

To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

Here is your weekly update for ag information. Click on the topic and it will take you directly to that article. In order of appearance:

[**Dairy Situation and Outlook**](#)

[**UW Agronomy/Soils Field Day Scheduled for August 30**](#)

[**UW Organic Agriculture Field Day to Focus on Cover Crops and Soil Health – August 31**](#)

[**Wisconsin Crop Manager Articles for August 24, 2017**](#)

[**2017 Edible Startup Summit Nov. 17-18 in Madison**](#)

[**WI Seasonal Weight Limit statute**](#)

Dairy Situation and Outlook

August 18, 2017 By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension

After taking a dip down in July milk prices will increase again in August. The July Class III price fell \$0.99 from June to July to \$15.45, but may increase about a dollar in August to near \$16.45. The Class IV price did increase \$0.52 from June to July to \$16.60, but may be unchanged for August. Slower growth in milk production, good domestic sales of butter and cheese and higher dairy exports strengthen dairy product prices which pushed milk prices higher in August.

CME 40-pound cheddar blocks were as high as \$1.7875 per pound early August, and as low as \$1.66, and are now back to \$1.7550 and will average higher for the month than the July average of \$1.6586. The price spread between blocks and barrels were more than \$0.20 early in August. Barrels early August were \$1.51 per pound and have strengthened to \$1.7500 and for the month well above the July average of \$1.4396. The block barrel spread is now just \$0.005 compared to the more normal spread of \$0.03 to \$0.04.

CME butter averaged \$2.6195 per pound in July, were \$2.7375 early August, but softened some since then and is now \$2.645. Dry whey which was as high as \$0.50 per pound in April, declined since then averaging \$0.4256 in July, and is now \$0.41. Nonfat dry milk averaged \$0.8902 per pound in June, \$0.8616 in July, is now \$0.8325 and will average lower than July for the month. Stronger cheese prices more than offset lower dry whey prices giving the boost to the August Class III price. A little higher butter prices for the month will offset lower nonfat dry milk prices keeping the August Class IV price about unchanged from July.

USDA estimated July milk production to be 1.8% higher than a year ago. This marks the third straight month the increase has been less than 2% which is supportive of higher milk prices.

U.S. dairy exports in the first half of the year were the most in three years due to record exports of nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder and whey products and a 24 percent year-to-date increase in cheese exports. June exports compared to a year ago were as follows: nonfat dry milk/skim milk powder +7%, cheese +32% and butterfat +254%, but total whey exports were 10% lower. On a total solids basis June exports were equivalent to 14.4% of milk production and 14.3% for the year-to-date compared to 13.1% a year ago. Improved exports have been aided by increase in world demand and much improved world prices that are now higher than U.S. prices.

Butter prices have held due to lower production, good sales and higher exports. In June butter production was 4.8% lower than a year ago and 1.7% lower year-to-date. As a result, stocks of butter declined May to June and were 5.5% lower than a year ago. But, cheese production has been higher than a year ago. June production of cheddar cheese was 2.8% higher with year-to-date 6.0% higher. Total cheese production for June was 3.2% higher and 2.7% higher year-to-date. With good cheese sales and higher exports stocks of cheese declined May to June, but were still 7.0% higher than a year ago for

American cheese and 5.3% higher for total cheese. Relatively strong production in June compared to a year ago for nonfat dry milk at 11.6% and dry whey at 9.8% resulted in relatively higher June stocks putting pressure on prices. Compared to a year ago nonfat dry milk stocks were 28.9% higher and dry whey stocks 12.2% higher.

Seasonal improvement in butter and cheese sales along with expected continued improvement in exports should add further strength to the Class III price for September and October reaching into the \$17's. Higher butter prices should keep the Class IV price in the \$16's. These higher milk prices will be supportive if the growth in milk production remains below 2%. The 1.8% increase in July milk production was the result of 0.8% more cows and just a 1.0% increase in milk per cow. Unlike last year a lower increase in milk per cow is slowing the increase in milk production. Compared to a year ago, the increase in milk production is considerably lower in the Northeast and Midwest with mixed changes in the West. Compared to July a year ago, Northeast milk production was slightly lower in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio with Michigan up just 2.9%. In the Midwest July milk production was 4.2% higher in South Dakota, 2.1% in Iowa, 3.1% in Minnesota, but just 0.7% in Wisconsin. In the West California continues to experience lower milk production with July down just slightly at 0.2%. Idaho's production was also 0.2% lower. Relatively high increases continued in New Mexico and Texas at 8.4% and 14.8% respectively. In the Southeast Florida's milk production was 2.0% higher.

USDA has lowered their forecast for 2017 milk production for each of the past five monthly forecasts due to an expected lower increase in milk per cow reducing the impact of more cows. USDA is forecasting an average of 0.8% more cows, but just a 0.7% increase in milk per cow resulting in 2017 milk production 1.6% higher than last year. Wet weather in both the Northeast and Midwest, with the exception of South Dakota which has experienced a drought, harvesting quality hay has been hampered which could impact milk per cow in these two major milk producing regions.

Looking further down the road we could see the Class III price falling back to the mid \$16's first quarter of next year. But, there remains a lot of uncertainty as to final prices. Prices will depend upon the actual level of milk production, domestic sales and exporters.

UW Agronomy/Soils Field Day Scheduled for August 30

The 2017 UW Agronomy/Soils Field Day will highlight University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension research to help understand and cultivate resilient agricultural systems – systems that recover or adjust easily to misfortune or change. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 30 at the university's Arlington Agricultural Research Station. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. at the station's Public Events Building.

UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences researchers and UW-Extension specialists will host four tours scheduled throughout the day. Topic-specific tours will depart the Public Events Building at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. Please arrive on time to register.

Tours topics are:

Building soil health examines soils of Wisconsin; the importance of perennialization and diversification; tradeoffs with soil management decisions; and if cover crops improve soil health.

Managing short- and long-term risk in cropping systems explores how to minimize and maximize options for how many corn hybrids can be grown on a farm; harnessing G x E x M interactions in soybean; weed management over 27 years in the Wisconsin Integrated Cropping Systems Trial; and identification, distribution and herbicide resistance of waterhemp and Palmer amaranth.

Using perennial forages to accomplish diverse goals examines what we've learned and where we're headed with alfalfa; when and where it pays to use fungicides in forage crops; intermediate wheatgrass for forage and grain; and the benefits and challenges of silvopasture, trees in grazing systems.

Designing landscapes for profit, clean water, stable climate and biodiversity explores *Yahara 2070*, which uses scenarios to understand impacts of future watershed land use; *SmartScape*, developing a decision support tool for farmscape management; and *Soil Microbiotron*, which explores how soil microbes influence crops.

What is meant by resilient agriculture will be the topic for the lunch program. Presenters include Andy Benseid from AB Farms in Dallas, Wisconsin; Sarah Lloyd, Special Products Coordinator with the Wisconsin Farmer Union; and Heidi Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Extension Dane County crops and soils educator.

Lunch will be available on the site for a \$5 donation to the Badger Crops Club. During lunch and between tours, attendees can visit exhibits on Apps for Ag, the UW Nutrient and Pest Management Program, the UW Integrated Pest Management Program and SnapPlus, among others.

The address for Arlington Agricultural Research Station is N695 Hopkins Road, Arlington, Wisconsin. The station is located just off of Highway 51, about five miles south of Arlington and 15 miles north of Madison. Watch for field day signs. GPS coordinates are: 43.300467, -89.345534.

This event is sponsored by the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and UW-Extension. In the event of rain, presentations will be held inside. Certified Crop Advisors CEU credits have been requested.

For more information, visit <http://soils.wisc.edu/agronomysoils-field-day/>. Questions can be directed to Randy Jackson at rdjackson@wisc.edu.

UW Organic Agriculture Field Day to Focus on Cover Crops and Soil Health – August 31

In a growing season that has brought both too much and too little rain across the North Central region, farmers are increasingly looking for ways to increase the resilience of their soils. One option is to adopt some of the production practices that organic farmers use to help improve their soils such as cover cropping and building soil organic matter, which can help mitigate the effects of weather extremes.

Production practices to build soil resilience will be a key focus of this year's UW Organic Agriculture Field Day, set for 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Arlington Agricultural Research Station.

Research at the station shows that integrating cover crops into the corn and soybean phases of rotations can help farmers build soil organic matter, while reducing the need for tillage. During years like 2017, when five-inch rainfall events have occurred multiple times in certain areas of the state, these cover crops can help keep soil in place and improve water infiltration in fields.

“We’ve been researching cover crop-based organic no-till at the Arlington station since 2008, but we’re increasingly trying new approaches to expand options for organic farmers,” says event organizer Erin Silva, UW-Madison assistant professor of plant pathology and UW-Extension organic production systems specialist. “New options include interseeding into standing corn and soybean, as well as integrating some high-biomass producing options after cereal grains.”

The event will feature presentations on research linking various crop production practices—including cover cropping—to specific soil health indicators.

“Soil quality has always been a foundation of organic agriculture, and we are learning more and more about how to better assess and optimize the health of our soils,” says Silva. “While there still remains much to understand, new tools are allowing both researchers and farmers to track the biological, physical and chemical aspects of their soils to provide a more holistic view of the progress they are making in improving their land.”

Researchers will also give updates on organic soil quality from the long-term Wisconsin Integrated Cropping Systems Trial; organic no-till corn and soybeans using a variety of cover crop and planting options; organic wheat breeding efforts; and Kernza (perennial wheat).

All of the research projects featured during the field day are being conducted at Arlington station, which has more than 70 acres of certified organic land, or on working organic farms with input from organic producers.

“The organic market continues to grow, with demand outpacing domestic supply, so the need remains for more organic farmers and more organic acres,” says Silva, who notes organic sales reached \$43 billion in the U.S. in 2016. “Wisconsin, with the second highest number of organic farms in the nation, as well as a wealth of organic knowledge, expertise and infrastructure, is well-positioned to continue to help meet this expanding market opportunity.”

The registration table at the UW Organic Agriculture Field Day will open at 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 31. A lunch will be available around noon for \$10 per person. RSVPs are requested but not required. RSVPs and questions can be directed to Erin Silva at emsilva@wisc.edu or 608-890-1503.

The address for Arlington Agricultural Research Station is N695 Hopkins Road, Arlington, Wisconsin. The station is located just off Highway 51, about five miles south of Arlington and 15 miles north of Madison. A map is available at <http://arlington.ars.wisc.edu/facility/>.

Wisconsin Crop Manager Articles for August 24, 2017

Herbicide Considerations for Cover Crop Establishment

<http://bit.ly/2xgZN18>

Video- Pigweed Identification Emphasizing Flowering Characteristics

<http://bit.ly/2vb2OCK>

Corn Southern Rust Update – August 19, 2017

<http://bit.ly/2wKvoL8>

Timely Videos about Brown Stem Rot, Sudden Death Syndrome of Soybean

<http://bit.ly/2wTWKfp>

Wisconsin DATCP Pest Bulletin, Aug 24, 2017

<http://bit.ly/2xwJRr1>

UW/UWEX Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update, August 18

<http://bit.ly/2w8RunZ>

Wisconsin DATCP Pest Bulletin, Aug 17, 2017

<http://bit.ly/2wUoPTM>

Wisconsin Fruit News-August 18, 2017

<http://go.wisc.edu/54qa68>

UW Agronomy/Soils Field Day, August 30, Arlington Agricultural Research Station

<http://bit.ly/2huQuHc>

WI Vegetable Crop Update No. 17- August 11, 2017

<http://bit.ly/2weFQuA>

2017 Edible Startup Summit Nov. 17-18 in Madison

If you're considering starting a local food business or already in the early stages of development, then make plans to attend the Edible Startup Summit scheduled Nov. 17-18 at the American Family Center in Madison.

Co-hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Ag and Food Center and Dane County UW-Extension, the two-day summit offers a comprehensive and interactive education on what it takes to develop a local food business.

Local and regional experts will provide information on a wide range of topics, including: how to raise money to start or grow a food business; how to create a unique brand; current market trends; food safety requirements; how to get a product onto the grocery shelf; how to do a demo; how to work with a distributor; and business concept planning. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with industry veterans, network with other entrepreneurs, and attend a field trip to food business incubators.

"Past attendees have been impressed with what amounts to a very comprehensive education on what it takes to develop a local food business," said Kietra Olson, DATCP local foods program manager. "Whether you're just getting started with your business, or ready to take it to the next level, the Edible Startup Summit can be a great source of information."

More information on 2017 registration, along with a summit agenda, will be posted on the DATCP website in coming weeks.

Visit <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Edible%20Startup%20Summit%20and%20Edible%20Extended%20Workshop.aspx>

For more information, contact DATCP's Kietra Olson at 608-224-5112 or kietra.olson@wisconsin.gov, or Becky Paris at 608-224-5051 or Rebecca.Paris@Wisconsin.gov.

WI Seasonal Weight Limit statute

Cheryl A. Skjolaas, Agricultural Safety Specialist

UW Madison/Extension Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

As the harvest season starts up, I posted the Seasonal Weight Limit statute for commercial motor vehicles on <http://fyi.uwex.edu/agsafety> as a fall reference piece. Typically, there are farmer's who get stopped by law enforcement and calls for this information.

There is still confusion out there between Ag CMVs and CMVs. Just because you're using a CMV to haul an agricultural product, it doesn't make that vehicle is exempt as an Ag CMV from registration or given the 15% of the Ag CMV weight chart. Might not make sense to you but if you receive questions, feel free to contact me.

Additional IoH and Ag CMV laws including lighting and marking can be found on <http://fyi.uwex.edu/ioh>.

One possible concern for this fall is the use of right-of-ways for parking transport vehicles as field conditions may still be wet. IoH laws have no provisions for use of the right-of-ways or stopping traffic. There are a few townships and counties that have their own permits for parking vehicles in the right-of-ways. Your county highway commissioners would be good contacts for these questions.

The Ag Reporter "Snapshot" is presented to you each week by George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent. If you have any questions about these articles or need other ag-related information, please contact George at 608-742-9682 or by email george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu.

Weekly Emails Online!

<http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/>