



## October 19 Update



## Dairy Inventory Management



California Dairy Campaign (CDC) has continued to participate in the nationwide *Dairy Together* campaign to encourage dairy producers across the country to come together to improve their outlook for the future.

One of the fundamental goals of *Dairy Together* is to encourage dairy producer support for a nationwide inventory management program to ensure equitable milk prices paid to dairy producers.

As we have engaged more closely with dairy farmers in other states through this effort, we are learning a great deal about how dairy operations are changing rapidly in other parts of the country. This week, headlines focused on a \$555 million dairy processing operation that is being built in Michigan. Once complete, the project reportedly will process 8 million lbs of milk daily. Even as more than 140 dairies closed across Michigan in just the last 12 months, milk production across that state was virtually unchanged. In 2012 there were 1,824 Grade A dairy farms in Michigan and as of September of this year, that number has shrunk to 1315, a loss of more than 500 dairy operations, a nearly a 30 percent decline. During the same period milk production in Michigan increased from 8.9 billion lbs in 2012 to 11.2 billion lbs today, a more than 25% increase.

The economic trends in Michigan illustrate that unless steps are taken to enable dairy farmers to coordinate an effective inventory management program nationally, this trend of increased production with fewer actual dairy operations is likely to continue. Through the *Dairy Together* effort, we have had a chance to work with dairy farmers in Wisconsin, a state where nearly 500 dairies have closed so far this year, who strongly support inventory management. Dairy

producers across the country are facing a crisis due to approaching four years of chronically low milk prices. Now more than ever all dairy farmers need a unified approach to manage milk inventories to sustain the dairy operations that remain.

California milk production declined in 2017 by 1.7 percent, while milk production in other parts of the country increased, weakening all milk prices. California dairy producers are uniquely positioned to lead a nationwide inventory management effort. The good news is that support for some sort of inventory management is growing in California and other parts of the country and that is a major change from the mindset of just four years ago when inventory management was debated in the last farm bill. Visit the California Dairy Campaign web site at [www.californidairycampaign.com](http://www.californidairycampaign.com) for more information about our efforts in support of inventory management. *(Executive Director Lynne McBride)*

## **Changing Manure Management Would Significantly Reduce Dairy Methane Emissions**

**Study is the most detailed “whole dairy” methane analysis ever conducted in California**



(SACRAMENTO, CA – Oct. 16, 2018) New research published in the Journal of Dairy Science finds that changing the way manure is stored and handled is key to meeting California’s 40 percent dairy manure methane reduction goal and combating climate change.

With financial support from Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and cooperation from the Dairy Cares coalition, leading scientists worked together to produce the most thorough, detailed measurements of “whole-dairy” methane emissions in California to date.

The results confirm that manure methane emissions come primarily from wet storage of manure, a valuable insight for measuring and controlling emissions of this potent greenhouse gas.

“This important work advances our understanding in two areas – how to accurately measure and estimate methane emissions from California, and how to control them,” said Josette Lewis, associate vice president of sustainable agriculture at EDF. “This helps ensure our strategies for reducing these emissions remain on target, and that we can accurately assess our progress.”

Other study findings include:

- Direct methane emissions from ruminating animals, such as cow digestive gases or burps, tend to remain steady year-round.
- Emissions from manure storage can be highly variable and weather dependent; they are three to six times higher in summer than in winter.
- Emissions differences between dairies appear to be linked to the amount of manure that is stored in anaerobic, or wet and airless, conditions.

“We attributed much of the difference in emissions between dairies to the proportion of manure stored in liquid form,” Dr. Claudia Arndt, former Kravis postdoctoral fellow at EDF said. “This suggests that reducing the amount of manure stored in that manner, or the length of time manure is stored in liquid form, could significantly reduce methane emissions.”

Dairy methane emissions contribute up to 5 percent of the state's carbon footprint. With a law passed in 2016, California became the first dairy region in the world to set a goal for a 40 percent reduction of methane emissions from dairy manure by 2030.

The state's current programs to incentivize emissions reductions target the exact emissions sources pinpointed by this study: liquid manure storage.

The **Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP)** has awarded funding to 58 dairy farms across the state. AMMP funds technologies and strategies to reduce the amount of manure solids stored in wet conditions. Funding covers manure solid separation, compost enhancement, and scrape and vacuum technologies. Ongoing research continues to verify and quantify how these technologies can reduce methane emissions while improving overall air and water quality. (*Source: Dairy Cares*)



### Next Round of AMMP Funding

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is expected

to announce the next application period for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) in December. A number of CDC members have already received AMMP grants and CDC Field Representative Joe Melo is working with more dairy producers on their AMMP applications in preparation for the next sign-up period.

Dairy producers interested in more information about the AMMP can contact Joe Melo at 209-216-7615. More details about the AMMP can be found online at [CDFA AMMP web site](#).

In addition applications will soon be accepted for the Healthy Soils Program - [Healthy Soils](#) and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program - [SWEEP](#)



### MPP-Dairy - The Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) margin

for August totaled \$7.42 per cwt according to USDA. This year, the lowest margin calculated was in April at \$6.61 per cwt while the highest was January at \$8.11 cwt. California dairy producers are at a disadvantage under the program because of its limitations on the amount of production covered and its failure to reflect actual on farm margins. However, CDC encouraged California dairy producers to sign up for MPP-Dairy based on their milk production to be eligible for the limited benefits offered by the program.

More information at [MPP-Dairy](#)

### Dairy Revenue Protection

**Program** - Sign-up began October 9 for the new Dairy Revenue Protection Program (Dairy-RP) - the program is designed to insure against unexpected declines in the quarterly income from milk sales. A list of authorized crop insurance agents is available at all USDA service centers and on the RMA website at [USDA RMA](#)



## Join Us for Our Upcoming Fall Membership Meetings and Socials in Modesto and Merced

Each year during our fall meetings we come together to look back on our work throughout the year and ahead to set our policy priorities for the new year.

We invite you to join us for one or both of our upcoming membership meetings and socials!  
Friends and family are more than welcome for a delicious dinner.

**Membership Meeting and Social in Modesto  
Wednesday, November 7th at 5:00 p.m.**

**Location:** The Fruit Yard located at 7948 Yosemite Blvd. Modesto

**Membership Meeting and Social in Merced  
Thursday, November 29th At 5:00 p.m.**

**Location:** The Branding Iron Restaurant located at 640 W 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Merced

**Contact Bertha Medina at 209-632-0885 to RSVP.**

## California Dairy Sustainability Summit



November 27–28, 2018  
Sacramento, CA

**Register Today**



Hosted by:



Leading dairy organizations have united to host the inaugural California Dairy Sustainability Summit on November 27-28, 2018 at the Sacramento Convention Center. The summit will showcase California's innovative and sustainable dairy farm practices, while highlighting cost-effective ways to meet ongoing challenges. A key focus will be developing partnerships and strategies to improve the economic sustainability of the state's family dairy farms. To learn more about how California dairy farmers are leading the way in planet-smart farming and to

register, visit [CADairySummit.com](http://CADairySummit.com).

For additional information contact the California Dairy Campaign office at 209-632-0885.

**For More Information  
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