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# Dairy/Livestock



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

Three-year-old Emma pets a Jersey calf June 10 during a community dairy tour in Meridian, Idaho. The event was held to provide the public a close-up view of a dairy operation.

## Hundreds attend Idaho community dairy tour

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

MERIDIAN, Idaho — Hundreds of people from the Meridian area showed up for a community dairy tour June 10 held to give members of the public a close-up look at a dairy operation.

“We’re really excited about all the people that are coming out today,” said Clint Jackson, who manages Jackson Family Farm, where the event was held. “I think it shows people care about agriculture and they care about where their food comes from.”

The Jackson farm has 690 adult cows, most of them Jerseys, and also grows beans, alfalfa, mint and corn.

Participants were taken on a hay ride around the operation while Jackson gave them a “Dairy 101” class and answered questions, and they were allowed to pet calves and get a close-up view of the operation.

Dairy nutrition information and free dairy products were also available at the event, which was hosted in conjunction with the United Dairywomen of Idaho.

Three generations of Jacksons were on hand to meet and talk with people and Clint Jackson said his main objective was to ensure people enjoyed themselves and had a positive experience.

“We want them to come out and have an enjoyable time like I used to have when I would go spend the day on my grandparents’ farm in the summer,” he said. “I want them to feel like they’re spending the day on the farm at grandma’s house.”

He said he also wants them to leave with a solid appreciation for what goes into getting food to their table.

“Us farmers really love what we do, we love our animals, we are trying to put out a quality product, and we want them to learn about that,” he said.

To promote the event, UDI took out a Facebook ad within a 15-mile radius of Meridian.

With more consumers further disconnected from the farm and more easily influenced by negative comments about production agriculture, a dairy tour is a good way to teach people where their food really comes from and allow them to experience a dairy operation in a transparent manner, said UDI CEO Karianne Fallow.

“This is a great opportunity to show them how a dairy operates and maybe more importantly, put a face on the dairy industry,” she said. “When people interact with (the Jacksons), I think they (get) a lot more confidence in dairy. A farm tour is a really, really good thing for consumer confidence.”

## Livestock producers weigh in on Clinton, Trump

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

As presumptive presidential nominees Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton take their respective corners in what promises to be an aggressive showdown to election day, livestock producers are placing their bets on which candidate will do the least damage to animal agriculture.

“I feel like we’re voting for the lesser of two evils,” said Carl Lufkin, a cow-calf producer in Salmon, Idaho, and president of the Idaho Cattle Association.

“A lot of people I talk with in this industry feel the same; we’re not in love with either one of them,” he said.

Lufkin said he’s still on the fence regarding the candidates but thinks Trump might be a little better for the cattle industry than Clinton.

“I’m hopeful that Trump would be more friendly to the industry ... more friendly to grazing than what we’ve been dealing with the last eight years. I’m fearful Clinton would be possibly worse,” he said.

John Brubaker, a Buhl, Idaho, dairyman, shares that sentiment, but he’s not sitting on the fence. Clinton probably looks best for the dairy industry, but his sentiment is “anybody but Clinton.”

“I’m a Trump guy, but I have some reservations. He wouldn’t have been my first pick, but to me he’s better than Clinton,” he said.

“I feel (Clinton) just thinks she deserves it, and I don’t trust her. I think she’s a liar, and she’s been bought. Nobody owns Trump — he’s his own man, his own money,” he said.

### Trade

The biggest issue in the upcoming election is the Trans-Pacific Partnership, he said.

“From an industry perspective, we need these trade agreements,” he said.

If TPP isn’t passed in the lame-duck session and Trump is elected, it’s probably dead in the water. Clinton has flip-flopped



Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press

Dairyman John Brubaker talks about the presidential candidates at his dairy in Buhl, Idaho, on June 7.

on TPP, but chances of getting it passed are probably better with her than Trump, he said.

Brubaker, who serves as the export committee chairman for the United Dairy Industry Association, said TPP is a bad trade deal for the U.S. and front-loaded for other countries.

“But it’s a start, we have to do it. If we don’t, the chances are slim we’ll get another deal,” he said.

The countries involved are relying on the U.S. to get it done. If that doesn’t happen, they’re not going to want to work with the U.S. again. And exports — which account for 12.5 percent of U.S. milk production — are too important to risk, he said.

“Without exports, we’d really be in a mess with too much production,” he said.

TPP illustrates the U.S. isn’t good at negotiating, and hope-

fully Trump can change that, he said.

Lufkin also thinks Trump is a better choice when it comes to trade issues.

Given Trump’s business savvy, “I can’t help but think he’d be a real positive for trade for agriculture,” he said.

“I really don’t have a good feel for where she’s (Clinton’s) going to be on the trade deal,” he said.

### Immigration

Immigration is another big issue for the dairy industry, and a lot of dairywomen who have Hispanic workers are pretty nervous about Trump saying he’s going to build a wall on the Mexican border, Brubaker said.

“Dairywomen are pretty staunch Republicans, but I have friends thinking about voting for Clinton just because of this issue, he said.

Clinton also poses the possibility of dairywomen losing their Hispanic labor, he said.

“She isn’t going to do that, but I don’t think Trump will either,” he said.

### Regulation

Government regulation and Environmental Protection Agency overreach is another area of concern, and Lufkin thinks the candidates will be miles apart in their positions.

“I think Trump is going to be way more friendly towards our industry than Clinton is. He could pull them (EPA) back,” he said.

“Clinton has a real history of more regulation. I think she would be less friendly to our industry than the current administration,” probably resulting in an even stronger EPA and more challenges to grazing, he said.

## ‘Largest bear market rally’ in years

By LEE MIELKE  
For the Capital Press

Cash dairy prices continued to strengthen the week of June 6 in what FC Stone’s Dave Kurzwaski called “the largest bear market rally we’ve seen in many years.”

Cheddar block cheese saw a fourth consecutive week of gain, closing the second Friday of June, which is Dairy Month, at \$1.4750 per pound, up 3 1/2-cents on the week, up 19 1/2-cents in that period, but still 28 cents below a year ago.

The barrels closed at \$1.51, up 6 1/2-cents on the week and 21 1/4-cents below a year ago. Four cars of block sold last week and five of barrel.

The cheese blocks jumped 4 1/2-cents Monday on an unfilled bid, hitting \$1.52 per pound, highest level since March 8, 2016, but were unchanged Tuesday. The barrels were up 2 3/4-cents Monday, to \$1.5375 per pound, and held on Tuesday, 1 3/4-cents above the blocks.

The strength has many people scratching their heads, considering inventory levels, but demand remains strong, feed prices are firming, and concerns are mounting over summer weather and its impact on milk output and component levels.

Cheese production in the Midwest is active, according to Dairy Market News. Manufacturers are keeping vats full

**Dairy Markets**  
Lee Mielke



and bringing in spot loads of milk when schedules allow. Readily available milk moving at discounts is enticing some to run full schedules.

Cheese sales are steady to increasing and promotions for June Dairy Month are reportedly boosting sales, but inventories remain long in the region. The market undertone is steady but international interest is light.

Western cheesemakers report good domestic demand in retail and food service and “Any domestic demand is welcome in light of the limited export opportunities for U.S. cheese.”

Western cheese output remains active with ample supplies of milk. Inventories are long and some industry contacts suggest a good share of the stocks are older, thus “there is some concern that the large existing cheese stocks will weigh heavily on market prices.”

Cash butter looked like it might be headed to \$3 again but it gave back 2 cents Friday on a trade and closed at \$2.20 per pound, still up a dime on the week and 30 cents above a year ago. Only two cars traded hands on the week at the CME.

The yellow gold ticked up 1 3/4-cents Monday and 5 1/2-cents higher Tuesday

on an unfilled bid, to \$2.2725 per pound, highest spot price since Dec. 10, 2015.

Butter manufacturers are running at or near full schedules, according to DMN. Participants feel butter stocks are at comfortable levels for this time of year. Sales into food-service are strong but retail sales are mixed.

Western butter markets also appear steady. With cream supplies generally adequate, many butter makers are actively producing butter. However, a few are backing off a little as milk production begins to decline seasonally and as more cream is pulled into other cream products.

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