

WORLD DAIRY DIGEST

California dairy farmers to vote on new quota system

California dairy farmers will soon be voting on a stand-alone quota program to be administered by the state if they also vote to join the federal milk marketing order system. On Oct. 2, the state's secretary of agriculture approved the program as recommended by the producer review board tasked with developing a plan.

Ballots on the quota plan were to be mailed to eligible producers sometime in the first two weeks of October. Producers have 60 days to vote and return their ballots. Results will be published after the referendum is certified. The plan will pass if 65 per cent of producers

representing 51 per cent of the milk, or 51 per cent of producers representing 65 per cent of the milk vote yes.

The quota implementation plan would continue the long-standing, producer-funded program that now operates within the state's marketing order. Producers have said the quota value must be maintained if they join the federal order system (FOS). Quota programs don't exist in the FOS, but a provision in the last farm bill and United States Department of Agriculture will allow the state to administer its program outside the federal system. www.capitalpress.com



Vietnam dairy sector declines

Vietnamese dairy farmers are increasingly switching to raising beef cattle. According to Nguyen Van Chech, deputy head of Cu Chi District Farmers Association, more than 1,200 households switched to raising beef cattle in their district last year.

Statistics from the city department of agriculture and rural development showed by the end of July, the city had 142,400 dairy cows, a decrease of five per cent from last year. This means milk production decreased by 10 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The number of cows has continued to decline, dropping to 81,117, with an average milk yield at 16 kilograms per cow per day. Farmers also face losses from unstable milk prices, while beef prices have been stable and high for years.

english.vietnamnet.vn

Puerto Rico's farmland destroyed after Hurricane Maria

Hurricane Maria has decimated much of Puerto Rico's food supply, says agriculture minister.

Puerto Rico has had about 80 per cent of its crop value wiped out after the Category 4 hurricane hit the island in late-September. The hurricane also left the region without most of its farmland. Roughly a quarter of the island's land divided into more than 13,000 farms, including dairy farms. Unlike in the continental United States, where industrial-sized farms are normal, many of Puerto Rico's farms are smaller, family-

owned operations.

The destruction from Maria will have grave consequences for Puerto Rico's food supply and agricultural industry, says Carlos Flores Ortega, Puerto Rico's agriculture secretary. Although the island imports the majority of the food it consumes, its farming industry has been undergoing a renaissance and growing three to five per cent every year since 2011. It could take at least a year to get farms back up and running, Flores Ortega says. uk.businessinsider.com

Indian dairy industry to get a boost from local government

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Dairy Development Co-operative (NDDC), through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, will disburse a \$1.7-billion dairy processing and infrastructure development fund to expand the nation's dairy sector. The money will be allocated in three instalments between 2017 and 2029. NDDB and NDDC will provide loans to milk unions, state dairy federations, multi-state milk co-operatives, milk producer companies and NDDB subsidiaries meeting the eligibility criteria. Borrowers would have to pay interest at 6.5 per cent, with a repayment period of 10 years, including an initial two-year moratorium. The project plans to build an efficient milk procurement system by creating, modernizing and expanding processing infrastructure and manufacturing facilities for value-added products. It plans to boost processing by 1.26 million litres a day, milk-drying capacity by 210 tonnes a day, and milk chilling capacity by 1.4 million litres a day by procuring 28,000 bulk milk coolers, along with electronic milk adulteration testing equipment. Currently, India has an annual output of 138 million tonnes, accounting for about 17 per cent of global production. www.farmer-sweekly.co.za

Philippine dairy industry wants to be self-sufficient in five years

The Philippine dairy industry will try to increase dairy production by 10 per cent and achieve self-sufficiency within five years. According to Isidro Albano of the Dairy Industry Confederation of the Philippines, the industry will face the challenge of producing 99 per cent of the local dairy production, which depends on imports.

Currently, Filipino producers account for one per cent of the total demand, while the country only produces one per cent of domestic production. The goal of achieving self-sufficiency would include building up herds, importing dairy cattle breeds, such as Girolando, and properly caring for dairy cattle, including carabao, cows and goats. www.blackseagrains.net