



## Over 300 Million Served

On October 17, the United States passed a major milestone. The US population reached the 300 million mark. To spotlight this growth, the U.S. Census Bureau released statistics to show how life has changed over the last 91 years. While the price of most things has gone up, the price of milk has come down. The average price of a gallon of milk is \$3 today. It was \$1.03 in 1967, but that's \$6.24 in today's dollars. The price was 36 cents in 1915, or \$7.22 in 2006 dollars. The Census figures also show that the number of farms has shrunk dramatically. There were 6.5 million farms in 1915. Today, we're down to 2.1 million.

As our country's population grows and the number of farms decreases, who is going to feed all those people? We know the farmer's share of each dollar spent for food in this country continues to shrink,

while farmers continue to pay higher expenses to produce our food. Farmers will have to continue to be highly productive to satisfy our food demands and stay in business. Thanks to large-scale farming and modern agricultural equipment, hybrid seeds and biotechnology, we produce more food on fewer farms today than we did in 1915. Some people want farming practices to be closer to those used in 1915. If those people can explain how we're going to feed not just the 300 million in the US, but also many of the 6.5 billion in the world, using 1915 technology and practices, then farmers are listening.

Today's farmers can say that over 300 million are served—thanks to modern agricultural practices.

Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

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## Visa Application Forms

As of November 1, 2006 all applicants who wish to apply for any category of non-immigrant visa to the USA at the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam must complete the visa application form on the internet using the Electronic Visa Application Form. The form must be completed online and then printed with a clearly legible barcode. Non-immigrant visa applications submitted with a handwritten or typewriter typed form can no longer be accepted.

Source: [www.usembassy.nl](http://www.usembassy.nl)

## 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 \$14.20 to \$14.70 in the Mideast Order.

2006 Milk Prices (announced on December 1, 2006)		
Class of Milk	Price per 100 pounds (or 45.36 kg.)	Change from Previous Month
I Fluid Milk for drinking	\$14.60	-\$0.02
II Soft products: yogurt, cream cheese	\$11.98	+\$0.19
III Cheese	\$12.84	+\$0.52
IV Butter, powder milk	\$12.11	+\$0.60

# Discharges from Dairies and Municipalities, Some Facts

A common tactic of opponents of large-scale dairy farming is to foster the impression that a large dairy has the same environmental impact as a large city regarding the volume of waste each discharges. For example, The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) claims that the manure produced by a 4,500 cow dairy, will be “approximately equivalent to human waste production from 95,000 people, exceeding the population of the state’s seventh largest city of Youngstown”.

The opponents rely solely on general formulas for comparing dairy and human waste production, rather than citing actual waste production data from dairies and cities. However, a review of the general formulas, as well as statistics from actual waste production, reveals that the opponents’ argument is deceptive in two respects.

First, a 2001 Canadian study (“Human versus Animals—Comparison of Waste Properties” by Ron Fleming and Marcy Ford, Ridgeway College, University of Guelph) discovered that, while a cow excretes more fecal manure than humans, as a general rule, humans generate roughly 3.3 times more wastewater than cows from toilets, kitchen sinks, baths and showers, and other sources. All of this human wastewater contains contaminants that are harmful if discharged into waterways.

Using this general rule, a 4,500 cow dairy has the design capacity to produce approximately the same amount of wastewater as a town of 1,363 persons, not a city of 95,000 people. This point is readily demonstrated by comparing the total wastewater produced in 2005 by Youngstown and the volume associated with the design capacity of a 4,500 cow dairy. Since EIP has been assisting anti-dairy groups in Wood County and Sandusky County, 2005 discharge statistics for several municipalities in these counties are also provided for comparison.

These municipal wastewater statistics represent actual data from the municipalities’ own reports, not estimates. Thus, Youngstown produces 276 times more wastewater than a 4,500 cow dairy has the design to produce. The assertion that dairies produce more waste than cities is grossly inaccurate.

Second, and most importantly, municipal wastewater has a much greater environmental impact on waterways than dairy manure due to the differences in the way it is managed. The direct discharge of vast amounts of municipal wastewater into waterways is perfectly legal under Ohio EPA permits, whereas livestock farms are prohibited from discharging manure in any amount. While all dairy wastewater is spread on fields and consumed as valuable fertilizer by crops, all municipal wastewater is discharged directly into waterways. Thus,

whereas the dairy is a ‘no discharge’ facility, Youngstown discharged 13.2 billion gallons of wastewater directly into the Mahoning River in 2005. While dairies can not discharge manure, the three Wood and Sandusky County municipalities discharge their wastewater directly into tributaries of Lake Erie. Thus, if CAFO critics are concerned about nutrients washing from Lake Erie’s tributaries into the lake, their focus on CAFO’s is misplaced.

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	<i>Human Population*</i>	<i>Gallons/Wastewater**</i>	<i>Proportional Comparison</i>
<b>4,500 Cow Dairy</b>		47.8 million ***	1
<b>Youngstown</b>	82,837	13.2 billion	276
<b>Bowling Green, OH</b>	29,793	2.3 billion	48
<b>Fremont, OH</b>	17,049	2.2 billion	46
<b>Woodville, OH</b>	2,003	123 million	2.6

\* Populations based on U.S. Census Bureau projections for 2005

\*\* Wastewater production based on the municipalities’ monthly operating reports to Ohio EPA

\*\*\* Based on figures from North Point Engineering for manure, water usage for cleaning barns and silage leachate

# Emigrating? Don't Lose Your Touch in Dutch!

By Ilona Vollebregt, IVIO-Wereldschool

Research done by the Wereldschool in the spring of 2006 among hundreds of emigrants of Dutch origin shows that people want their children to keep the Dutch language up-to-date. The Wereldschool has received lots of response triggered by the article in the Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development Newsletter for which we kindly thank you.

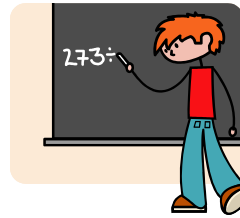
On the basis of this research, the Wereldschool has developed a teaching program specifically aimed at this group of children. The program, called the Emigrant Kit, is being sold at the moment and experiences of those who use it are very positive. Over 90% of the emigrants take the view that it is important for their children to keep up their Dutch, also because it enhances their children's chances for the future. "We as parents have made the choice to move to another country, our children have not. Their expectations for the future are only enlarged when they are being raised bi-lingual or multi-lingual", according to an interviewee. Emigrating means choosing a new homeland, which makes children grow up in different surroundings using another language. Children forget their Dutch really quickly as they are not actively using it anymore. As a result, children lose contact with the Dutch language and culture.

## Reasons for learning Dutch

Learning Dutch and keeping it up-to-date is important for numerous reasons. In the future, children who have emigrated could choose to return and start attending vocational training in the Netherlands. In that case they are required to have mastered the Dutch language in speech as well as in writing. Furthermore, keeping up your Dutch is also necessary to contact family, friends and acquaintances in the country of origin. Children, for example, would like to tell stories to their grandfathers and grandmothers. It is important they can build up bonds and tighten them further.

## The Emigrant Kit

Last summer, the Wereldschool has launched a completely new teaching kit especially developed for



children of Dutch-speaking emigrants. The aim of this Emigrant Kit is that children can read texts, have a reasonable to thorough command of the spelling of the language and of the verbs in particular, can write a proper letter in Dutch and have a vocabulary that can be called "good".

The Emigrant Kit is structured in such a way that children love working with it and that developing their Dutch is virtually child's play. Appealing texts, amusing, attractive and exciting books, challenging exercises cause children to enjoy being occupied with "their" language, besides speaking the language of the country they are living in. While doing the exercises, children are backed up by Windows software, amongst other things, with which they listen to and practice with the pronunciation of words. In addition, work sheets have been included, on which they can do the exercises. There is one moment of testing each year. The test result will show if the child can start the next part of the teaching kit or if a possible revision of certain exercises is necessary.

Already three teaching kits have been developed. Each kit teaches 4 skills: receptive language usage, listening and reading, and productive language usage, speaking and writing. Part 1 of the kit is aimed at children who still have to start learning the sounds, learning to read and to write. In part 2 this is further expanded and children start learning the spelling rules of Dutch. The time you need to spend on learning Dutch is kept limited. With an average of 2 hours a week for 40 weeks a year children can learn Dutch or improve it in a thorough way.

Children can practically study on their own. The parents are asked to stimulate the children and to check the assignments together with their children. It goes without saying that studying a lesson together once in a while is allowed as well of course!

For more information on the Emigration Kit, visit:  
[www.kinderen-en-emigreren.eu](http://www.kinderen-en-emigreren.eu)

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Dairy Development

1290 N. Shoop Ave., Suite 140  
Wauseon, Ohio 43567

Phone: 419.337.5000  
Fax: 419.337.5411  
Email: info@vrebahoff.com

## Discharges from Dairies and Municipalities, Some Facts

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Livestock farm opponents argue that manure contains nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen that can harm a waterway if discharged.

However, while CAFO's may not discharge these nutrients, all municipalities discharge these nutrients into waterways. Some towns near the disputed Wood County and Sandusky County dairies, including Woodville, Bradner and Cygnet, have no discharge limits for phosphorus or nitrogen. Consequently, it is lawful for them to discharge as much of these nutrients as they wish.

Other than discharging nutrients and bacteria directly into the waterways, municipalities handle their wastewater in a manner similar to dairies. For example, many of them store wastewater in earthen ponds at their facilities. Yet opponents of large-scale farms baselessly criticize scientifically engineered dairy manure storage ponds even as they express no opposition to similarly designed municipal wastewater ponds.

Many others spread sludge from the wastewater on land as fertilizer. Municipal sludge has concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen that are much higher than manure. Municipal sludge also contains metals such as copper, cadmium, lead, nickel and zinc. In 2005, more than a third of Bowling Green's sludge was spread during the winter months of December, January and February, a practice that is forbidden for permitted dairies except in an emergency. Nevertheless, CAFO critics express no concern about the land application of this sludge.

It bears repeating: municipalities routinely, and legally, discharge enormous amounts of wastewater with nutrients, metals and fecal matter directly into the waterways. Yet, CAFO critics, express no concern about this practice while attacking large farms that are prohibited altogether from discharging any pollutants into a stream. CAFO manure is more strictly regulated than municipal wastewater, and has less environmental impact.

Source: Van Kley and Walker



## New Arrivals



Congratulations to Peter and Ina van Ittersum on the birth of their baby boy Roy. Roy will join his big brother Dennis and sister Rachel in their home in Markle.

Congratulations to Peter and Miranda van den Heuvel on the birth of their baby boy Bart. Bart will join his sister Anne in their home in Helena.

## Welcome!

Welcome to Hendrik Jan and Nicole van der Veen. Hendrik Jan, Nicole and children relocated from Hellendoorn, The Netherlands and will be operating Rock Creek Dairy at:  
9555 S 250 E  
Keystone, IN 46759

## Change of Address

Bert and Corrie van der Made have moved. They are now residing at 2152 State Route 576  
Bryan, OH 43506  
Phone: 419-636-0680

## Heifer Raiser

John Babcock, 1-049 St Rt 110 in Napoleon is interested in raising heifers. You can contact John at: 419-533-4129.

## Reminder for Ohio NPDES Permit Holders

Annual Report to Ohio EPA for NPDES CAFO Permit Compliance is due by January 31, 2007. Forms should have been sent to all permit holders. If you did not receive a form, you can download the two page document at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/cafo/monitor.html>.

Scroll down to annual reports and click on Ohio EPA CAFO NPDES Permit Annual Report Guide (PDF 20K).

If you have any questions, you can contact Monte Tucker in our office.