Equity News

Celebrate June Dairy Month!

A PUBLICATION OF EQUITY COOPERATIVE LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2026
VOLUME 64 NUMBER 2

Equity Livestock Continues Commitment to Producer Success

Curt Larson
President/CEO

As a producer-owned cooperative, Equity Livestock remains committed to staying ahead of constantly evolving industry issues, changing state and federal regulations, and shifting packer requirements that impact livestock producers across the region.

Our team works closely with regulatory agencies, industry partners, and packer representatives to help ensure producers stay informed, protected, and positioned for success in today's livestock industry. From market compliance and animal health requirements to changing packer specifications and transportation regulations, your cooperative works to provide timely guidance and dependable support for you, our members and customers.

As President and CEO, I spend many hours developing and maintaining relationships with key state and national industry leaders and organizations on behalf of our members. That includes working directly with Wisconsin DATCP officials, attending administrative rulemaking meetings, monitoring proposed regulatory changes, and representing producers on both state and national boards and committees. These efforts help ensure our members have a voice in decisions that affect their operations and the future of the livestock industry.

This is one of the key advantages of a cooperative. Our producers are not navigating industry changes alone, because as a member, your cooperative is actively advocating for your interests, protecting market access, and working to create fair and practical policies.

Unlike many private or informal marketing channels, Equity Livestock offers transparent transactions, documented market records, professional oversight, and trusted industry expertise designed to protect both our buyers and sellers. Producers who choose to market through Equity are choosing a proven system built on transparency, accountability, and long-term commitment to producer success. In today's environment, secure and dependable marketing matters more than ever, especially compared to other livestock marketing avenues that may lack oversight, documented transactions, or the protections producers deserve.

Equity's ongoing commitment to education, compliance, transparency, and producer advocacy continues to make the cooperative one of the most secure and dependable ways to market livestock.

As industry conditions and regulations continue to evolve, Equity remains focused on helping its members navigate change while maintaining strong, competitive livestock markets for the future.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Curt Larson

Curt Larson
President and CEO

WHAT'S INSIDE

Equity News

2026 Board of Directors

DAN LEISCHER
DISTRICT 1
ARLINGTON MARKET
JOHNSON CREEK MARKET

MIKE MANTHEY
DISTRICT 2
LOMIRA MARKET

STEVE SCHLEIS
DISTRICT 3
REEDSVILLE MARKET
SECRETARY/TREASURER

PETE KLEIMAN
DISTRICT 4
BONDUEL MARKET

TODD CUMMINGS
DISTRICT 5
STRATFORD MARKET
ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER

CHRISTINA OLSON
DISTRICT 6
ALTOONA MARKET
BARRON MARKET

MIKE KUNES
DISTRICT 7
SPARTA MARKET

DAN REESON
DISTRICT 8
MONROE MARKET

BRAD SOLCHENBERGER
DISTRICT 9
RICHLAND CENTER MARKET
VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

ADAM QUANDAHL
DISTRICT 10
WAUKON MARKET
MAQUOKETA MARKET
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

"The dedication and leadership of Equity's Board of Directors helps ensure our cooperative remains strong, progressive, and member focused."

— Curt Larson, President/CEO

Industry Updates

USDA Eases Interstate Movement Rules for Lactating Dairy Cows

In late April, we received welcome news from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regarding updated guidance tied to the National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Effective immediately at that time, lactating dairy cows moving interstate from states classified as "Unaffected" under NMTS no longer require individual HPAI virus testing prior to movement.

This update modified the April 2024 Federal Order and is expected to streamline cattle movement for producers and markets while maintaining strong surveillance and biosecurity standards.

What Changed

- No HPAI test required for lactating dairy cows originating from NMTS "Unaffected" states.
- No ICVI required when these cattle move interstate into a federally approved tagging facility.
- Requirements revert back to testing and ICVI if a state loses its "Unaffected" status.
- Wisconsin officials at Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are reviewing whether any additional state procedures will apply.

Key Movement Scenarios

1. ***Interstate to Federally Approved Facility***
   Cows from "Unaffected" states may move into a federally approved market/tagging facility without testing or ICVI. The facility is then responsible for ensuring proper paperwork before animals leave the market. All Equity Livestock Markets are federally approved facilities.
2. ***Released from Market (Not Direct to Slaughter)***
   An ICVI must be issued by the market veterinarian before release.
3. ***Released Directly to Slaughter (In-State)***
   Requires an Owner-Hauler Statement for Lactating Dairy Cows Transport to Slaughter, not an ICVI.
4. ***Interstate Direct to Slaughter***
   Also requires the Owner-Hauler Statement, not an ICVI.

What This Means for our Markets

- Can resume accepting lactating dairy cows from out-of-state "Unaffected" states without a negative test or ICVI.
- If any out-of-state animals leave our market for purposes other than direct slaughter, an ICVI is required before release.
- If animals leave market direct to slaughter, complete the Owner-Hauler Statement instead of an ICVI.
- If sending cows directly to a slaughter facility in another state, the Owner-Hauler Statement is still required.

Industry Updates *(Continued from page 2)*

Public Health & Biosecurity

APHIS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to emphasize that HPAI in dairy cattle poses no risk to the commercial milk supply. Pasteurization inactivates the virus, and milk from affected animals is diverted from the food chain.

We will share further updates as clarification is received from DATCP or APHIS.

DATCP Suspends PRRS & PEDv Testing Requirements as Repeal Moves Forward

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has issued a waiver suspending testing requirements and movement restrictions related to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) under Wis. Admin. Code chs. ATCP 10 and 12.

Effective immediately, swine moving into and within Wisconsin are no longer required to be tested for PRRS or PEDv. Import permits are also no longer required for untested swine entering the state. However, certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) and official animal identification remain required.

The waiver was issued March 6, 2026, while DATCP awaits final publication of the formal repeal rule. The waiver can be accessed online through DATCP.

DATCP Board Approves Rule Repeal

At its January 29, 2026 meeting, the DATCP Board approved final rule action to repeal the state's 2018 PRRS and PEDv testing requirements for most swine moving between facilities in Wisconsin or being imported into Wisconsin. Governor approval was signed in February, and the repeal now awaits publication following review by the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules.

The repeal follows collaboration among Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, the Wisconsin Pork Producers Association, and DATCP to modernize regulations many producers believe no longer reflect current industry practices.

Background on the 2018 Rule

The original rule was adopted when PRRS and PEDv posed significant concerns across the swine industry. Requirements included:

Separate Sale Days for Slaughter Hogs and Feeder Pigs

Mandatory PRRS and PEDv testing for pigs sold on feeder pig sale days.

Restrictions requiring untested swine to be sold only on slaughter days and move directly to slaughter, regardless of age or size.

Although neighboring states considered similar policies at the time, none ultimately adopted comparable regulations. Since then, advances in vaccines, biosecurity, and disease management have reduced dependence on mandatory testing at the point of sale.

Why the Repeal Matters

Wisconsin producers and livestock markets have argued the rule placed the state at a competitive disadvantage and shifted transactions to private, online, and social media sales channels that lack documented oversight.

Before implementation of the rule, Equity markets sold nearly 60,000 hogs annually. In recent years, that number has dropped below 20,000 despite continued swine movement through informal channels.

Supporters of the repeal believe the change will:

- Encourage hog and pig sales to return to public auction markets
- Improve price discovery for buyers and sellers
- Strengthen DATCP traceability through documented market records
- Increase visibility of animal movements for disease monitoring purposes

Rulemaking Timeline

- Sept. 18, 2025 — DATCP Board approved the hearing and comment period
- Oct. 30, 2025 — Public hearing held
- Nov. 10, 2025 — Public comment period closed
- DATCP received 36 comments, with 35 supporting repeal
- Jan. 29, 2026 — DATCP Board approved final rule action

What Producers Should Know

While the waiver is now in effect, producers must continue complying with CVI and official identification requirements for swine movement. DATCP will publish additional updates once the repeal officially takes effect. While movement rules have eased, biosecurity remains essential. Producers should continue vigilant monitoring and report any signs of illness to their state veterinarian.

2026 Distinguished Patron Awards

For over a century, Equity has proudly stood as a member-owned cooperative built on the strength, dedication, and loyalty of its patrons. As a cooperative, our members are more than customers—they are essential contributors to the management and success of our operations.

Local shipping associations have the opportunity to honor individuals whose leadership, involvement, and support have made a lasting impact. Each year, one outstanding patron may be selected by their local association to receive this special recognition. While the award is only given once to each recipient, new honorees may be chosen annually.

This year, we're proud to celebrate these patrons who were recognized during their respective shipping association's annual meetings. Please join us in congratulating:

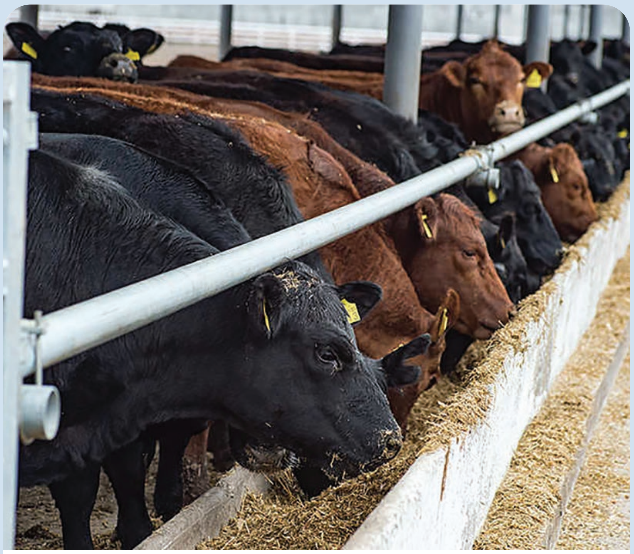
- **Larry Bischoff**
  - ***Equity Rock River Livestock Marketing Cooperative***
- **Glendale Farms (Steve & Tammy Kluth)**
  - ***South West Shawano Cooperative***

Visit us at the 2026 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Stratford

Mark your calendars! Wisconsin Farm Technology Days will take place July 14-16, 2026, at Redetzkes' No Joke Dairy in Stratford, WI. This annual event is a highlight of the summer, bringing together agricultural professionals, producers, and innovators from across the region.

Equity will be proudly participating again this year. You can find us in **Agribusiness Tent B**. We will also be in Innovation Square over the lunch hour each day to provide market updates with the Midwest Farm Report Team. Our staff will be available throughout the event to share information about our wide range of services and answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you at Farm Technology Days this July!



We Buy Them, You Feed Them

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU?

- *Do you have the feed, facilities, and ability to feed livestock?*
- *Would you like to raise them without any initial capital outlay?*
- *Would you like to reap the benefits of potential profits?*
- *Do you have a solid farming history with a good credit record?*

If you answered "yes" to all of these questions — Equity's Livestock Feeding Program (LFP) is for you!

- The Livestock Feeding Program is an alternative to conventional financing of livestock raising.
- The Equity Livestock Credit Corporation (ELCC) buys the livestock and retains ownership. On sale day, you sell the animal and pay back ELCC for the animal and a service fee. YOU keep the rest!

ELCC
equity livestock credit corporation

Alyssa Paske
VICE PRESIDENT OF ELCC
DIRECT: 608.460.1141
MOBILE: 608.434.4041
EMAIL: apaske@equitycoop.com

Equity Cooperative
Livestock Sales Association
P.O. Box 1003
Baraboo, WI 53913
1-800-362-3989
www.equitycoop.com

Reach for the Stars

It certainly feels good to be a seller right now! Even after talks of government intervention to reduce beef prices, cattle markets have bounced back to historic levels due to tight supplies and strong consumer demand. With summer grilling season here, demand is on fire! After a few years of record prices, margins for packing houses and feedlots are beginning to shrink, making it even more uncertain how long these prices will last. It sure is a good time to take advantage of the highs while we have them!

A Look Into Lamb Markets

Lamb markets, too, have exploded into record high prices. Lambs that were selling between $200 - $300 per head a year ago are now selling between $350-$450 per head! This time of year, lamb and goat supplies are usually tight all over the country. This year is a bit different, A few of the holidays that spike lamb demand have dates that change yearly. These holidays are now landing perfectly to make significant upticks in the market. With several lambs being utilized earlier in the year, the supply of lambs might be lacking until late summer or when the fall runs start, markets are telling us they want more lamb year-round!

Abdullah Hussaini
JR. VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING
DIRECT: 608.460.1127
EMAIL: ahussaini@equitycoop.com

Manage Market Risk with Livestock Risk Protection Insurance

Now is the perfect time for producers to review their Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) coverage and consider switching their policy to Equity. June is an ideal time to make the transition before policy renewals take effect. Deadline for transitions is June 30th!

LRP helps protect producers against declining market prices while offering flexible coverage options, affordable premium subsidies, and peace of mind in today's volatile markets.

Contact Equity's Risk Management Department at 800-362-3989 Ext. 132 or email riskmanagement@equitycoop.com to learn more about how LRP can help protect your operation!

Equity News is published quarterly by Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association, P.O. Box 1003, Baraboo, WI 53913. Subscription $1.00. Periodicals postage paid at Baraboo, WI 53913 and additional mailing offices. ISSN#: 1531-1171. Postmaster, send address changes to:

Equity News
c/o Equity Cooperative
Livestock Sales Association
P.O. Box 1003
Baraboo, WI 53913

MARKET DIRECTORY

Altoona....................................... 715-835-3104
Arlington..................................608-635-4376
Barron Trucking 715-537-5618
Bonduel....................................... 715-758-2125
Johnson Creek 920-699-3588
Lomira.......................................920-269-4351
Maquoketa 563-652-8080
Monroe 608-328-8344
Reedsville 920-754-4361
Richland Center 608-647-6151
Sparta 608-269-3104
Stratford 715-687-4101
Waukon 563-568-4501

EQUITY LIVESTOCK CREDIT CORPORATION

Alyssa Paske..............................608-460-1141

COMMODITIES DIVISION

Abdullah Hussaini 608-460-1127

Please recycle this newsletter.