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Dairy/Livestock

IDFA supports more milk options in schools

By **CAROL RYAN DUMAS**
Capital Press



Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press File

Children at Immanuel Lutheran School in Twin Falls, Idaho, enjoy chocolate milk. A new poll found that, in addition to flavored milk, consumers prefer 2% and whole milk over lower fat milk.

As students head back to the classroom, the International Dairy Foods Association is hoping a national survey of consumers will encourage lawmakers to provide more milk offerings in schools.

Currently only fat-free and low-fat 1% milk, unflavored and flavored, are allowed in school nutrition programs. Low-fat flavored milk had been banned in 2012 but returned to schools as an option in February following USDA's final rule allowing it last December.

IDFA would like to see more milk options in schools, including the fuller-fat milk youngsters consume at home.

Adult consumers overwhelmingly believe

reduced-fat 2% and whole milk are the most nutritious types of milk, according to a national poll taken in August by Morning Consult in partnership with IDFA.

The survey found 67% of respondents chose those two options, with 36% choosing 2% milk and 31%

choosing whole milk. It also found 53% believe it is important to offer those fuller-fat options in school meals.

In addition, the survey found at least 86% of adults think dairy milk is more nutritious than other beverages, including plant-based alternatives.

DAIRY MARKETS

Lee Mielke



Cheese prices rally past \$2

By **LEE MIELKE**
For the Capital Press

CME block cheese climbed to its highest price since November 2014 in the Labor Day holiday-shortened week, closing Friday at \$1.9975 per pound, up 6 3/4-cents on the week and 33 1/2-cents above a year ago.

The barrels finished at \$1.7425, a half-cent higher on the week and 24 1/4-cents above a year ago, when they fell 14 1/2-cents.

The blocks hit \$2 per pound Monday while the barrels jumped 5 3/4-cents to \$1.80. The fuse was lit and the blocks were propelled 5 1/4-cents Tuesday, hitting \$2.0525, the highest price since Nov. 10, 2014.

The barrels added 2 cents Tuesday, reaching \$1.82, highest since Nov. 9, 2016, but were a whopping 23 1/4-cents below the blocks.

Cheesemakers in the Midwest continue to report mostly positive sales, according to Dairy Market News. Food service orders have returned. Cheese production is steady. Milk handlers suggest cheese producers are "somewhat satisfied" with their internally sourced milk supplies. Spot prices ranged 50 cents under to \$1 over Class III.

In week 36 last year, prices were \$1 to \$2 over, and in 2017 they were discounted from \$2 to \$4 under class. DMN adds that Hurricane Dorian, which affected mostly the Southeastern portion of the country, kept milk loads in the upper Midwest last week.

Western cheese demand is active and export sales have remained stable despite higher U.S. prices. Domestic cheese requests are on the up side. Cheese needs for school lunch programs and the demand for the football season are helping maintain consumption at a high level. Inventories have declined a bit. Processing is steady, with manufacturing plants running close to full capacity.

Cash butter remains under pressure and closed Friday at \$2.1725 per pound, down 1 3/4-cents on the week, lowest CME price since July 6, 2018, and 5 3/4-cents below a year ago.

USDA to reimburse some milk donations

By **CAROL RYAN DUMAS**
Capital Press

Dairy cooperatives and milk processors can apply for partial reimbursement for milk they donate to the needy through a new program administered by USDA.

The Milk Donation Reimbursement Program, authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, goes into effect Sept. 16.

The program is aimed at both reducing food waste and providing nutrition assistance with a \$9 million budget in Fiscal Year 2019 and \$5 million annually thereafter.

Under the program, eligible dairy organizations must partner with nonprofit organizations that distribute food to low-income individuals.

Eligible dairy organizations are cooperatives or processors that incur qualified expenses by accounting to a Federal Milk Marketing Order pool for fluid milk donations.

The reimbursements will offset a portion of the raw milk cost for donated milk. Only Class I fluid milk products produced and processed in the U.S. are eligible for reimbursement.

The dairy organization and nonprofit organization must submit a joint plan for eligibility and approval by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

Plans for FY 2019 can reflect donations made from Oct. 1, 2018, through Sept. 30, 2019.

The National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association both support the program.

"The milk donation program is another example of members of Congress finding positive, creative ways to get nutritious milk to low-income Americans who need it," Matt Herrick, IDFA senior vice president for executive and strategic communications, told Capital Press.

In an earlier letter to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, IDFA stated the program will provide many more families with the nutritional benefits of milk.

"We firmly believe that the tremendous productive capacity of the nation's dairy farmers and processors can be utilized to aid food insecure populations," the letter stated.

NMPF is pleased to see USDA roll out the program and will do what it can to ensure its success, Jim Mulhern, NMPF president and CEO, stated.

"As the dairy industry continues to confront market uncertainty, we are grateful for new tools that help get dairy products more quickly to those in need," he said.

"By helping dairy producers and cooperatives donate fluid milk to food banks and other outlets, the program helps dairy farmers feed Americans," he said.

Donation and distribution plans for FY 2019 and FY 2020 are due Nov. 6. Claims for FY 2019 are due by Feb. 6, 2020.

Claims for FY 2020 will be processed quarterly once plans have been approved and are due by Dec. 31, 2020.



Dairy cooperatives and processors can receive partial reimbursement for milk donations.



ODFA

Oregon State Fair 4-H showmanship winners Tyler Seals, left, and Justin Woods.

Oregon dairy youth show their stuff at state fair

By **CAROL RYAN DUMAS**
Capital Press

Oregon Dairy Farmers Association is proud of its dairy youth, highlighting the accomplishments of two who took top honors in the 4-H dairy show at the Oregon State Fair.

Tyler Seals was named Champion Senior 4-H Showman for the second consecutive year, and Justin Woods claimed Champion Intermediate 4-H Showman.

Seals exhibited both Jerseys and Holsteins and had the Grand Champion Holstein of the 4-H show. He is a senior at Nestucca High School and plans to enroll at Tillamook Bay Community College next fall.

He is a member of the National Honor Society and was on the state winning FFA Dairy Judging team last year that placed fifth at the National FFA Contest.

He is the son of Dave

and Kim Seals, Sunny Ridge Dairy in Tillamook, and enjoys everything about his family's dairy with calf care as his favorite job.

In addition to taking Intermediate 4-H Showman, Woods also exhibited the Jr. Champion Jersey and Grand Champion Guernsey at the 4-H show.

He is a sophomore at Nestucca High School and also participated in both 4-H and FFA at the Tillamook County Fair. He was the Reserve Champion FFA Showman at the county fair and the High Individual in both the FFA and 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at the county fair.

He is the son of Greg and Melissa Woods, Folland Creek Dairy in Beaver, and has been very involved with his family's dairy farm and most enjoys working with equipment.

ODFA sponsors belt buckles for the 4-H showmanship winners at the state fair.

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Adele Schott and Liza Jane McAlister of 6 Ranch.
Photo credit: Natalie McPharland

By **Ashley Rood**,
Rogue Farm Corps

"The challenge for our family is not so much succession after death, we have a good plan for that, but it's the active succession—how do we support multiple families on the ranch," says Adele Schott, fifth generation at 6

Ranch in Enterprise, Ore. At the heart of creating a thriving business for 6 Ranch is open communication, shared decision making, and clear goals. Fourth-generation owner Liza Jane McAlister says that "we're doing everything we can to make

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our ranch business successful. We're really diverse and we are vertically integrated."

McAlister now runs the ranch with her daughter Schott, as well as her son, James Nash, and their families. All share a vision for the ranch to produce healthy food, restore ecosystems, and preserve western traditions (including using horses, ropes and dogs to manage their Corriente cattle). Nash runs a fly-fishing and hunting business from the ranch. While Schott and her husband are taking over the grass-fed beef business.

McAlister learned about succession the hard way.

Her four older brothers didn't want to run the ranch. They had a tenancy in common agreement. "After about 15 years of me being on the ranch, one of them wanted their money out, he wanted to force a sale. But I didn't accept that. The good solution was buying them all out," says McAlister. "That taught me to make sure that I had things squared up for my kids—to keep communication open all the time."

"The important thing about succession, is how you raise your family while you're ranching," says McAlister.

"A common story is that kids raised on a ranch see their parents broke. It was so important to me that my kids could see a different reality. Every day, this is a gift."

As Adele puts it, "growing up, I always felt like a big part of the family business." McAlister says, "I benefit a lot from my kids pointing stuff out. Our business benefits from that—I wouldn't have the successes that I do without them."

Schott's perspective is informed by skills earned off the ranch, from a culinary degree to working on other

ranches; "I branded beef at large scale co-ops, and I calved out heifers in canyons without cell service. I came home with things I loved and things I didn't," says Schott. She's also recently worked with the Ag of the Middle program to connect with professionals and peers to make their business better.

Schott's advice on succession planning is to: "keep an open dialogue and always put the common goal of leaving the land and business better for the next generation at the forefront."

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