

New World News



Can US Census Count You In?

The history of collecting data on U.S. agriculture dates goes back to President George Washington, who was known for keeping meticulous statistical records describing his and other farms. Such information was essential during this time when nine out of every ten Americans lived on a farm. They needed to know what crops they should produce to ensure a plentiful bounty for the people to eat.

While much has changed since then, the importance of accurate agricultural data to today's farmers and ranchers is no different. As a highly technical industry, American agriculture relies heavily on statistical information to feed, fuel and clothe a growing world.

Farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for

years to come. That opportunity will come to your mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else—information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in myriad ways.

To be continued on Page 4

New World News
A publication of Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development

Volume 7, Issue 6

November-December 2007



From all of us at
Vreba-Hoff
Dairy Development!!

Advertisements

Grant Gergley is an agent for American National Insurance Company which provides exclusive coverage for the farming community. If you are interested, please call Grant at 419-307-9363 or go to their website: www.anpac.com.

August Blevins sells Western hay from Wyoming in 3x3x8 square bales. If you are interested, call 740-852-6767

Small bull calf operation in Ohio is looking for calves. Usually picks up 6-12 calves at a time. Call 419-261-6570 if you are interested.

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 and go to the "Dairy Reports" section.

*The Class I price is adjusted based on location and will range from \$23.25 to \$23.75 in the Mideast Order.

2007 Milk Prices (announced on November 30, 2007)		
Class of Milk	Price per 100 pounds (or 45.36 kg.)	Change from Previous Month
I Fluid Milk for drinking	\$23.65	-\$.14
II Soft products: yogurt, cream cheese	\$22.07	+\$.17
III Cheese	\$19.22	+\$.52
IV Butter, powder milk	\$20.40	-\$.91

Perception is not Reality

Despite no evidence that property values fall or that the environment is degraded, neighbors near and far of new expansions still fear those concerns a year after the expansion is complete.

That's the conclusion of a study of more than 100 neighbors of two new 600-cow dairies in Ohio. Hans Schmalzried and Fleming Fallon, with the Department of Public and Allied Health at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, conducted the study. The study was published in the *Journal of Dairy Science* last spring.

Schmalzried and Fleming sent out 275 surveys to three groups: those within a mile of the new dairies, those within a five-mile radius and those living in a small city located near the dairies.

All of those surveyed had high levels of concern about property values and environmental degradation. And though there were no statistical differences among the groups, those living further from the dairies tended to register greater concerns about property values, water quality and flies. Those living closest to the dairies tended to register more concerns about odor management.

Those perceptions, however, were not based on actual facts. "We found that the accuracy of quality-of-life concerns that were expressed about living near a large-scale dairy operation was not based on reality," Schmalzried says.

- Real estate agents familiar with the area say property transfers within 1 mile of the dairies showed no decline in value.
- Where land had appreciated in value, the rate of increase was similar near and far to the dairies.
- No complaints about water quality, odor or flies could be verified by government officials.

"The opinions of the individuals we surveyed were not supported by objective data," Fallon says. "Property values have not declined, water quality has not been affected, odor problems have not been documented and no fly nuisance complaints have been received". Even though the dairies were relatively large by traditional Ohio standards, Schmalzried says, they were less than 1,000 animal units.

That being said, neighbor concerns about large-scale operations can't be ignored. Opening the dairy to tours once it is completed may alleviate some concerns, negative publicity and gossip.

"Dairy producers are proud of what they do, and most run very clean operations", Fallon says.

Nonetheless, the Bowling Green University study shows preconceptions about larger dairy farms are difficult to change.

Source: Agweb.com

Annie's Project is Expanding across Ohio in 2008

The mission of Annie's Project is to empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information. The program is an agriculture business course in risk management and brings women together to learn the financial skills and critical information needed to manage the complicated business of running a farm. Specific topics include financial record keeping, understanding basic financial statements, financial management tools, goal setting and mission statement writing, commodity marketing basics,



crop insurance, family communication, retirement planning, and learning about individual personality types and characteristics through the Real Colors program.

The class meets once every week for six consecutive weeks and will be offered in six Ohio counties in the winter of 2008. The flyer can be downloaded at <http://ohioagmanager.osu.edu/resources/annieregflyer.pdf>.

Source: OSU extension

Introducing New Vreba-Hoff Staff Members



Heather Boger

Hi, my name is Heather Boger and I am the new Jr. Accountant at Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development. I started working here the end of October. My Husband and I, our 3 kids, Samantha (6), Taylor (3 1/2) and Benjamin (1) and our 2 dogs, Dakota and Gracie May reside here in

Wauseon. My husband and I both grew up in the Wauseon area and our parents and sisters and their families still live here as well. However my husband and I have just moved back to the area after being away for 9 years. My husband was a Weapons Instructor in the United States Air Force for 9 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years and we were stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota for a year and then in 2001 we got stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton Ohio. While in Dayton I worked in the Investor Accounting department at National City Mortgage. I have found my job here at Vreba-Hoff to be very interesting, I enjoy learning about the dairies and the families that run them.

My name is Mark Knoblauch and I joined Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development in May as an Environmental Compliance Manager. I am currently working from the Wauseon, OH office as a Project Compliance Representative. I will be assisting clients with Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan compliance in Ohio and Indiana. I have worked for over 25 years in the field of municipal environmental operations and management, and look forward to this new and exciting opportunity to apply my training and experience



Mark Knoblauch

to dairy construction environmental issues. My wife Kathie and I have lived in Lenawee County, MI all of our lives, and currently are restoring a 125 year-old family farm house just outside Morenci, MI. We have two children, Heidi, 26, and James (JC), 23.

Hello my name is Anna Berger and as of October, I have been working at Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development. Having grown up on a dairy farm, the dairy business is nothing new to me. In 1987 my parents moved their dairy business from Gaasterland, The Netherlands to Winnsboro, Texas. I later moved to Austin, TX where I completed my B.S. in Applied Learning and Development from the University of Texas at



Anna Berger

Austin. Upon graduation, I had various jobs in both the Education field as well as Administrative. In 2006, I moved to The Netherlands where I worked for Shell (NAM) in the financial department and conducted migration training for them in Poland. Here at Vreba-Hoff, I will be working mainly with the Monitoring and Support System. Outside of work, I enjoy being outdoors. I am fortunate to have a great family, a wonderful group of close friends, and an awesome partner, all of which I greatly enjoy spending quality time with! I am really looking forward to learning more about this organization and hope to get a chance to meet some of the faces behind the dairies!

New World News
A publication of Vreba-Hoff
Dairy Development

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

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

Announcements



Congratulations to Tejo Willemsen on winning the Beyond the Fence Award! The award was presented

to Tejo on December 6th at the Indiana Livestock Forum for outstanding neighbor relations and is sponsored by the Indiana Soybean Alliance.

Cow Joke

The wise old Mother Superior was dying. The nuns were gathered around her bed. She asked for a little warm milk to sip, so a nun went to the kitchen to warm some milk. Remembering a bottle of whiskey received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

Mother drank a little, then a little more, then before they knew it, she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop. "Mother, Mother" the nuns cried, "Give us some wisdom before you die!"

She raised herself up in bed with a pious look on her face and pointing out the window she said, "Don't sell that cow!!!"

Count You In?

Continued from Page 1

Policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census to target needed services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the option of filling out the Census online via a secure website.

NASS is committed to making this Census the best count ever. Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, farmers and ranchers will help themselves and their communities by filling out the Census of Agriculture and returning it promptly.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, farmers and ranchers can visit www.agcensus.usda.gov online. This website also contains many years of agricultural statistics for all states.

Source: OSU Extension

New I-9 Form

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that a revised Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9) is now available for use. All employers are required to complete a Form I-9 for each employee hired in the United States. Employers are encouraged to start using the revised Form immediately, but all new hires starting 12/26/2007 must complete the newer version of the I-9 form. Key to the revision is the removal of five documents for proof of both identity and employment eligibility.

A Spanish version of the I-9 form is available, but not valid in the USA for use. However, you can use it as a translation tool.

Both the "Handbook for Employers, Instructions for Completing the Form I-9" are available online at <http://www.uscis.gov>.

LLC Renewal

If you have an LLC registration in Michigan or Indiana, please note the following:

Michigan LLC's need to be renewed every two years. Please make sure you renew your registration.

Indiana LLC's need to file their business entity reports every year. This can be done online. The Indiana Secretary of State will send out notices.

