

# New World News



## Workers' Compensation: Facts and Concerns

Workers' Compensation coverage provides protection to workers who are injured or contract work-related illnesses in the course of their employment. Coverage includes medical expenses as well as a portion of the wages if the situation results in the employee being unable to work during recovery. The employer is also protected from the sudden, full impact of an employee's accident-related expenses.

Here are some facts and concerns:

**Fact:** All Ohio employers must provide workers' compensations coverage for their employees.

**Concern:** Not all Ohio employers that should have workers' compensation (WC) do. Whether employees are family members or not, if they receive a paycheck your farm must carry WC coverage.

**Fact:** Sole proprietors, partners or farm corporate officers do not have to carry

WC coverage for themselves.

**Concern:** While these persons don't have to carry WC coverage for themselves, they will not be eligible for coverage if they are injured in a job-related accident. Unfortunately, their personal health coverage may not cover treatment either.

**Fact:** WC coverage premiums add a significant payroll expense.

**Concern:** The premium rate is determined by the types of jobs you have. As businesses with relatively few employees, one accident can seriously affect the premium for the four years included in the farm's rating.

If you have any questions regarding WC, please call the Bureau of WC in your state:  
 Indiana: 317-232-3809  
 Ohio: 1-800-644-6292  
 Michigan: 1-888-396-5041

Source: Dianne Shoemaker,  
 OSU Extension Dairy Specialist

### New World News

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### Wanted: Standing timber

Select Forestry Services, LLC is interested in buying standing timber. They are paying top dollar for quality standing timber. Please call 1-800-634-3310 or 614-336-9758 if you are interested.

The Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development staff wishes you

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



## Market Update

The Mideast Federal Milk Marketing Order, which includes Michigan, Ohio and the majority of Indiana, milk prices are shown to the right.

For daily milk market information, visit: [www.dairy.com](http://www.dairy.com) and go to the "Dairy Reports" section.

\*The Class I price is adjusted based on location and will range from \$16.09 to \$16.59 in the Mideast Order.

2004 Milk Prices (announced on December 3, 2004)		
Class of Milk	Price per 100 pounds (or 45.36 kg.)	Change from Previous Month
I Fluid Milk for drinking	\$16.49	-\$0.49
II Soft products: yogurt, cream cheese	\$14.09	+\$0.52
III Cheese	\$14.89	+\$0.73
IV Butter, powder milk	\$13.34	+\$0.53

# Link Between Horses & Geese and Water Pollution?

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For years, public-health officials and environmental regulators have thought that human sewage and waste from agricultural operations played the biggest part in increasing the levels of fecal bacterial in surface water. Now, a long and thorough research project in the St. Joseph River (Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana) casts considerable doubt on that assumption.

Deborah Ross, a professor of biology, developed a model of linking bacteria found in water samples to the species which produced the

bacteria. She found that about 85 percent of the fecal bacteria that renders the water, comes from animals and the biggest culprits appear to be horses and geese, according to her findings.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management have said they will examine Ross' findings and her research methodology. That's particularly important because her findings run so directly counter to what she and many others had expected to find in the river.

If Ross' work stands up under the further scrutiny of other scientists, it raises a very important question:

Are human homes and large livestock operations being blamed for too large a share of water pollution in other regions too?

We don't know until the same kind of analysis is performed in other waterways too.

Source: News Sentinel

# Applying Manure to Frozen or Snow Covered Ground

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Winter application of manure is the least desirable in terms of nutrient utilization and prevention of non-point source pollution. Frozen soils and snow cover will limit nutrient movement into the soil and greatly increase the risk of manure being lost to surface waters by runoff and erosion during early spring rains.

Applying manure to frozen or snow covered ground is therefore still an issue that is discussed a lot. Regulatory officials are considering banning the application of manure to frozen/snow covered ground, defined by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) as times when it is not possible to incorporate manure into the soil.



This is the result of citizen complaints and stricter enforcement by regulatory officials to protect surface and ground water.

Rules of applying manure on frozen or snow covered grounds vary between states. In some cases it is prohibited, in others, if such an application must be made, quite some criteria must be met.

We recommend that you always contact your local soil and water office before you apply manure on frozen or snow covered soils. If you are located in Ohio, you should also

contact the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture.

Sources:  
The Ohio Ag Manager Newsletter/  
Departments of Agriculture

# Producers' Compliance Guide for CAFOs

## What is the Producers' Guide?

The Producers' Compliance Guide for CAFOs describes EPA's regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The *Producers' Guide* includes sections that describe EPA's CAFO regulations, who they affect, what they require, and what assistance is available. If you own or operate a CAFO, you can use this guide to find out what you need to do to comply with the CAFO regulations.

## Who should read the Producers' Guide?

EPA developed the Producers' Guide to help CAFO owners and operators understand how to comply with the CAFO regulations. You should read the Producers' Guide if your operation meets one of the regulatory definitions of either:

LARGE CAFO or a MEDIUM CAFO

See [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) for exact definitions.

OR

You have been notified by the EPA of your state permitting authority that your operation has been DESIGNATED AS A CAFO

AND

You confine animals for at least 45 days in a 12 month period, AND There's no grass or other vegetation in the confinement area during the normal growing season.

ON THE WEB - The EPA has developed an internet guide to provide access to information on livestock in the US. The site provides a single point of reference for links to state regulations, web sites, permits and policies, nutrient management information, livestock and trade associations, federal web sites, best management practices and controls, cooperative extension and land grant universities, research, funding, and information on environmental issues. You can search links by selecting a specific link category, by selecting a state to obtain state-specific links, or view all AFO Virtual Information Center links at [www.epa.gov/npdes/afovirtualcenter](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/afovirtualcenter).



## HOW TO OBTAIN THE PRODUCERS COMPLIANCE GUIDE FOR CAFOs

You can download a copy of the Guide from the website at:

[http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cafo\\_prod\\_guide\\_entire\\_doc.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cafo_prod_guide_entire_doc.pdf)

Printed copies will be available in December from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) at 800-490-9198 (for multiple copies) or from the Water Resources Center at 202-566-1729 (for single copies). Interested parties can place advance orders at NSCEP.

The document order number is 821-R-03-010

### Web sites & resources

Indiana:  
IDEM Agricultural Community  
[www.in.gov/idem/visitors/agricultural.html](http://www.in.gov/idem/visitors/agricultural.html)

Michigan:  
Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program  
[www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org)

Ohio:  
The Ohio Livestock Coalition  
[www.ohiolivestock.org](http://www.ohiolivestock.org)

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## Rumensin Approved for Lactating Cows

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it has finally granted label clearance for the use of Rumensin in lactating and dry cow dairy diets. It is the first time FDA has granted approval for an animal drug feed ingredient in dairy cow diets.

Rumensin's active ingredient, monensin sodium, is an ionophore which has known activity in humans. Officials say inclusion of Rumensin should net producers \$30 per cow per year. That comes from both improved feed efficiency and more milk.

Source: Agweb.com

## Announcements

### Calendar

#### January 25-27, 2005

Dairy calves and heifers:  
Integrating Management and Biology  
Place: Syracuse, NY  
A conference for producers and  
their advisors.

Speakers will share knowledge about  
growth, economics, nutrition, health  
and housing.

For more information check  
[www.nraes.org/conferences/  
calves2005.html](http://www.nraes.org/conferences/calves2005.html)

### Are you a Farmer's Wife?

You might be a farmer's wife:

- ☺ If you call the implement dealer and he recognizes your voice.
- ☺ If you plan your vacations around farm shows.
- ☺ If you shovel the sidewalk with a skid steer loader.
- ☺ If grass stains are the least of your laundry problems.
- ☺ If you stand on the loader to wash 2nd story windows.
- ☺ If your car is two-toned, and one color is 'gravel road brown'.



### Welcome!



**Welcome to the Vissers family.**  
Corinne and Paul and their daughter Lotte and son Niek relocated to the US from Veelerveen, the Netherlands. The Vissers family is currently residing at:  
502 West High St. Apt. 8  
Hicksville, OH 43526  
Phone: 419-542-8236

**Welcome to the De Bruijn family.**  
Bert, Annette and their daughters, Bieke and Sanne, and sons, Joost and Rémon, relocated from New Zealand to the US and are currently residing at:  
3558 Tama Road  
Rockford, Ohio 45882  
Phone: 419-852-1597

Please let us know when you are moving or when you change your phone numbers.

### Deadline Visa Lottery

Did you enter the visa lottery at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) yet? Make sure you enter by January 7, 2005. For instructions, see the previous issue of the Newsletter (also available at [www.vrebahoff.com](http://www.vrebahoff.com)).

### New Staff Member



Gerrit Kreugel has joined the Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development staff.

Gerrit has worked as the director of sales for a feed company and an agricultural construction company in the Netherlands before he started his career as an agricultural realtor. In 1984, Gerrit started Kreugel Real Estate.

In the US, Gerrit will be showing people the area during their first trip to the tri-state region as well as assisting clients in their search for locations. Gerrit will also assist with Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development Farm Tours and serve as a contact for clients constructing their dairies. We hope Gerrit will enjoy his stay in the USA!