on FarmCreditEast.com and in Farm Credit East publications.

This survey is an important part of Farm Credit East’s research, educational programming, and agricultural economic development advocacy. Your participation would be most appreciated.

We are conducting this brief survey to learn more about Northeast producers’ 2014 results and expectations for the year ahead. Anyone engaged in the business of agriculture, commercial fishing or forest products for the year ahead. Anyone engaged in the business of agriculture, commercial fishing or forest products for the year ahead. Anyone engaged in the business of agriculture, commercial fishing or forest products.

The survey will not take more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses are multiple choice – no essay answers required. Responses will be kept confidential and be used only for statistical purposes.

This year’s survey is being conducted in cooperation with the New York Vegetable Institute (NYFVI), which supports applied research, agricultural economic development and educational programming. Farm Credit East and NYFVI will work together to review results and release the findings. At the completion of the survey, statistical results will be compiled and made available on FarmCreditEast.com, and on Farm Credit East publications.

Please be entered into the drawing for a chance to win a $250 Visa gift, Northeast farmers, fisherman and forest product producers must complete this survey by January 1, 2015. Those who complete the survey will be entered into the drawing (winners will be contacted). Information collected will not be used for sales solicitations.)
NOFA-NH Seeks Sponsors Annual Winter Conference

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) seeks sponsors for its upcoming 13th annual Winter Conference, which will be held Saturday, January 31, 2015 at Rundlett Middle School in Concord, NH.

Each year, approximately 300 farmers, gardeners, herbalists, land care professionals, educators, consumers, and advocates for local and organic food attend from all across New Hampshire and neighboring states. The Winter Conference offers a wide variety of workshops for all audiences, keynote speaker, farmer-focused intensive workshops, Green Market, Fair, and meals prepared with local and sustainably grown food.

Sponsorship opportunities range from the $250 Sponsorship that includes a quarter page ad, a listing in the conference booklet and a logo and link in the NOFA-NH monthly enewsletter to the $10,000 Premier Sponsor that includes a speaking opportunity at the conference, recognition on the cover page of the conference booklet, banner placed at conference entrance, 10 registration passes, and much more.

Other sponsorship opportunities include the $500 Bronze Sponsor (first sponsor designated as Farmer Mixer Sponsor), the $1,000 Silver Sponsor (first sponsor designated as Coffee Break Sponsor), the $2,500 Gold Sponsor (second sponsor designated as Indispensable Box Sponsor or Beginner Farmer Scholarship Sponsor), and the $5,000 Platinum Sponsor (first sponsor designated as Farm to Table Lunch Sponsor).

Many sponsorship opportunities are first-come, first-served, so be sure to apply soon. The deadline for sponsorship submission is Friday, December 19th.

For more information, contact NOFA-NH at 603-863-9200 or Contact NOFA-NH at 603-863-9200.
A. Christmas trees are more than just the celebration of life during the holidays; they have come to a close. Each year more people discover the recyclable, renewable benefits a real Christmas tree can offer. Christmas trees can be used to create natural bird feeders. By placing a tree in a corner of your deck or in the yard and hanging orange slices or balls of suet and boughs on and around the plants that you want to protect. Keep them in place until spring arrives, then the boughs can be cut into small pieces and added to your compost pile.

Your tree can also be placed on its side in a woodsy area to serve as a hiding place for rabbits, moles and other small rodents. Just be careful where the tree is placed so that any wildlife encouraged to take up residence doesn’t become a pest later. Lastly, Christmas trees are biodegradable so they can be fed through a wood chipper to produce mulch for gardens, trees and shrubs.

Many cities and towns will recycle Christmas trees by chipping them into mulch. Check to see if your town is one of them. Or contact NH Fish and Game; they recycle Christmas Trees to make fish-friendly habitats. The project, which is paid for with the money raised from fishing licenses, drops the recycled trees into lakes, creating “habitat improvement structures” where fish can hide and find food.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center’s Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at answers@unh.edu.

Q. Can you give me ideas on how to recycle my Christmas tree?

A. Christmas trees can be used to make natural bird feeders. Place a tree in a corner of your deck or in the yard and hang orange slices or balls of suet and seed from the boughs, you can provide food for birds of all types. The dense boughs also provide an escape when nearby hawks or cats threaten. A Christmas tree can also be placed on its side in a woodsy area to serve as a hiding place for rabbits, moles and other small rodents. Just be careful where the tree is placed so that any wildlife encouraged to take up residence doesn’t become a pest later. Lastly, Christmas trees are biodegradable so they can be fed through a wood chipper to produce mulch for gardens, trees and shrubs.

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Attention NH Maple Producers

New Maple Rules are in Effect

The New Hampshire Maple rules were adopted on December 15, and were effective December 16, 2014. The rule allows for a one year transition period, allowing maple producers time to utilize existing inventory before printing new labels with the new grading system. Therefore, in 2015, maple producers may use the old or the new grading system. Therefore, in 2015, maple producers may use the old or the new grading system. Therefore, in 2015, maple producers may use the old or the new grading system. Therefore, in 2015, maple producers may use the old or the new grading system. Therefore, in 2015, maple producers may use the old or the new grading system. Therefore, in 2015, maple producers may use the old or

Jennifer Gornnert, Director
Regulatory Services Division

Periodicals
Newspaper
Market Quotations

Pesticide Applicator Recertification Seminars
Meetings approved by the Division of Pesticide Control for recertification credits:

January 7 2015 Tri-State Greenhouse IPM Workshop
UNH MacFarlane Greenhouse Complex -- Durham, NH
Contact: Alan Eaton, 603-862-1734 5 PC

January 15 Principals of Weed Management
Student Conservation Association -- Charlestown, NH
Contact: Heather Bryant, 603-787-6944 1 PC

*Private=Private Credits  *C=Commercial Credits