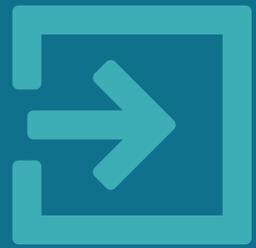




# insider



Quarterly Newsletter for Members of Minnesota Milk • Also available online at [MnMilk.org](http://MnMilk.org) • July 2021



*4th Annual*  
**MINNESOTA MILK CUP**  
GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Wednesday, August 11**  
Lynx National Golf Course | Sauk Centre

*Register online today at [MnMilk.org](http://MnMilk.org)*

*Pictured above:  
John Wolf – Dairy Farmers of America*



## Minnesota Milk's 2020-2021 Board of Directors

### Front (L to R):

Dave Buck, Sadie Frericks, Shelly DePestel, Bob Dombeck.

### Back (L to R):

Aaron Vogt, Ron Miller, Garrett Luthens, Rick Smith.

All Directors and their contact information are published at [MnMilk.org](http://MnMilk.org).



Minnesota Milk Producers Association  
[MnMilk.org](http://MnMilk.org) • (877) 577-0741

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Shannon Watrin  
Membership Director  
[shannon@mnmilk.org](mailto:shannon@mnmilk.org)

Jenna Davis  
Education Director  
[jenna@mnmilk.org](mailto:jenna@mnmilk.org)

## FMMO Work Continues; never-ending?

By Lucas Sjostrom, Minnesota Milk Executive Director

Happy Summer! Well, hopefully you're getting some rain within the sunshine. Minnesota Milk's board of directors recently held their board meeting down at President Shelly DePestel's farm in Lewiston. My car of Central Minnesota board members were both pleased and envious to see great-looking corn in Southeast Minnesota. We are hopeful for rain and so thankful for the genetics.

## Back to the new... whatever

Call it the new normal or the old ways or the future, we're mostly back in it. As the Delta variant and whatever comes after it keeps governments and large industries cautious, we're doing our best to adapt to the future. At the request of the Minnesota Milk board of directors, your staff are preparing for a future that includes more social events, more policy education and more fun.

Looking ahead, we hope we see you at our second Minnesota Milk Cup event on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at Lynx National Golf Course Sauk Centre. Golf is FREE for dairy farmers, family and employees, so please sign up at [MnMilk.org](http://MnMilk.org) or by getting in touch via email or phone with any staff person.

Also, we look forward to a few additional events this summer. Minnesota Milk intends to be part of:

- **UMN Extension Northwest MN Dairy Field Day at Golden Sunrise Dairy, 31328 290th St SW, McIntosh, MN 56556 Thursday, August 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
  - In 2016, Tim Rolf and his son, Derek, launched Golden Sunrise Dairy, Inc. In 2020, they moved into a new milking facility featuring robotic milking, feeding, and manure cleaning. Currently they are running about 160 head of milking cows. The Rolfs also grow corn and hay for their livestock. Tim's family also has a hog operation that includes a farrow-to-wean set up with a finishing barn on the same yard as the dairy and the farrowing barn across the road. Email Jim Salfer, [salfe001@umn.edu](mailto:salfe001@umn.edu), with questions or to register.
- **Alternative Annual Forage/Cover Crop Plot Field Day - Benton County at Emslander Farms, 8133 170th Ave NE, Oak Park, MN 56357 Tuesday, August 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
  - The field day will cover the basics of using late-planted annual cover crops as potential forage sources. This will include a tour of the research plot, conversations on agronomics, harvest, storage, quality, and feeding of some of these different forage sources. There will also be information on manure management in these types of situations. A boxed lunch will be provided. Contact Nathan Drewitz at 320-968-5077 or [ndrewitz@umn.edu](mailto:ndrewitz@umn.edu) with questions or to register.
- **World Dairy Expo Tour - To Be Determined**
  - Minnesota Milk committee members and staff are currently planning a one- or two-night trip to and from World Dairy Expo. If interested, contact [Lucas@MNMilk.org](mailto:Lucas@MNMilk.org).

In early July, Minnesota Milk hosted a Policy and Membership webinar updating on our recent activities. Watch the full webinar, here: <https://bit.ly/3hz8AEX> As you'll hear on the webinar, we expect:

- Class I payments forthcoming as a CFAP payment are expected to replace calls by NMPF for an emergency Class I FMMO hearing.
- A forthcoming report on Make Allowances will likely trigger a hearing to increase Make Allowances. These six organizations have joined to bring the industry FMMO Marketing Order Education webinars.
- Minnesota Milk, in partnership with Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, Iowa State Dairy Association, Nebraska State Dairy Association, South Dakota Dairy Producers and Wisconsin Dairy Business Association will continue to put on educational webinars, with the next event planned for after Labor Day.

FMMO discussions are a major issue taking up time for your Minnesota Milk staff and board of directors, but we feel it is time well-invested. While we can complain about the milk price, environmental policies and welfare requirements, we do not spend enough time talking about the actual method of price discovery that determines our milk price. Educate yourself, and help our association help you in pushing for better pricing policy in years to come.

Minnesota Milk, Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, Iowa State Dairy Association, Nebraska State Dairy Association, South Dakota Dairy Producers and Wisconsin Dairy Business Association have joined to bring the industry FMMO Marketing Order Education webinars. View them here: <https://www.mnmilk.org/policy/federal-policy/>

1. [Federal Milk Marketing Order Education and Reform Impacts](#)
2. [Class I pricing formula & ideas for reform](#)
3. [Make allowances: The problems with them and potential solutions](#)

## The plan ahead

Our annual meeting is planned for December 8, noon, in Central Minnesota, with a virtual option. As you'll see in the following pages, and in a letter mailed to you, nominations are open for the board of directors with voting to commence in September. We'll stay in touch with Minnesota legislators at the Minnesota State Fair, at Lunches with Legislators in their backyard and fundraising type events. Your membership allows us to stay informed and involved, and to share your story with legislators. Political Action Committee donations are our way of contributing directly to legislators with separate dollars that show support and maintain relationships. All of these work together through our membership growth and educational efforts to ensure Minnesota dairy farms stay at the forefront of knowledge and we keep bettering the business climate.

See you at the State Fair, if not a golf outing before.



Lucas Sjostrom, *Minnesota Milk Executive Director*  
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**Lucas Sjostrom**  
 Executive Director

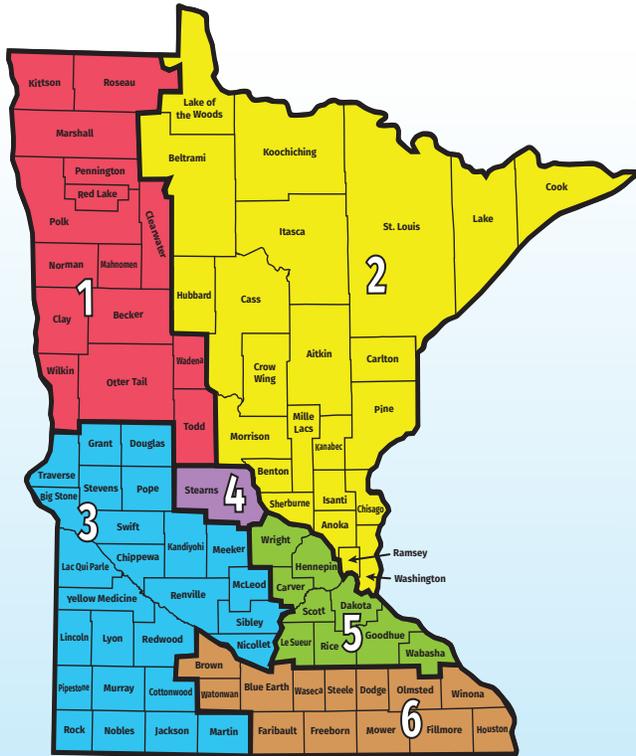


Bryan B.  
Lake Wilson, MN

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US

Whether it's in your community or at the Capitol, the Minnesota Corn Growers Association is the essential advocate for corn farmers.

**We're stronger *with you.***



## Board Nominations due September 10

In 2021, only District 4/Stearns County farms are ineligible for elections (having two members on the board of directors already). Incumbents in Districts 2 and 6 and an at-large vacancy for Districts 1, 2, 3, or 5 will be up for election. Elections will be completed by mail in October and November, with an annual meeting December 8, 2021, at 12 p.m. The meeting will be online and at a physical location to be determined later. Board members can expect one meeting per month on average, with about six between January and April, then every other month from May through December. Send nominations to [lucas@mnmilk.org](mailto:lucas@mnmilk.org) with name, farm, and location by September 10.



1



3



4



2



5

### Fun at Frontenac

1) Rain didn't stop attendees of the Minnesota Milk Cup at Mount Frontenac from socializing and having fun. The rain delay allowed extra time for dairy friends to connect.

2) Eventually, all twelve teams were able to hit the greens.

3) Repeating their title for a second year was the team of Kurt Rame, Will Sampson, Bob Rehbein, and Mike Nelson.

4) This foursome of Bob Lefebvre, Scott Stude, Leif Fixen and Logan Davis took home second place bragging rights.

5) We closed the evening by celebrating with 2020 Bruce Cottingham recipient Tom Anderson.



## State Legislative Update

By Daryn McBeth, Contract lobbyist, Lathrop GPM

The Minnesota Legislature has finished its work regarding the 2022-23 biennial budget. At 1:14 a.m. July 2, 2021, the House of Representative adjourned sine die after passing the final piece of omnibus legislation, the Tax bill. The Senate followed suit and passed the Tax bill shortly after. Instead of adjourning sine die, the Senate came back on Friday for session, to ensure the Governor signs the bills. The Senate has confirmation powers (or more specifically “disapproval” authority) over the Commissioners the Governor has appointed to lead state agencies, and Senate GOP leadership has deliberately not acted to confirm several appointees to hold some leverage for budgetary matters. The Senate appeared to be headed toward a failed confirmation vote of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner Laura Bishop, who resigned shortly before the vote was to be taken. Deputy Commissioner Peter Tester became Temporary Commissioner. Tester previously worked at Ecolab before Hennepin County’s legal department and joining MPCA at the beginning of the Walz Administration.

After passing a new \$52 billion two-year state budget, the Legislature narrowly avoided a partial government shutdown that would have started, July 1st. A total of 14 omnibus budget bills have been passed by the Legislature and sent to Governor Walz since this Special Session commenced on June 14th.

A deal was also struck to end the Governor’s peacetime emergency power declaration related to the Covid-19 pandemic. With a majority of votes in both the DFL-controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate, as of June 30th, the State of Minnesota is no longer under an emergency declaration. Per the Minnesota Constitution, a majority of votes in both chambers immediately ends a gubernatorial emergency power declaration.

The next regular Legislative Session is set to convene on Monday, January 31, 2022. The second legislative session in the two-year biennium traditionally focuses on policy related matters now that a budget has been passed. Legislative Tax Committee Chairs have indicated a willingness to consider and pass another small tax bill next year, in order to readdress some items not included in this year’s Omnibus Tax bill. One of those items is expansion of the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, a MMPA priority, which did not make it into the Omnibus Tax bill this year. A broad coalition, led by Minnesota Milk, was disappointed that the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit expansion to immediate family members was not part of the final tax bill. We disagree with the interpretation that the proposed change will cost unbudgeted funding. We believe the expansion will fit within the current funding statutorily authorized for the program.

### Minnesota Milk Legislative Wins in 2021

- *Minnesota Milk succeeded in partnership with other agriculture groups in repealing requirements for NPDES cover crop and other BMP mandates in October, following the science of manure management*
- *Funding for the Minnesota Dairy Initiative program, Livestock Investment Grants and Dairy Business Planning Grants continues.*
- *Paycheck Protection Program tax refunds were approved by the legislature, thanks to a broad business coalition. At this time, the Minnesota Department of Revenue recommends that tax filers take no action and plans to issue refunds.*



Contract lobbyist  
Daryn McBeth  
Lathrop GPM



For Drought Resources, visit:  
[mda.state.mn.us/drought-resources](https://mda.state.mn.us/drought-resources)

## Walz, Federal Delegation, MN Milk request USDA Drought Aid

By Lucas Sjostrom, Minnesota Milk Executive Director

In response to severe drought conditions across the state, Governor Tim Walz sent a letter to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack requesting assistance to aid Minnesota's livestock producers by relieving the immediate impacts of drought on grazing land. Later, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith as well as Representatives Craig, Emmer, Fischbach, Hagedorn, Phillips and Stauber, sent a nearly identical letter.

This followed a letter sent by Minnesota Milk, led by Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation and the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, requesting the same two items:

- Opening up CRP ground to emergency haying and grazing
- Opening it up immediately

*"Agriculture is the past, present, and future of Minnesota's economy. We must do everything we can to address the challenges our farmers and ranchers are facing due to the severe drought conditions plaguing our state. That's why I'm asking the U.S. Department of Agriculture for assistance," said Governor Walz. "The USDA's ongoing support of Minnesota's agricultural industry is well-recognized across the state, and with their continued assistance, our livestock producers will have a brighter outlook as we endure these harsh conditions and look forward to a thriving future."*

Governor Walz wrote in support of an implementation plan to allow emergency haying and grazing on eligible Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in Minnesota counties experiencing Level D2 or greater drought conditions, reducing forage pressures on Minnesota's livestock producers. As of the latest U.S. Drought Monitor update on July 22, nearly 70 percent of Minnesota is suffering under Level D2 or greater drought conditions.

The quality of forage on CRP lands continues to deteriorate under drought conditions and delaying access until August 1 will eliminate the advantages of the resource. If producers cannot get quality feed to their livestock, they will have no other options than to sell animals or purchase hay to haul in.

**CRP participants requesting emergency or non-emergency haying and grazing must file a request with their county FSA office indicating the acres to be hayed or grazed before the activity begins.**

**Before CRP acres are declared eligible for haying or grazing, a modified conservation plan developed by NRCS or a technical service provider must be obtained. The modified conservation plan must be site specific, include the authorized duration and reflect local wildlife needs**

**and concerns. The primary purpose must be to maintain vegetative cover, minimize soil erosion and protect water quality and wildlife habitat quality. These plans must ensure no long-term damage to the conservation cover is caused.**

Acres ineligible for both emergency and non-emergency haying and grazing include acres devoted to:

- Useful life easements;
- Land within 20 feet of a stream or other permanent water body; and
- Any acres where haying and or grazing would cause long-term damage to the CRP cover.

For more information on CRP haying and grazing visit: [fsa.usda.gov/crp](https://fsa.usda.gov/crp) or contact your FSA county office. To locate your FSA office, visit: [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator). For drought resources, visit: [mda.state.mn.us/drought-resources](https://mda.state.mn.us/drought-resources).

**Governor Walz:**  
***Agriculture is the past, present, and future of Minnesota's economy. We must do everything we can to address the challenges our farmers and ranchers are facing due to the severe drought conditions plaguing our state.***

# Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirms Palmer Amaranth in Goodhue County

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has positively identified the invasive weed Palmer amaranth in Goodhue County for the first time.

After a crop consultant reported a suspected plant to the MDA, staff conducted a site visit and found the weed in two corn fields managed by one farmer. The MDA scouted fields surrounding the documented infestations and did not find any additional Palmer plants. It is unknown at this time how Palmer amaranth got into the two fields; however, the MDA is continuing to investigate potential sources.

An herbicide application stunted but did not kill the plants. A crew hand pulled weeds in the two fields to eliminate any chance of seed production. The MDA will continue to work with the farmer, crop consultants, U of M Extension, and the County Agricultural Inspector to manage these infestations.

“This is a good example of the limits of herbicide on Palmer amaranth,” said Denise Thiede, MDA’s Seed Unit Supervisor. “If plants are allowed to reach a certain size, an herbicide application may not control them. That’s why we’re counting on farmers and crop consultants to report suspected plants. They are our best line of defense against Palmer amaranth.”

The MDA is asking farmers and agronomists to take photos of suspicious plants, pull them out, and save them in plastic bags for genetic testing if needed. Report the find to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Arrest the Pest line at **1-888-545-6684** or **arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us**.

Palmer amaranth can be identified by the following characteristics:

- The green leaves are smooth and arranged in an alternate pattern that grows symmetrically around the stem. The leaves are oval to diamond or triangle shaped.
- The leaves of some Palmer amaranth plants have a whitish, V-shaped mark on them. Not all Palmer amaranth plants display this characteristic.

- Palmer amaranth looks similar to our native pigweeds such as waterhemp (*A. tuberculatus* and *A. rudis*), Powell’s amaranth (*A. powellii*), and redroot and smooth pigweeds (*A. Retroflexus* and *A. hybridus*, respectively). Here are some distinguishing characteristics:

- *Redroot and smooth pigweeds have fine hairs on their stems and leaves. Palmer amaranth and waterhemp do not have these hairs.*
- *The petiole (stalk connecting a leaf to the stem) is longer than the length of the leaf. For waterhemp, the petiole will be only half the length of the leaf.*
- *Seedhead spikes on female Palmer amaranth plants are much taller (up to three feet long) and pricklier than waterhemp or redroot and smooth pigweed spikes.*

Photos and other information on Palmer amaranth can be found on the MDA website at **[mda.state.mn.us/palmeramaranth](http://mda.state.mn.us/palmeramaranth)**.

Palmer amaranth is listed as a noxious weed in Minnesota and was first discovered in the state in 2016. All above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed, and it cannot be moved. The invasive weed is also listed as a prohibited weed seed in the state. This means no Palmer amaranth is allowed in any seed offered for sale in Minnesota.

Palmer amaranth has been found in 11 Minnesota counties, including Goodhue County. However, most of the sites have been successfully eradicated and the remaining are being closely monitored. Details of previous finds can be found on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website.

Left uncontrolled, a single female Palmer amaranth plant typically produces 100,000 to 500,000 seeds. It is resistant to multiple herbicides, can cause substantial yield losses, and greatly increase weed management costs in soybeans and corn.

**Palmer amaranth seedling** (image: University of Illinois)



**Palmer amaranth comparison** (image: University of Illinois)



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## Top Minnesota Dairy Farms honors for Superior Cow Care

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen released the annual list of top Minnesota dairy herds with low somatic cell counts (SCC). Somatic cell count is a key indicator of milk quality – a lower SCC count is better for cheese production and a longer shelf life for bottled milk. In honor of June Dairy Month, 96 Minnesota dairy farms are being recognized for superior herd management skills by achieving an average SCC of under 100,000.

***“I’m honored to be able to recognize these 96 dairies for their high level of excellence,”*** said Commissioner Petersen. ***“These dairy farmers work hard 365 days a year to produce high quality, wholesome dairy products for all of us to enjoy, and I thank them for their contributions to feed Minnesota and the world.”***

Suzanne Jacobs	<i>Otter Tail</i>
Dennis & Wayne Wolters	<i>Morrison</i>
Harmony Hills LLC	<i>Carver</i>
Lester Banse	<i>Houston</i>
Braulick Farms	<i>Brown</i>
Hoefs’ Dairy LLC	<i>LeSueur</i>
Brandon & Jill Marshik	<i>Benton</i>
Keith Middendorf	<i>Todd</i>
Dean & Elizabeth Johnson	<i>Cottonwood</i>
Tony & Matt Berktold	<i>Wabasha</i>
Zweber Farms LLC	<i>Scott</i>
Nosbush Dairy	<i>Renville</i>
Christopher & Jessie Lee	<i>Meeker</i>
Evergreen Acres Dairy LLC #7	<i>Stearns</i>
Edward Kauffman	<i>Todd</i>
Knisley Dairy Inc.	<i>Stearns</i>
Bill Miller	<i>Wabasha</i>
Kent Happke	<i>Benton</i>
Denn-Mar Farm LLC	<i>Benton</i>
Alan & Jessica Klimek	<i>Douglas</i>
Robert & Terri Ketchum	<i>Winona</i>
Kevin Hanson	<i>Polk</i>
Valley Acres Dairy #1	<i>Winona</i>
Enchanted Dairy	<i>Morrison</i>
Riverview LLP - West Dublin	<i>Swift</i>
Barkeim Farms LLC	<i>Winona</i>
D & D Dairy Small Farm	<i>Winona</i>
Ryan Talberg	<i>Stearns</i>
Harlan & Jenny Poppler	<i>Wright</i>
Jeff Middendorf	<i>Stearns</i>
Scott & Michelle Herber	<i>Winona</i>
Charles & Mary Schornack	<i>Otter Tail</i>
Chad Felten	<i>Mower</i>
Schefers Bros LLC	<i>Stearns</i>
Houdek Dairy LLC	<i>Houston</i>
Trevor & Lisa Dicke	<i>Wabasha</i>
Merdan Dairy Inc.	<i>Stearns</i>
Del & Cindy Euerle	<i>Meeker</i>
North Creek Dairy LLC	<i>Olmsted</i>
Cory & Jenna Middendorf	<i>Stearns</i>
High Point Dairy - Joe & Kim	<i>Stearns</i>
Engelmeyer	
Marshall & Melanie Korn	<i>Kandiyohi</i>
Randy H. & Kathleen J. Bauer	<i>Rice</i>
Valley Acres Dairy #2	<i>Winona</i>
Colleen Berscheit	<i>Brown</i>
Duckwitz Farm Partnership	<i>Swift</i>

James A. Olson	<i>Winona</i>
Burfeind Dairy Farm LLC	<i>Goodhue</i>
Mark T Klehr	<i>Scott</i>
Russel Wirt	<i>Winona</i>
Duane Burke	<i>Otter Tail</i>
Peterson Dairy Farm	<i>Kandiyohi</i>
Schwab Farms Inc.	<i>Nicollet</i>
Dev-Lin Holsteins LLC	<i>Houston</i>
Travis & Angela Scherping	<i>Stearns</i>
John Sauber	<i>Dakota</i>
Paul & Bonnie Middendorf	<i>Todd</i>
Adam & Sarah Mellgren	<i>Wabasha</i>
Ackerman Farms	<i>Benton</i>
Jeremy & Amanda Wentland	<i>Stearns</i>
Kraig Krienke	<i>McLeod</i>
Lux-Ury Holsteins Inc.	<i>Meeker</i>
Paul Marx	<i>Mower</i>
Heim Family Farm	<i>Winona</i>
Schulte Farms	<i>Houston</i>
Chad Waltman	<i>Morrison</i>
Robert Hinsch	<i>Goodhue</i>
Rolling Ridge Acres Inc.	<i>Winona</i>
Maynard & Jeremiah	<i>Wabasha</i>
Schumacher	
Kuechle Dairy LLC	<i>Stearns</i>
Gregory Dairy LLC	<i>Stearns</i>
Dreier Farm LLC	<i>Carver</i>
O’Reilly Organic Dairy LLC	<i>Goodhue</i>
Peter Mark Hendrickson	<i>Todd</i>
Matt Andring	<i>Olmsted</i>
Mundt Dairy	<i>Winona</i>
Kiefland Holsteins LLC	<i>Winona</i>
Brian Libbesmeier	<i>Meeker</i>
Hammell Dairy Inc.	<i>Houston</i>

Barry D Cronk	<i>Otter Tail</i>
Mark Ruegamer	<i>Pope</i>
Mark Brosig	<i>Winona</i>
Clear Crest Farm	<i>Winona</i>
Zabulls Holsteins	<i>Wabasha</i>
Shawn & Sarah Winscher	<i>Morrison</i>
Robert & Ann Cremers	<i>Stearns</i>
Shir-Man Holsteins II	<i>Fillmore</i>
Dave & Dan Bruder	<i>Todd</i>
Adam & Abby Popowski	<i>Lincoln</i>
Jon and Wendy Meyer	<i>Wabasha</i>
Stan & Bev Meyer	<i>Houston</i>
Avon Heights LLC	<i>Dodge</i>
Dollymount Dairy	<i>Traverse</i>
Youngren Dairy Farms Inc.	<i>Kandiyohi</i>
Sunny Side Dairy	<i>Hennepin</i>
Jacob Mehr	<i>Stearns</i>
Greg Nicklay	<i>Olmsted</i>
Mark & Shari Chamberlain	<i>Goodhue</i>
Tim Bruder	<i>Todd</i>
Nathan Gibbs	<i>Winona</i>
Mitchell Mehrwerth	<i>Benton</i>
Schmit Family Dairy LLC	<i>Winona</i>
Steve & Lori Dockendorf	<i>Stearns</i>
Darin & Brierty Grimsgard	<i>Meeker</i>
Paul Mehr	<i>Stearns</i>
Bucks Unlimited LLC	<i>Goodhue</i>
Thomas Fuechtmann	<i>Stearns</i>
Edgar Martin	<i>Stearns</i>
Autumn Breeze Dairy	<i>Brown</i>
Sass Dairy	<i>Fillmore</i>
Schumacher Farms of Elgin Inc.	<i>Wabasha</i>
Pike Hills Dairy LLC	<i>Morrison</i>
Anthony Scheffler	<i>Goodhue</i>





## **ARE YOU DRIVING SOY**

From the seed bed to tire tread, Minnesota soybean farmers and the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council are DRIVING SOY this summer by embarking on a statewide campaign to give back to their local communities by donating sets of soy-based tires to their sheriffs' department, all while driving further demand for soybeans grown right here in Minnesota. Now that's treading new ground.

**Nominate a favorite non-profit organization to receive a free set. Learn more at [mnsoybean.org/msrpc](http://mnsoybean.org/msrpc).**



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## Inside this Issue

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- *Top Herds*



## Upcoming Calendar



August 11, 2021

**Minnesota Milk Cup**

*Lynx National Golf Course | Sauk Centre, MN*



September 28, 2021

**World Dairy Expo**

*Alliant Energy Center | Madison, WI*



December 8, 2021

**Annual Meeting**

*Central MN (TBD)*