

# WESTERN UNITED DAIRIES

WEEKLY UPDATE | OCTOBER 30, 2024

**Great news for our dairy farmers**—four Tulare County dairies have been released from quarantine! While challenges remain, these updates are a positive step forward for our community.

## FREE PPE

**Products Include:**

- face shields
- gloves
- googles
- N-95 masks

- Dairies **do not** need to be a WUD member and may request as much PPE to protect their employees as necessary.
- We will ship this protective gear to your dairy OR make arrangements for a safe delivery off-site of the dairy.
- Orders may take up to a week to process so please utilize this free service as soon as possible.

**If you have any questions, please contact the WUD office at (209)527-6453. Thank you to the excellent team at CDPH for helping our farms keep their workers safe.**

[PLACE PPE ORDER](#)

## Historic On-Farm Conservation Funding Assistance Available for Producers

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California announces Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025) federal assistance opportunities for agricultural producers, including through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP). While NRCS accepts applications for these programs year-round, interested applicants should apply no later than November 15, 2024, for the first application cutoff period.

“We are excited to support California’s producers with an historic investment in on-farm conservation this Fiscal Year,” said NRCS California State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. “With the addition of the Inflation Reduction Act, we will be investing approximately 50 percent more federal funding to help producers address their unique resources concerns and help them achieve their stewardship goals.”

Through EQIP and the Inflation Reduction Act, more than \$100 million is available for conservation practices and initiatives, including but not restricted to,

- National Air Quality Initiative (NAQI) to assist farmers in replacing outdated engines with new and cleaner-burning technology.

*(continued on Page 4)*

## Weekly Update Delivery Options

Send change of address or request for delivery to WUD by phone or email at: **(209)527-6453**  
[info@wudairies.com](mailto:info@wudairies.com)

## Struggling with Depression?

Call 1-800-784-2433 any time, 24x7, for a live, trained person to talk with or to find local resources.

## LUC: Lecheros Unidos de California

Lecheros Unidos de California Western United Dairies is proud to host LUC, a clearinghouse of resources to assist in all aspects of searching for and hiring employees for your dairy. LUC services are offered in Spanish & English & include Free advertisement of job postings to a wide audience of potential employees. Phone call interviews with translation services. Access to a pool of pre-screened employees with dairy experience.

For more information, visit: [westernuniteddairies.com/lecheros-unidos](https://westernuniteddairies.com/lecheros-unidos)

## Dealing with Trespass & Drones During HPAI

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Director, CDQAP | Published in CDQAP's October Newsletter

Tragically, some dairy and poultry farmers suffering through HPAI have also had to deal with news crews, drones and activists. After having his name and address published by an activist, one producer reports being visited by no fewer than four media outlets on the same day. Refused entry, one of the reporters entered through a back gate and accosted the producer in his office. A different Los Angeles newspaper recently contracted with a commercial drone operator to record images of dead cattle. Activists have posted recordings of their nighttime trespass onto farms in infected areas.

This understandably has producers asking "What are my rights in all of this?"

**Regarding Trespass** - CDQAP has previously provided guidance on trespass which is still relevant. Appropriate signage allows the county District Attorney to elevate the charge from Infraction Trespass, punishable by up to a \$75 fine for first offense, to Misdemeanor Trespass, punishable by up to \$1,000 and/or 6 months in a county jail. Producers should prominently display biosecurity warning signage at the main gate and then additional "No Trespass" signs at least every one third mile along the property perimeter and at all key entry points.

At the first indication of trespass producers should contact their local police or sheriff 's department, explaining that they are concerned for the safety of their employees and animals. A cell phone

recording the trespasser being asked to leave can be useful for prosecution, but threatening or assaulting a trespasser can potentially result in frustrating and expensive legal entanglements. Finally, there are no California

laws which allow a person to enter a farm and "rescue" livestock or poultry. Activists believing otherwise have been arrested and convicted in California courts.

**Regarding Drones** - In March of this year, the FDA implemented long-awaited regulations for commercial and recreational drone operators. CDQAP will be providing updated information in the near future but there are several important new requirements. Responding sheriff 's deputies can require identification as well as the registration number for the drone. Both commercial and recreational operators are now required to have "pilots licenses" and their equipment must broadcast an electronic ID. Operators suspected of not complying with these regulations can be referred to the FFA office in Sacramento for investigation. Finally, the Central California Intelligence "fusion" Center, CCIC, a multiagency law enforcement collaboration, has produced this excellent flyer on Responding to Suspicious Drone Activity.



## THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SPONSORS.

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## New on Seen & Herd: Inside the Sonoma United Campaign

Western United Dairies CEO Anja Raudabaugh is back on Seen & Herd this week to discuss the Sonoma United campaign. This political action effort aims to defeat Measure J, a proposal that could significantly impact dairy farms in Sonoma County by restricting animal feeding operations.

Learn how Sonoma United is leveraging grassroots

efforts, digital campaigns, and targeted mailers to protect the future of local agriculture in one of California's most progressive regions.

Learn more about Sonoma United at <https://sonomaunitedvote.org/>

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## Fuel from Dairy Manure...Now Powered by the Sun!

In late September, Maas Energy Works successfully completed a \$6.4 million project to power its Lakeside Pipeline dairy biogas upgrading facility with solar electricity, offsetting approximately 90% of the plant's power consumption. Lakeside Pipeline, located near Hanford California, processes manure from more than 10 dairy farms, to generate biogas fuel. That biogas is purified, compressed, and injected into the natural gas pipeline to create millions of gallons per year of carbon-negative transportation fuel. And now, that work is being done using solar power.

Lakeside Pipeline partner and dairy farmer Bernard TeVelde stated, "Over 207 California dairies, including my own, operate solar fields. Now this project represents a significant milestone: it's the country's first large-scale dairy biogas facility that's almost fully powered by solar energy." So, in an industry based on harvesting energy from manure, Maas Energy Works is now also harvesting energy from the sun.

The solar installation spans over 17.5 acres and is designed to generate approximately 9 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually. Maas Energy Works, the nation's leading dairy digester company, has successfully completed over 70 biogas facilities.

By harnessing solar power, Maas Energy Works not only reduces dependence on grid electricity but also lowers the carbon intensity of the fuel under California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program.

The LCFS, operated by the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) is a scientifically rigorous regulatory program that establishes the carbon content of fuels used in the state. CARB calculates a fuels' carbon intensity (CI) score by considering various factors, including methane emissions captured, potential leakage from the system, and the emissions associated with the energy used, such as grid electricity. Because CARB awards credits based on this CI score, dairy farmers and digesters have an incentive to capture as much methane as possible, and to do so using little grid power as possible.

Looking ahead, Maas Energy Works CEO Daryl Maas says the company is in the process of building solar systems to power all of its large biogas cleanup facilities in California. "Solar delivers low-cost power in a state with high energy costs" he says, "and CARB's LCFS program works to encourage digesters to deliver the most energy-efficient fuel on the market."

Visit [www.maasenergy.com](http://www.maasenergy.com) for more information.

## (continued) Historic On-Farm Conservation Funding Assistance Available for Producers

- Activities that support wildlife habitat creation and enhancement on farms and ranches.
- NRCS and Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart partner projects to help improve water infrastructure, delivery, and application on farms.
- National Water Quality Initiative for targeted conservation actions to improve water quality.
- Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership to collaborate with agricultural producers, forest landowners, tribes and public land managers to mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, and restore forest ecosystems.

Application cutoff periods allow NRCS to screen and rank applications for those with the highest conservation benefits across California's landscapes, including cropland, ranch lands, and private non-industrial forestlands. Additional signups may be announced at later dates. EQIP provides financial assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. These include improved water and air quality, improved irrigation efficiency, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, forest restoration, organic and creating or enhancing wildlife habitat.

### Applying for Assistance

Applicants seeking financial assistance are required to meet Farm Bill Program eligibility in conjunction with the Farm Service Agency, which includes meeting the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance requirements and the Adjusted Gross Income limits. NRCS California will be utilizing ACT NOW to process conservation applications in selected ranking pools to deliver conservation faster. ACT NOW allows NRCS to immediately approve and obligate a ranked application. This means no longer having to wait for all applications to be reviewed and pre-approved. Applications selected through ACT NOW will be batched and processed in the order received. NRCS accepts conservation program applications year-round. State Technical Committees, composed of producers and

partners, work with NRCS to set state-specific, ranking dates to evaluate applications for funding. These dates account for producer needs, staff workload, and to ensure potential participants have ample opportunity to apply. To find out more about our application processor to begin an application, please contact your local NRCS Service Center by visiting [here](#).

### Technical Assistance

NRCS offers conservation technical assistance at no cost to give producers personalized advice and information, based on the latest science and research, to help them make informed decisions. If a producer chooses to take the next step towards improving their operations, NRCS staff can work with them to develop a free, personalized conservation plan, with conservation practices that can help them reach their agricultural production and conservation goals. The voluntary conservation plan defines and explains existing resources in a simple, easy to understand manner. Typically, the plan will include land use maps, soils information, inventory of resources, engineering notes, and other supporting information. One benefit to landowners who work with an NRCS professional conservationist to develop a plan is an increased potential for participating in financial assistance programs and is a good first step in the overall process.

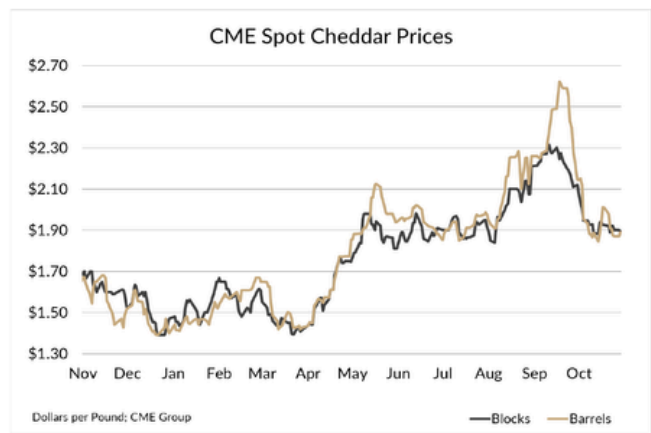
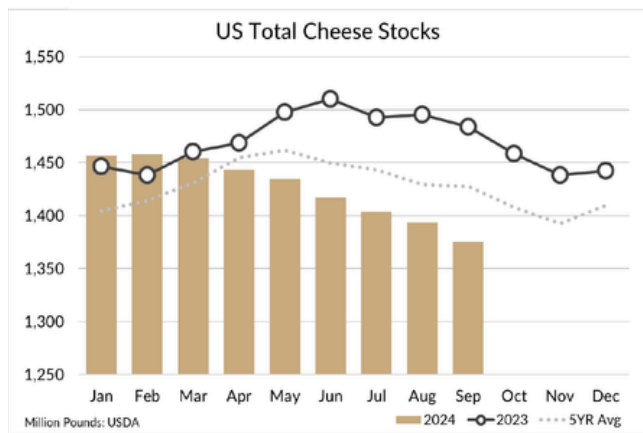
### Historically Underserved Producer Benefits

Special provisions are also available for [historically underserved producers](#). For EQIP, historically underserved producers are eligible for advance payments to help offset costs related to purchasing materials or contracting services up front. In addition, historically underserved producers can receive higher EQIP payment rates (up to 90% of average cost). NRCS sets aside EQIP funds for historically underserved producers. NRCS has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private landowners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources since 1935. For additional information about EQIP, visit the California NRCS [website](#).

# WEEKLY MARKET UPDATE

USDA’s September *Cold Storage* report showed cheese inventories are tight. Total cheese stocks reached 1.375 billion pounds, down 7.3% (-108.2 million pounds) on the year and -1.3% (-18.3 million pounds) versus August. The average monthly decline is 1.7 million pounds.

- Bullish news about cheese stocks didn’t have an impact on cheddar markets in Chicago. After the report came out Friday, Monday’s spot prices were unchanged. On the week, both spot blocks and barrels settled in the upper \$1.80s.
- There’s more than enough butter to go around. USDA pegged US butter inventories at 303.0 million pounds in September, up 13.6% (+36.4 million pounds) year-over-year, but down 6.6% (-21.4 million pounds) on the month. Over the past five years, stocks have slipped by an average of 23.1 million pounds from August to September.
- The spot butter market continues to search for direction, alternately climbing and slipping. The bearish *Cold Storage* report didn’t have a major impact, as the next trading day saw only a two-cent drop. Over all, prices seem content in the \$2.60s.
- Whole milk and skim milk powder prices jumped higher at the most recent GlobalDairyTrade Pulse event. In Chicago, the spot nonfat dry milk market found some strength and rose to the upper \$1.30s.
- Warm, dry weather in key grain-growing regions is helping farmers bring in crops at a rapid pace. Corn harvest is 81% complete, leaping forward from 65% the previous week and 64% on the five-year average. Soybean harvest is nearing completion, 89% complete. That compares to 81% the week before and 78% on the five-year average.
- Nearby corn and soybean futures continue to bounce around, with December corn in the low \$4.10s and November soybeans in the \$9.70s.





Dairy Revenue Protection Program		
Futures	Milk Price (Floor) Guarantee @ 95%	Premium Per CWT (CA)
January - March 2025		
Class III	\$19.77	\$18.78
Class IV	\$21.24	\$20.18
April - June 2025		
Class III	\$19.32	\$18.36
Class IV	\$21.32	\$20.25
July - September 2025		
Class III	\$19.44	\$18.47
Class IV	\$21.40	\$20.33
October - December 2025		
Class III	\$19.47	\$18.49
Class IV	\$21.28	\$20.22
January - March 2026		
Class III	\$17.61	\$16.73
Class IV	\$16.18	\$15.37

\*As of 10/29/24 for 95% coverage, 1.0 Protection Factor



Tiffany LaMendola  
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CME Commodity Prices					
	Blocks	Barrels	Butter	NDM	Dry Whey
Oct-23	\$19200	\$19075	\$2.6550	\$1.3600	\$0.6025
Oct-24	\$19200	\$18750	\$2.6500	\$1.3600	\$0.6050
Oct-25	\$19000	\$18700	\$2.6950	\$1.3750	\$0.6050
Oct-28	\$19000	\$18700	\$2.6750	\$1.3750	\$0.6050
Oct-29	\$18950	\$18900	\$2.6900	\$1.3875	\$0.6050
Average	\$19070	\$18825	\$2.6730	\$1.3715	\$0.6045
Weekly Change	-0.0255	-0.0200	0.0125	0.0275	0.0025

Order 51: Latest Prices					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Class I LA	\$23.41	\$23.62	\$23.90	\$25.47	\$24.83
Class II	\$21.82	\$22.05	\$22.40		
Class III	\$19.79	\$20.66	\$23.34		
Class IV	\$21.31	\$21.58	\$22.29		
PPD	\$1.05	\$2.10	-\$0.89		
Blend: LA*	\$20.84	\$23.60	\$22.45		
Blend: Tulare*	\$20.34	\$23.20	\$21.95		

\*Does not include Quota Deduction

USDA Dairy Margin Coverage (per CWT)					
	Month	All Milk	Feed	Margin Estimate	Indemnity Estimate @ 9.50 Margin
2024 Program	Jan-24	\$ 20.10	\$ 11.62	\$ 8.48	\$ 1.02
	Feb-24	\$ 20.60	\$ 11.16	\$ 9.44	\$ 0.06
	Mar-24	\$ 20.70	\$ 11.05	\$ 9.65	\$ -
	Apr-24	\$ 20.50	\$ 10.90	\$ 9.60	\$ -
	May-24	\$ 22.00	\$ 11.48	\$ 10.52	\$ -
	Jun-24	\$ 22.80	\$ 11.14	\$ 11.66	\$ -
	Jul-24	\$ 22.80	\$ 10.47	\$ 12.33	\$ -
	Aug-24	\$ 23.60	\$ 9.88	\$ 13.72	\$ -
	Sep-24	\$ 25.27	\$ 9.94	\$ 15.34	\$ -
	Oct-24	\$ 25.03	\$ 10.01	\$ 15.01	\$ -
	Nov-24	\$ 23.97	\$ 10.04	\$ 13.92	\$ -
	Dec-24	\$ 23.73	\$ 10.07	\$ 13.66	\$ -

Estimates only. As of 10/29/2024 and based on futures markets which can change daily.

