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Dairy/Livestock

Cheese falling, butter holding

Cash cheese prices in Chicago dropped the second week of November, ending two weeks of gain. CME block Cheddar closed Friday the 13th at \$1.62 per pound, down 8 cents on the week and 32 1/4-cents below a year ago when they tumbled almost 26 cents. The Cheddar barrels plunged 18 1/4-cents last week, to \$1.4675, 44 3/4-cents below a year ago. Six cars of block traded hands last week at the CME and 38 of barrel.

The blocks were unchanged Monday but dropped a nickel Tuesday, slipping to \$1.57 per pound, lowest block price since September 21, 2015, as traders absorbed Tuesday's additional drop in the GDT and anticipate Thursday's October Milk Production report. The barrels lost 2 3/4-cents Monday but inched up a penny Tuesday, to \$1.45, lowering the spread to 12 cents but still well above the normal 3-5 cents.

FC Stone broker, Dave Kurzawski, warned in his Nov. 9 Early Morning Update that "hefty supplies matched against only good, but not remarkable, domestic cheese demand in October gave way to a somewhat lower trajectory to spot pricing to end last month. From a historical perspective, if the price of cheese is falling, even modestly so, at the end of National Pizza Month, it stands to reason more price weakness could be in the cards for the balance of the year."

Dairy Market News (DMN) reports that Midwest cheese production is steady. Food service and pizza demand is robust. Many cheese

Dairy Markets

Lee Mielke



makers are seeing natural cheese varieties leave their facilities without going into inventory. A new barrel cheese facility is scheduled to come online in Southwestern Wisconsin within the next month.

Western output is active with milk readily available. Retail and food service demand for block cheese is strong. Cheese makers say they are not building inventories of these types.

After gaining almost 47 cents in four weeks, spot butter traders must have taken last week off. There were no sales, bids, or offers all week. The price continues to defy gravity, holding at \$2.8850 per pound, hauntingly unchanged on the week, but an eye-catching 89 3/4-cents above a year ago.

The spot butter was unchanged Monday and Tuesday, marking the seventh consecutive session of silence.

Cream availability for butter production in the Central region is steady to somewhat tighter, according to DMN. Western butter making is steady.

Spot Grade A nonfat dry milk finished Friday at 80 cents per pound, down a penny on the week and 38 cents below a year ago. Three cars were sold last week.

Monday's trading saw the powder give up another penny and lose one Tuesday and dip to 78 cents per pound, lowest spot price since August 31, 2015.

Zeolite filter shows results in capturing ammonia, odor

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

BUHL, Idaho — Preliminary results on the use of a zeolite filter to reduce ammonia and odor emissions from a dairy's manure flush pit is showing promise in a University of Idaho research project.

Trials on a working, 4,000-cow dairy recorded a 90 percent reduction in ammonia emissions and a 45 percent reduction in odor emissions using a pressurized filter box containing racks of zeolites, minerals mined in Idaho.

While the results are positive, further analysis is needed to draw a definite conclusion, Mario de Haro-Marti, Gooding County extension dairy/livestock environmental educator and project lead, said during a Nov. 10 tour of the demonstration site.

The filter targets emissions coming from the flush pit, where ammonia and odor are most concentrated in the manure-handling system, but has the potential for application on an entire lagoon, de Haro-Marti said.

The research is being conducted on Dean Swager's dairy to demonstrate whether use of a zeolite filter can be an alternative for managing ammonia and odor emissions in specific settings on a working farm, not just in a model, he said.

The idea was to reduce the impact of a dairy if emissions are affecting neighbors or exceeding regulatory thresholds, but it won't change the dynamics of the manure system. It is reducing air emissions from the effluent but not taking nitrogen or ammonia out of the manure, de Haro-Marti said.

Background levels of ammonia in air around the filter were taken, and ammonia concentrations were measured at the filter inlet before treatment and the filter outlet after treatment.

Running the filter for three days in July reduced ammonia emissions 92.04 percent. Running it for six days in September showed a 90.17

percent reduction. Emissions reduction decreased to 53.15 percent after running the filter for 57 days, the data shows.

De Haro-Marti said he assumes the decreased reduction was due to the saturation of zeolites in the filter and calculates complete saturation would occur in about 120 days if the filter continues performing at the current level.

In addition to ammonia reduction, odor emissions as measured in European Odour Units (OUE) by an olfactometer showed a 45 percent reduction, he said.

The researcher didn't know how well the zeolite would work or if they needed to be wet, as they work better in a moist environment. But the dry zeolites rocks performed well receiving only air moisture, he said.

The palm-sized rocks are showing positive results. Further research will test different unit sizes of the minerals, such as powder, which could have a different effect on ammonia absorption or air flow in the filter, he said.

"Now that we see they (rocks) work so well, we'll start monkeying around" with size, he said.

"Another step will be to see if we can wash them (rocks) out and use them again," he said.

If not, the researchers will spread them in a field, perhaps breaking them into a finer size, and test if plants will take up the nitrogen from the saturated zeolites, he said.

The project is being funded by a \$66,202 Conservation Innovation Grant through Natural Resources Conservation Service, with funding received in 2012.

The grant will also fund research in the use of zeolites on compost piles to reduce ammonia emissions, de Haro-Marti said.

Other research on Swager's farm includes the use of a new centrifuge to separate manure solids, and manure subsurface injection using a drag hose and injection system coupled with a floating pump.

Washington in tariff crosshairs

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

CLE ELUM, Wash. — Washington state could be "significantly impacted" by Canadian tariffs on various commodities including apples and wine, a representative of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association warns.

A final ruling from the World Trade Organization is expected the first week of December clearing the way for 100 percent tariffs on U.S. exports to Canada in December, said John W. Masswohl, director of government and international relations of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. He spoke at the Washington Cattlemen's Association annual meeting at Suncadia Resort near Cle Elum, Nov. 12.

The Canadian government will strategize with the Canadian cattle and pork industries in determining how to maximize impacts of tariffs, Masswohl said.

"The eventual list will be strategic in terms of who the U.S. senators are who have resisted or opposed repealing COOL (country-of-origin labeling) and what commodities are in their states," he said.

Washington's senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, are both for keeping COOL so Washington will see "significant impact," Masswohl said.

Canada is estimating the U.S. will lose \$3.1 billion annually in trade of beef, pork,



Dan Wheat/Capital Press
Ben Smith and Thomas Gilliom, state Department of Agriculture veterinarians, left, talk with WSDA Director Derek Sandison, right, at Washington Cattlemen's Association annual meeting at Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum, Wash., Nov. 12.

tree fruit, wine and many other agricultural and non-agricultural goods over the dispute, he said. That's about the same amount annually Canada claims to be losing because of COOL, he said.

Under COOL, it costs Canadian beef producers over \$100 more per head to have cattle slaughtered in the U.S. because feedlots and slaughter houses have added expenses in tracking cattle to label the beef by country of origin, he said.

Also at the meeting, Charles McElligott, managing director of Pacific Territory for Rabo AgriFinance, said the prime interest rate,

low and stable for so long, likely will rise a quarter percent in December. The supply of cattle will remain tight through the first half of 2016 and wholesale beef prices could reach \$1.50 to \$1.75 per pound by late April, he said.

The World Health Organization walked back its warning about processed meats causing cancer, but the media didn't pick up on it, McElligott said. Risk is very low, he said.

Dereck Sandison, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, said the state's population will likely grow from 7 million to 8.3 million in 2030 creating

more pressure on land and water resources and potential for conflict.

"Some of the challenges you face are pretty daunting and we will work with you to keep a vital cattle industry in Washington," he said.

State officials gave updates on wolf management and said there's not enough documentation yet to say whether or not there's a new wolf pack in the Loup Loup Pass area of Okanogan County.

Ranchers are coming up short cattle in the area which could be from wildfire but some say it's from wolves, Vic Stokes, Twisp rancher said.

Milk board to enter float in Rose Parade

By TIM HEARDEN
Capital Press

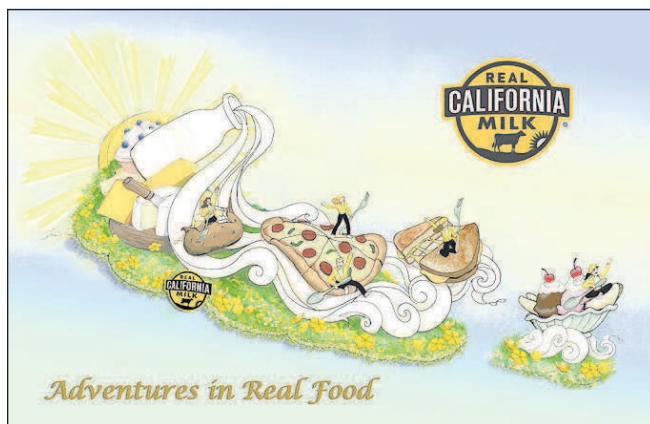
MODESTO, Calif. — A California dairy group is making a big splash in 2016 with a float entry in the iconic Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

The California Milk Advisory Board's first-ever New Year's Day parade float will have the theme, "Adventures in Real Food" and depict various favorite foods "floating" down "rapids" made of milk.

The float will give the California dairy industry some national exposure as the milk board embarks on a new ad campaign dubbed "Return to Real," communications director Jennifer Giambroni said.

"It's about real food from real people, kissed by the California sun," Giambroni said. "We wanted to use this as a platform for talking about that. It's a great tradition."

The float will follow the 127th Rose Parade's theme, "Find Your Adventure," which is designed to celebrate the National Park Service's centennial in 2016. Award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns will be



Courtesy of CMAB

The California Milk Advisory Board is entering a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena. An artist rendering shows a concept for a float which plays off the theme of CMAB's latest ad campaign touting California milk.

the parade's grand marshal.

Riders on the CMAB's 55-foot-long float will maneuver a "flowing river" of milk rapids cascading over California's rolling hills and valleys while rafting atop a grilled cheese sandwich, a baked potato topped with butter and sour cream, and a pizza pie.

At the back of the float, a premium cheddar cheese wheel will represent California sunshine, and a banana split "satellite" car will pre-

cede the float.

As the Rose Parade requires floats to be made of all natural materials, the milk board will use such materials as cotton seed, whole barley and whole corn, along with roses and other flowers, Giambroni said.

A typical float costs about \$250,000 to build and operate, and the milk board's float will be funded as part of the checkoff program's communications budget, Giambroni said.

Volunteers are working on the structure now, and they'll start to build the shapes on which the natural materials will be applied, she said. The float will be decorated Dec. 27-30, she said.

"Many of our volunteers, including dairy farmers, will go down and work on the float itself," she said.

The float has to be tested on the parade route several times to make sure it doesn't get stuck under bridges or have any other problems, she said.

"It's a big endeavor," Giambroni said. "We've learned a lot this year. The Rose Parade organizers are extremely helpful. They've been doing this for over 100 years."

"It's very precise as well," she said. "If you delay the parade in any way, your float builder gets fined. They are a national broadcast ... They have a schedule they have to keep to."

The CMAB is far from being the first agriculture-related entry for the Rose Parade, which features dozens of horse entries each year as well as floats and marching bands.

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