

Happy Chicken Farms & Merry Milk Maid



The Chicken Coop Chronical



MAY 2024

There will be increases in ice cream prices starting May 13th. The costs of product packaging is one of the reasons behind these increases, but the costs of ingredients used for the production of individual ice cream flavors gets most of the blame. You will notice differences in costs among the flavors due to the specific ingredients contained in each one, as some ingredients are more costly than others.

Now for the Good News and more Good News to update you on plus a clarification of industry concerns. Milk and eggs are both adjusting down next month as supplies of both are slightly increasing while demand is the same or slightly softer. Post Easter consumer demand for eggs is typically lower but production losses due to Avian Influenza kept the market steady through April, but we do expect prices to drop 30 to 40 cents per dozen by the end of May (or more if the industry avoids further production losses.)

Raw milk is declining in May as production ticks up in the spring as normal. The downward trend could continue into June as school milk consumption drops. The new concern in the dairy industry was the very recent discovery of Avian Influenza in dairy cows transported from southern states and into the Midwest a number of weeks ago. This virus does result some drop of milk production in the affected cows but also acts as a new source (or vector) for the virus to spread to egg layers the industry was not protecting against. Any dairy farm workers, suppliers, feed trucks, etc. could now spread the active virus to the egg farm for the hens to be infected.

The FDA and USDA have quickly reacted and are in the process of implementing additional precautions to stop/slow the spread among farms. Fortunately, pathogens such as this virus are killed by various processes including milk pasteurization. The FDA is conducting further testing but based on information currently available, the commercial milk supply in the US is still very safe. Please feel welcome to call our office anytime for more information or further updates.

Go to page two for even more Good News for May 2024's milk changes and other great articles for this month. Thank you for your business and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

OPEN UP OUR QR CODE!

Happy Chicken Farms & Merry Milk Maid now have a QR Code which opens up a world of information about our business, products, services, and much more. Check out our history, learn facts about our products & food safety. Meet our current and past Stakeholders, and who has won Stakeholder of the Month. The best is to learn how your business can grow with Happy Chicken Farms & Merry Milk Maid!



STAKEHOLDER OF THE YEAR, 2023!

SETH FERGUSON



Seth Ferguson, 2023 Stakeholder of the Year and Mark Lackey, President.

Happy Chicken Farms and Merry Milk Maid are proud to announce our 2023 Stakeholder of the Year, Seth Ferguson. He has been working with us for eight years.

When asked about winning this honorable award, Seth said, “First of all, I feel like am one of the family. Secondly, I appreciate all of those who helped me get to this level: Dennis Clevenger, Chuck Shaner, Leo Lackey, and all of the Stakeholders. I grabbed the tasks before me by the horns and hung on until I used all of the tools I have been given. Now it is my turn to encourage other Stakeholders to reach this level.”

Our president, Mark Lackey said, “When Seth joined the team in 2015, customers enjoyed seeing his smiling face early in the morning and could always depend on Seth to deliver outstanding service. He has grown on to a driver trainer position and now we are using his talents in the office assisting our Driver/Route management. With Seth’s broad spectrum of skills, he has become the company Swiss Army Knife.

“I congratulate Seth Ferguson for achieving the award of Stakeholder of 2023.”

Milk Price Changes for May 2024, Effective May 4, 2024

	<u>WHOLE</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>Fat Free</u>
Dispenser	-0.300	-0.350	-0.350	-0.400
Gallons	-0.060	-0.070	-0.070	-0.080
Half Gallons	-0.030	-0.035	-0.035	-0.040
Quarts	-0.015	-0.017	-0.017	-0.020
Pints	-0.007	-0.008	-0.008	-0.010
Half Pints	-0.003	-0.004	-0.004	-0.005

