

DAIRY PULSE



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FORTNIGHT NEWSLETTER

Dairy Pulse 57th Edition (1st to 15th March, 2018)



CATEGORIES OF THE EDITION

- * Suruchi Endeavor In Skill/ Entrepreneur Development Domain
- * Indian News
 - > Animal Health/Protection
 - > Marketing
 - > Health/Awareness
 - > Regulatory/Legal
 - > Survey/Report
- * Foreign News



Dairy Pulse 57th Edition (1st to 15 March, 2018)

Contents

Suruchi endeavor in Skill/ Entrepreneur Development Domain	4
Indian News	
Animal Health/Protection.....	5
U.P. govt. allots ₹233 cr. for conserving cows.....	5
Maharashtra to probe corruption in cattle vaccine tenders	6
Farmers get tips on animal nutrition	6
Scrap cattle slaughter rules to help dairy farmers.....	7
Marketing.....	8
ITC enters liquid milk segment with pouches under Aashirvaad Svasti brand.....	8
Time ripe for Japanese cos to invest in India's food sector: FSSAI chief	8
Boosting dairy sector: Singh lauds role of NDRI	9
Time to invest in buffer stocking, says Amul MD RS Sodhi.....	10
CLAAS India pushing forage harvesters to increase milk output.....	11
Banar Dairy's UP plants sell 6 lakh litres in single day.....	12
Mahindra launches new version of 'MyAgriGuru' app.....	13
Health/Awareness	14
Sodhi on doubling farmers' income.....	14
STATE GETS FIRST MOBILE LAB TO CURB FOOD ADULTERATION	14
Is your food safe? Pay Rs 20 to know	15
PM to inaugurate 'Krishi Unnati Mela' this weekend.....	16
Amul to use remote sensing to estimate fodder production	17
78-year-old man to get PhD degree	18
This Futuristic Startup Could Disrupt The Dairy Industry	18
Milo washes off milk-powered health rating.....	20
Regulatory/Legal.....	21
Milk adulterators may be jailed for 3 years.....	21
PFA destroys 280 litre adulterated milk	21
Will new FSSAI rules undercut baby food law?	22
FSSAI issues standardised testing methods for five food product types.....	23
FSDA makes it mandatory to display manufacturing date on sweet box.....	24
Survey/Report.....	25

Take research to farmers, budding scientists advised..... 25
Milk production up 20% in 2014-2017 26
Milk is India’s largest crop worth around Rs 6.5 lakh crore, says RS Sodhi of Amul 26

[Foreign News](#)

Milk processor cancels farm contracts as Walmart makes own milk..... 28
Qatar to become self-sufficient in dairy products..... 30
Dairy cows adjust to Daylight Saving Time 31
Sharemilkers win farming award 31
Why low milk prices are really bad for New York farms..... 32
The raw truth about milk..... 34
Wool, wheat prices tipped to 'bounce back' after horror year 35

Suruchi endeavor in Skill/ Entrepreneur Development Domain

➔ *Diploma in Dairy Technology (DDT) in alliance with IGNOU*

Study Center authorized by School of Agriculture Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
Details as below:

Academy of Dairy Skill Development (ADSkID)
Unit of Suruchi Consultants
C-49, Sector-65, Noida U.P – 201307
SC/PSC Code: 39018P
Prog. In-charge: Mr. Sanjay Singhal
Contact no. : +91-0120+4370845
Email: adskid39018p@gmail.com

New admissions are closed for July, 2017

➔ Indian Dairy Map 2017 launched on 27th October, at Pune.

➔ Aspiring entrepreneurs might attend our introductory session (Free) on how to set up dairy farm and plant on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of month from 2 PM to 5 PM, Prior registration is must and for that contact our office.

For more information please email on info@suruchiconsultants.com or contact at +91 0120 4320845

➔ *53rd Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (DEDP) at Suruchi Consultants, C-49, Sec-65, Noida 22nd, 23rd, 24th April, 2018 with Guided Tour to a Dairy Farm plus a milk processing plant.*

For more information please follow the link:
http://www.suruchiconsultants.com/pageDownloads/downloads/training/3_49th%20DEDP%20BROCHURE%20.pdf

➔ Suruchi is launching 2nd Second Level Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (DEDP- Level II) 2017 one week intensive hand on Dairy Plant. Dates will be announced soon.

For more information please email on info@suruchiconsultants.com or contact at +91 0120 4320845

➔ Suruchi is launching 1st Second Level Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (DEDP- Level II) 2018 one week intensive hand on Dairy Farm. Dates will be announced soon.

For more information please email on info@suruchiconsultants.com or contact at +91 0120 4320845

➔ Suruchi is launching 1st Global Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (GDEDP) the dates will announce soon.

For more information please follow the link:

http://www.suruchiconsultants.com/pageDownloads/downloads/training/5_1st%20%20GDEDP%20BROCHURE.pdf

➔ Suruchi has launched Online Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Program (ODEDP). It is 12 weeks program. Registrations are open till 31st March, 2018 for 3rd batch.

WatchVideo:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iS432VIGc8&t=42s>

For more information please visit on website <http://skilldairy.com/>

Animal Health/Protection

U.P. govt. allots ₹233 cr. for conserving cows

UPDATED: MARCH 14, 2018 19:59 IST

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/up-govt-allots-233-cr-for-conserving-cows/article23231089.ece>

The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has allocated ₹233 crore in the State budget for promoting and conserving cows. As part of the mandate, the State Ayurvedic department has also proposed to make and promote a health drink from cow urine.

Of the ₹233 crore, the State government proposed to allocate ₹100 crore for National Cattle Health and Disease Control Programme. ₹75 crore for the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Mini Dairy Scheme, ₹15 crore for Pashu Arogya Melas (cattle health fairs) in every single block in the state, ₹27 crore for 700-odd mobile cattle hospitals to “ensure cattle health and breed improvement” and ₹15 crore has been allocated for Dairy Development Fund.

Award for producing milk from native breed cows

The State government has also announced the setting up of “Nand Baba Puraskar”, an award of ₹52 lakh for people who produce

largest quantity of milk from Indian breed cows. The award was launched to popularise breeding of Indian cows. Another award “Gokul Puraskar” worth ₹54 lakh has been announced by the State government for people who run best cowsheds.

On the recommendation of the Gau Sewa Ayog, the State government sanctioned ₹2 crore, apart from the 233 crore, for setting up of gaushalas in 12 jails of the State.

Medicines from cow urine

According to R.R. Chaudhary, director of the UP Ayurveda department, the department planned to promote eight medicines which had been prepared at its official pharmacies in Pilibhit and Lucknow using cow urine, cow ghee and cow milk. These medicines are beneficial for medical problems related to liver, joint pain and immune deficiency. The proposal was confirmed by Dr. Prakash Chandra Saxena, principal and superintendent of Government Ayurveda College and Hospital in Pilibhit.

Maharashtra to probe corruption in cattle vaccine tenders

| Friday | 9th March, 2018

<https://www.nyoooz.com/news/mumbai/1052289/maharashtra-to-probe-corruption-in-cattle-vaccine-tenders/>

The Maharashtra government will institute a probe into the allegation of corruption in the purchase of vaccine to treat foot-and-mouth disease among livestock. The Council chairman asked the government to take note of the serious mismanagement of tenders by the Animal Husbandry Department, causing delay in treating nearly two crore cattle across the State last year. This came in response to a calling attention motion alleging that tenders for the vaccination had been called seven times in the past.

But conditions were relaxed this year to favour a particular company. The members of the House demanded the resignation of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister Mahadev Jankar.

The failure to vaccinate could result in losses to the tune of ₹20,000 crore, members said. The issue was also raised in the Assembly, where it was alleged that instructions of the department secretary were overlooked by the Commissioner to let the tender go through.

Farmers get tips on animal nutrition

Posted at: Mar 7, 2018,

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/ludhiana/farmers-get-tips-on-animal-nutrition/553927.html>

The department of animal nutrition at the Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University organised a five-day hands on training on “Nutritional technologies for dairy farmers” under the aegis of the Directorate of Extension Education, GADVASU.

Nine dairy farmers from different district of Punjab participated in the workshop.

Dr HK Verma, Director of Extension Education said that feed accounts for 70 per cent of the total cost of dairy farming and by using these technologies farmers can economise feeding of their animals to make it a profitable venture.

Course director-cum-head, department of animal nutrition, Dr Manju Wadhwa said experts delivered lectures on various nutrition technologies along with practical demonstrations.

The objective of the training programme was to ensure balanced feeding of different categories of animals all around the year using locally available feed ingredients.

The role of mineral mixture, urea molasses mineral block, and bypass nutrients was also highlighted on the occasion.

Conservation of fodders (Silage and hay) was also demonstrated, so as to make the fodder available all around the year.

She said different types of mineral mixtures were available for different species of animals.

Not only this, area specific mineral mixture was also developed by the department according to the requirements of the area, she further added.

Scrap cattle slaughter rules to help dairy farmers

Published: March 2, 2018 4:48 AM

<http://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/scrap-cattle-slaughter-rules-to-help-dairy-farmers/1085102/>

Though prime minister [Narendra Modi](#) has made the occasional statement condemning self-styled gaurakshaks vigilantes, who have killed people alleged to be killing cows and has called them criminals, he has, so far, not done anything about the main problem. Slaughter of cows is, in any case, prohibited in most states in the country, but the government made things far worse with its Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Market) Rules of 2017. This effectively prohibited the sale of, not just lactating cattle, but even buffaloes, steer, heifers and camels since both the seller and the purchaser had to give an undertaking that the animals sold in various cattle fair wouldn't be slaughtered. With such a blank cheque, vigilantes had a field day and harassed even dairy farmers looking to get rid of bullocks or cows that were no longer lactating. While this spelt trouble for the leather industry, it also made life difficult for dairy farmers who now had to bear the expenses of looking after animals they no longer needed.

The fact that the share of male buffaloes declined from an already low 19% of the total buffalo population in 2007 to 15% in 2012 at an all-India level—it is 8% in Gujarat —makes it clear that slaughtering is an integral part of the sector's economics. With over 9 million buffaloes killed for meat in 2012, this means over 8% of the population is killed every year. Even in the case of cattle, the male population has fallen from 42% at an all-India level to 36% in the same period, suggesting culling is taking place. If these 13-15 million cattle and buffaloes are not to be killed, this means dairy farmers need to look after them—at Rs 60 per

day, this implies an annual cost of Rs 28,470-32,850 crore, and we're not even counting the losses suffered by farmers who no longer get adequate compensation for the animals from the meat/leather trade.

Not surprising then, that, according to a report in The Indian Express (IE), there has been a dramatic fall in the number of cattle being brought to cattle fairs in Rajasthan and those being sold. At one point, some in the government even talked of Aadhaar-type tags on animals with details about them on the tags—while that may have been a good idea under normal circumstances, this would have meant that farmers who abandoned their aged or useless cattle to escape the burden of looking after them would be identifiable and then either be legally prosecuted or harassed by various vigilantes/animal-right groups. While sections of the government were quick to condemn those who abandoned their animals—"after a lifetime of service"—the government never offered any compensation to the dairy farmers, nor did it have a solution for how they were going to improve their herds without culling; nor did it have any plans to increase capacity in existing gaushalas to take care of 13-15 million extra animals every year.

The good news, according to the IE, is that the law is now being changed to what it should have been in the first place—so, no unfit animal or one that is about to give birth is to be brought to a cattle market. It is, however, too early to celebrate and it is best to wait for the rules to be changed. After all, it was in November last year that the IE first reported the government's likely change of heart.

Marketing

ITC enters liquid milk segment with pouches under Aashirvaad Svasti brand

Kolkata Last Updated at March 13, 2018 02:51 IST

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/itc-enters-liquid-milk-segment-with-pouches-under-aashirvaad-svasti-brand-118031300070_1.html

Diversified conglomerate ITC Ltd has entered the liquid milk segment with pouches. Launched in Munger in Bihar, each of the 500 ml packs is priced at Rs 19 and will compete against products from Amul, Mother Dairy and Sudha, among others. "We launched pouch milk under the Aashirvaad Svasti brand two weeks ago in Munger. We have a milk processing plant there," according to Hemant Malik, divisional chief executive of the company's foods business. Asked if ITC would opt for a national roll-out of its pouch milk, Malik said, "It will never be national, but we will expand it." The company has set up a separate dedicated distribution channel for milk products. However, it did not share details. The Rs 720 billion pouche milk segment mostly caters to the budget category. The company has consciously decided not to focus on the Rs 8

billion Tetra Pak segment. "It is (Tetra Pak milk) very niche.

We are talking about a Rs 72,000 crore market," Malik said, adding the price point and the 500 ml packet size would cater to local needs, since people mostly use milk to make tea and curd in Bihar. Asked about the company's plans to set up a cold chain, a prerequisite for dairy distribution, Malik said: "We procure the milk today, which is pasteurised and packed and is kept under 4 degrees. At 4'o clock in the morning, they go to different outlets. If some is left, the seller keeps it in his fridge. They don't keep it for more than a day". The organised dairy market in the country is dominated by Amul, Nestle and Mother Dairy. But Mailk said the category had enough space for ITC and the market was likely to grow rapidly.

Time ripe for Japanese cos to invest in India's food sector: FSSAI chief

March 13, 2018 22:10 IST

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/time-ripe-for-japanese-cos-to-invest-in-india-s-food-sector-fssai-chief-118031301329_1.html

The time is ripe for Japan to increase volume of its food items in India through imports or investment in the food processing sector as regulatory environment has undergone a paradigm change, FSSAI Chairman Ashish Bahuguna said today. "The time is ripe for increasing volume of availability of Japanese foods in India whether through imports or increasing investment in India's food processing sector," Bahuguna said at an event. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has harmonised the regulations in tune with international requirement of CODEX. All standards and regulations are transparent, he said. "I would like to underscore that regulatory

environment has undergone a paradigm change. There is huge scope for Japanese food products in India. Invest in this sector.

You will be assured of all kind of support not only from government of India but also from private food businesses," he added. The FSSAI chief said that the regulator is no longer obsessed with food safety concerns alone. "Obviously, it is still paramount. It is equally emphasising and focusing on nutritional value," he said. Stating that Japanese cuisines is know for its purity, simplicity and nutritional value world over, he said in India too, a large section of consumers are trying to adapt to Japanese foods but companies keen to invest in India need to

innovate their products and modify to suit to the Indian palate. Speaking on the occasion, Mitsuhiro Miyakashi -- Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan -- said the signing of agreements between two countries in the area of food processing is an important milestone. Japanese food processing firm Ise Foods today signed a memorandum of agreement (MoU) with Ministry of Food processing with an investment commitment of Rs 271 crore. Another MoU has been signed between two governments

on phyto-sanitary certification of marine products. Miyakashi further said that India and Japan have decided to set up a joint working group on cold food chain development. "I do believe that with these several initiatives, food safety related procedures on Indian side will become smoother and I expect that it will give impetus to export of food products from Japan as well as give impetus to Japanese companies in food related business here," he added.

Boosting dairy sector: Singh lauds role of NDRI

March 12, 2018

<http://www.indiancooperative.com/agriculture-2/boosting-dairy-sector-singh-lauds-role-ndri/>



Addressing 16th convocation ceremony of National Dairy Research Institute in Karnal in Haryana on Saturday Union Minister of Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh said that for the last 20 years India has been the largest producer of milk in the world.

Singh lauded the role played by NDRI in this connection and said it is catering to the technical and human resource requirements of the dairy sector.

Shri Singh said that the milk production has increased by 20% between 2014 and 2017 and per capita availability of milk has risen by 15.6%. Similarly, the income of dairy farmers has increased by 23.77% between 2011-14 and 2014-17.

The Government is committed towards ensuring more income to farmers, uplifting the economically backward sections of society, youth employment, better education and healthcare, he underlined.

Union Minister said that the Government has initiated the "National Mission on Bovine Productivity" in order to help the benefits of animal husbandry schemes reach the farmers directly. The Government under this scheme

is spending Rs 825 crores for genetic upgradation, he stated.

Singh said that Budget 2018 has laid special emphasis on animal husbandry. In the previous budget, the Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) was set up with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with a corpus of Rs 10,881 crore. This year, the Government, with a corpus of Rs2,450 crore, has set up an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for financing infrastructure requirement of animal husbandry sector.

"In order to meet the working capital requirement of dairy farmers, the facility of Kisan Credit Card has been extended by the government to the fisheries and livestock farmers", he said.

Agriculture Minister said that these initiatives of the Government are intended to increase the potential of self employment in livestock through entrepreneurship. Lauding NDRI Singh said it is committed to training the youth so that they become job-providers instead of job-seekers. He expressed satisfaction over the BPD unit of NDRI in

Time to invest in buffer stocking, says Amul MD RS Sodhi

Sahil Makkar/ 11 Mar 18 | 05:59 AM

[http://smartinvestor.business-standard.com/market/story-517080-storydet-Time to invest in buffer stocking says Amul MD RS Sodhi.htm#.Wqov-Wpubcs](http://smartinvestor.business-standard.com/market/story-517080-storydet-Time%20to%20invest%20in%20buffer%20stocking%20says%20Amul%20MD%20RS%20Sodhi.htm#.Wqov-Wpubcs)

How can farmers double their income in the current situation?

Farmer can double their income from where they derive their present income. Average farmer income in India is around Rs 6,500 per month as per National Sample Survey Office. Of the Rs 6,500, the farmer is earning 48 per cent income by cultivating mainly wheat and paddy. So it is time to shift the farmers to horticulture, and encourage them to grow oilseeds and pulses. The government should come out with buffer stocking and provide market linkages to offset price volatility. Instead of providing minimum support price (MSP) or incentives, the government should provide buffer stocking and export subsidies for milk. It would cost less than one tenth of what is being paid as MSP.

Are you suggesting paying MSP is a short-sighted step?

The state or the Centre will pay the MSP from the agriculture budget, which means they will have less money for development and creating infrastructure. This is not a sustainable option in the long run. The government is under pressure from farmers, who want immediate relief. Ultimately, the government has to gradually reduce the MSP and bring it to other market-led forces. The MSP is also distorting the market and competition. For instance, the Karnataka government is paying Rs 5 subsidy on per litre milk or around Rs 50 per kg milk powder (10 litre milk is required to make one kg milk powder). So, if the cost of powder in the country is Rs 200, then it is Rs 150 in Karnataka. This has forced the competitors across the country to sell it at Rs 150. We have calculated that Rs 10-12 billion subsidy provided by the Karnataka government is resulting in a loss of Rs 300 billion per month for milk producers in the organised sector in the country. The farmers' income can be

doubled through animal husbandry and buffer stocking.

Is buffer stock happening?

Buffer stocking is not taking place because of fall in prices. Buffalo milk prices in Delhi have reduced to Rs 32 from Rs 42 in April. This is mainly because milk powder prices have fallen internationally. Consumption in India is increasing but not production in the absence of adequate prices. It is expected that next year, consumption would be more and production less. Consequently, the government will allow free imports, which would put farmers at further loss like in the cases of pulses.

Are you suggesting that government should impose duties on dairy and agri-products?

If you want to double farm income, then you have to protect farmers from cheap imports from dairy-rich countries by not signing free trade agreements (FTA). The likes of Australia, New Zealand and Canada want to include dairy items in chapter four of the FTA. This will harm the Indian farmer and we are opposing it tooth and nail.

Illustration: Binay Sinha

Isn't that against the spirit of free trade and leading to protectionism?

Most developed countries have already protected their agriculture. We can't supply a single drop of milk to Europe. Canada imposes over 200 per cent duty, whereas in the rest of the world the duty ranges anywhere from 60 to 70 per cent. Our duties are lower. Suppliers in other countries are projecting (the myth) that milk is in short supply in India. But this is a myth. There are around 30-35 milk brands in any market in the country. World over, the dairy industry has been growing at 1

per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) for the past 20 years whereas India's growth is anywhere between 4 per cent and 5 per cent. India is a fast growing market in milk production. This is a myth that if we don't produce enough milk, it would destroy our markets, as happened in the case of edible oil and lately pulses. In the mid-1990s, we were self-sufficient in edible oil and were barely importing 10 per cent. Now our import is around 70 per cent. Indian farmers stopped producing edible oils after the government allowed cheap import from Indonesia and Malaysia. In the last eight months, the government has gradually increased import duties, which has resulted in increase in price of domestic edible seeds. Farmers are now getting almost double for their soya produce.

Is Patanjali emerging as a competitor to Amul in any way?

In the dairy market, the competition is measured in terms of milk production and not in the commodity market. Patanjali is not our competitor. They are present only in a small

segment of ghee (clarified butter) and that too cow ghee. Last year, they were very aggressive, but our sales have also gone up. We registered an increase of about 35 per cent last year and this year again we have registered a 30 per cent increase in sales for ghee. The demand for ghee overall increased because they (Patanjali) invested a lot in dispelling the myth around consumption of ghee. They entered into this market when the commodity prices were at the lowest but let's see how they bear the cost in the future.

What are the current challenges in the dairy industry?

The biggest challenge is to bring the next generation into dairy businesses. This can happen if there is a price assurance and reduction of cost through better feeding and breeding. Secondly, the government has to provide protection to Indian farm sector from FTA. For instance, Goods and Service Tax on ghee is 12 per cent whereas it is only 5 per cent on imported edible oils.

CLAAS India pushing forage harvesters to increase milk output

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/claas-india-pushing-forage-harvesters-to-increase-milk-output/article23040132.ece>

Forage harvesters usage to improve feed for the cattle

KOLKATA, MARCH 11

CLAAS Agricultural Machinery, a subsidiary of Germany-based, \$4.6-billion CLAAS, expects its forage harvesters, designed to create a stock of silage (or animal feed), to help improve the quality and output of milk from cattle.

The company is also betting big on mechanisation in wheat harvesting.

According to Mrityunjaya Singh, Managing Director, CLAAS India, forage harvesters were not used widely in the country till recently, primarily due to poor awareness. However, the demand has been increasing thanks to the initiative taken by a few States like Andhra Pradesh, which is giving a 50 per cent subsidy to dairy farmers to procure maize silage.

A forage harvester is a vehicle equipped with cutters that can chop maize, corn or other such crop into smaller pieces, for creating a stock of silage.

"The average daily milk production in India is around 6 litres per cow per day compared with 18-20 litres globally. This is mainly because of shortage of fodder, the way it is stored and, more importantly, the lack of knowledge," Singh told BusinessLine.

Despite being the largest producer of milk, India lags in terms of efficiency of production. Feeding animals with a better quality fodder may not just help improve productivity but the quality as well, he pointed out.

Eyes on wheat

The company, which launched its first combine harvester over two decades ago to mechanise rice harvesting, is now exploring possibilities in wheat harvesting.

There is a very high level of mechanisation (80-85 per cent) in paddy harvesting in the country, particularly in the South. However, the level of mechanisation is just 45-50 per cent in the wheat-growing areas of the North.

“There is ample opportunity for growth (in mechanisation) in wheat harvesting and we are keenly looking at it,” he said.

CLAAS sells close to 1,000 machines a year and approximately one-fourth (200-250) is exported to countries in South-East Asia, West Asia and Latin America.

The company’s production facility at Chandigarh has the capacity to manufacture 3,000 agricultural machines per year. It is currently running at around 60 per cent capacity.

Banas Dairy’s UP plants sell 6 lakh litres in single day

Updated: Mar 7, 2018,

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/rajkot/banas-dairys-up-plants-sell-6-lakh-litres-in-single-day/articleshow/63193215.cms?from=mdr>

Banaskantha District Co operative Milk Producers’ Union Ltd, popularly known as Banas Dairy, has sold 6,20,000 litres milk and milk products through its Lucknow and Kanpur plants on February 28. This was the highest sale in a single day since February last year when the plants had commenced operations.

Kanpur plant sold 3,40,000 litres while Lucknow dairy sold 2,80,000 litres.

Banas Dairy, which is a member of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) that markets brand Amul, has raised its technology and innovative practices to in the recent years to enhance farmers’ income and improve the quality of its dairy products.

Mahindra launches new version of 'MyAgriGuru' app

Published: March 7, 2018 5:10 PM IST

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/mahindra-launches-new-version-of-myagrigure-app-2931302/>

Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd today launched advanced version of its app 'MyAgriGuru' that includes a voice-based chatbot for providing solutions to farmers' queries.

The app-based digital advisory platform currently has a user base of 4 lakh farmers and it is targeting to reach 30 lakh farmers in the next one year, its MD & CEO Ashok Sharma said.

The app is currently available in English and Hindi, he said, adding the company plans to add five more languages including Marathi in order to reach out to farmers across the country.

The new version deploys technological interventions to create a personalised user experience that is bolstered through advanced solutions that utilises a chatbot.

Chatbot is a computer programme using which people can hold conversations via text or audio.

"In the last one year since launch, MyAgriGuru has resulted in a user base of over 4,00,000 farmers and its most popular section, Agri-Buzz has recorded over 55,000 interactions, making this one of the fastest

growing agri advisory apps in the country," Sharma told reporters here, To further help the farmers engage with this app, he said the company has developed "India's first voice-based agri advisory ChatBot" to provide an instant solution for increased farmer queries, by leveraging voice recognition and machine learning technologies.

The app, which was launched in February last year, also provides real time mandi prices to the farmers, enabling them to realize better returns for their produce.

Launched in February 2017, MyAgriGuru offers a two way communication between farmers and agri experts. Unlike most other apps, MyAgriGuru ensures that farmer queries and concerns are aptly addressed by experts on a real time basis.

The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store on android phones.

Sharma said the company would also start SMS-based farm advisory services as many farmers do not have smart phones.

Mahindra Agri Solutions is into farm input businesses of seeds, crop care and irrigation as well as output business consisting of fruits, vegetables, pulses, edible oils and dairy.

Health/Awareness

Sodhi on doubling farmers' income

on March 12, 2018

<http://www.indiancooperative.com/co-op-news-snippets/sodhi-doubling-farmers-income/>



RS Sodhi, managing director of India's largest dairy brand Amul, says the farmers' income can only be doubled by providing for buffer stocking and market linkages, reports Business Standard.

In an interview to the daily, Sodhi says India must protect its farmers by not signing the free trade agreements.

On how the farmers can double their income in the current situation, Sodhi says they can do so on deriving from their present income.

He also revealed that the average farmer income in India is around Rs 6,500 per month as per National Sample Survey Office.

STATE GETS FIRST MOBILE LAB TO CURB FOOD ADULTERATION

Saturday, 10 March 2018

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/ranchi/state-gets-first-mobile-lab-to-curb-food-adulteration.html>

The State on Friday entered into the elite club to own a mobile vehicle (van), allocated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), well-equipped with laboratory devices facilitating on-the-spot testing of food samples at a nominal cost.

Minister, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ramchandra Chandravanshi in the presence of other dignitaries inaugurated the first State of the Art 'Mobile Lab' on Friday at RCH Campus, Namkum.

To curb the rising adulteration level, two lab assistants will test food samples as per FSSAI guidelines. The mobile van will be functional for 20 days in a month and besides collecting food samples from hotels, confectionery shops, it will also test the chemical contents for milk and milk products, PH level of drinking water including high content of starch in sweets, confectionery items etc on public request instantly.

State Food Analyst, Chhaturbujh Meena present on the occasion, said, "At present merely 8 to 9 States by far owns a mobile van

on requisition will be made to allot some more mobile labs considering its requirement and success rate. The mobile van is decked with milkoscan machine, sugar testing apparatuses, PH meter sensor etc."

"For elaborate tests, depending on the significance of the contamination level, officials will send the samples to the State lab in Namkum. According to the rules, two lab technicians, two lab assistants, one attendant and one driver will be appointed for smooth functioning of mobile lab. The mobile lab service at present will be restricted to only urban areas," added Meena.

Chandravanshi also distributed appointment letters among 89 Multi Purpose Workers (MPWs), in the presence of Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Nidhi Khare, Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Kripanand Jha, Director-in-Chief of health services Dr. Sumant Mishra. The Minister on the occasion assured that 407 vacant posts of MPWs will be filled soon.

Addressing the newly appointed MPWs, Chandravanshi further added, "On Chief

Minister's recommendation MPWs are being appointed.

In many States of India today, MPW posts has been ended. The newly appointed MSWs must pledge to work with an aim to create a difference and spread awareness about the government schemes among the public."

Similarly, Secretary, Nidhi Khare said, "Efforts should be made to complete the given target on time in co-ordination with different department personnel." Khare on the occasion, emphasized upon checking the early marriage cases. Reports suggest alarming rate of increasing cases of minor girls marrying before 18 years in rural Jharkhand. "To bring

the fertility rate down, it is mandatory to create awareness among the adolescents through MPWs," Khare added. At present, the State Government has sanctioned 2150 posts for MPWs.

Over 1654 MPWs are lending their services across the State now.

In a separate meeting Khare also reviewed the status of Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) 2018-19 in presence of all senior officers of the Department on Friday. Khare instructed the officials to prepare the detailed report of PIP at the earliest, so that the draft copy can be submitted to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI for the final approval.

Is your food safe? Pay Rs 20 to know

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/jharkhand/is-your-food-safe-pay-rs-20-to-know-214523>

The food safety wing of the state health department launched on Friday its first mobile testing lab to curb adulteration at pocket-friendly rates.

Health minister Ramchandra Chandravanshi flagged off the fully equipped vehicle in the presence of department secretary Nidhi Khare and other officials from the RCH (reproductive child health) campus in Namkum.

The customised lab, allotted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), is equipped to test primarily starch content, adulteration and additives in edible items such spices, flour and paneer, among other things. The central food safety watchdog has also sanctioned Rs 5 lakh as operational cost for a period of three years. The health department has appointed two chemists and an assistant technician, besides a driver, to man the van.

The lab-on-wheels will offer its maiden services at Albert Ekka Chowk on two days next week. The second phase of its on-spot testing in the city and other districts are being worked out, said officials.

"On Monday and Tuesday, the van will be stationed at Albert Ekka Chowk on Main Road. One can get basic tests done for a nominal fee of Rs 20. Adulteration and additive tests can be done in 15-20 minutes and reports will be

given on the spot," said state food analyst Chaturbhuj Meena.

"Besides testing food samples, the lab will also generate awareness against adulteration at marketplaces and educational institutions. An LCD screen has been fixed outside the van while there is a flat TV inside too," he added.

The mobile lab is meant to serve three purposes.

"It will readily get us survey samples; it will arm people with a platform to get their products checked; and last but not the least, it will allow us to penetrate the common market easily. In addition, it will instil fear among unscrupulous traders who deal in spurious items. In a nutshell, the lab will empower people," Meena said.

Officials maintained that they were eyeing another mobile lab for greater reach.

"The FSSAI recently allocated vehicles to Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur and a few other states in its first phase. Once our first lab starts functioning properly, we shall pursue FSSAI for another," said Meena.

The health department wants to have at least one mobile lab in each of the five commissionerates - Ranchi, Dumka, Chaibasa, Daltonganj and Hazaribagh.

PM to inaugurate 'Krishi Unnati Mela' this weekend

Published: March 12, 2018 9:34 PM IST

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/pm-to-inaugurate-krishi-unnati-mela-this-weekend-2939633/>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate a three-day 'Krishi Unnati Mela' starting March 16 with a focus on doubling farmers' income.

The fair will be held at the Pusa campus in the national capital. Modi will also give away Krishi Karman Awards to states and progressive farmers who have made outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture.

According to the sources, Modi will visit the theme pavilion and address farmers on March 17.

It may be recalled that the prime minister in 2016 had inaugurated the mela and had called for steps to conserve water and asked farmers to focus on crop diversification and go for allied activities like dairy, poultry and food processing to boost their income.

At that time the country's agriculture output had hit badly due to back-to-back droughts. However the situation this year is different. Despite bountiful rains and likely record foodgrain production, farmers are in distress as they are not getting even the MSP. As a result, farmers in several states including, Maharashtra are protesting.

In this backdrop, the fair assumes significance as sources said that the prime minister will address farmers to boost their confidence and offer solution to the current problem.

The mela, being organised by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), will have live demonstration of agriculture and horticultural crops, animal husbandry, innovative technologies and farm mechanisation in big plots. Both public and private companies will display their farm inputs and technologies in over 200 stalls.

Amul to use remote sensing to estimate fodder production

Updated: Mar 4, 2018, 11:06 IST

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/amul-to-use-remote-sensing-to-estimate-fodder-production/articleshow/63152618.cms>

The first ever remote sensing centre for estimation of fodder crops in Anand and Kheda districts was inaugurated at Amul Dairy campus in milk city Anand on Saturday.

Last year the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) – the apex body of all the district dairy unions of Gujarat – had signed a MoU with the Space Application Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for this project.

The Amul Remote Sensing Center which inaugurated in presence of Tapan Misra, director, SAC, ISRO in presence of GCMMF's chairman Ramsinh Parmar, GCMMF's managing director R S Sodhi and Amul Dairy's managing director Dr K Rathnam will work towards estimation of fodder crops in Kheda, Anand and Mahisagar districts.

Similar centre will also come up at Banas Dairy for Banaskantha and Patan districts of North Gujarat.



“This is an innovative idea to help milk producers to help them to know when to initiate cultivation of fodder crop by use of satellite images. This would help farmers to estimate fodder production, plan them to grow or intensify fodder production and improve fodder availability leading to increase in milk production and economic benefit,” said an official.

“This will pave a new era of fodder crop management using satellite data for current status of fodder crops grown during one crop cycle like rabi, kharif and summer in a year,” the official said.

The fodder crop estimation will also act as a decision making tool for monitoring national level projects like the Accelerated Fodder Development Program, National Livestock Mission, phase one of the National Dairy Plan and other watershed projects.

“It can be utilized in dairy sector for decision support in drought management also. Gradually it will be scaled up to all districts of Gujarat through respective milk unions of GCMMF,” the official said.

78-year-old man to get PhD degree

<https://www.nyooz.com/news/chandigarh/1047349/78yearold-man-to-get-phd-degree/>

Chandigarh, March 3

Harbhajan Singh Chhina is enthusiastic about his PhD research even at the age of 78. "I am so happy. I hope my research on 'Genetics Studies on Gir Cattle' will be published and disseminated," he said. He had submitted his thesis in 1976 while pursuing research at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, which was under Panjab University (PU) then. He had received a fellowship from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). But as he did not have a diploma in foreign language, his PhD viva couldn't be held. "I did my PhD under R Nagashankar, who later became the Director of the NDRI," he said. He worked as a faculty member at Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana, and Khalsa College, Amritsar. "I was busy in my work and couldn't pursue

diploma in foreign language," he said. Chhina pursued the PU to waive the condition for a diploma in foreign language, but to no avail. Then in 2015, he did a diploma in German language from Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar. After completing the formalities, he pursued the PU for holding a viva. It was first planned in 2016, but couldn't be held. The PU was searching for a department where his viva could be held and after deliberations, the Zoology Department was zeroed in on. On February 26 this year, he appeared for his viva. Today, he appeared for the convocation rehearsal. "My research is on Gir breed of cows. I have developed a new breeding selection system to enhance productivity," he said.

This Futuristic Startup Could Disrupt The Dairy Industry

[https://www-forbes-](https://www-forbes-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.forbes.com/sites/michaelpellmanrowland/2018/02/27/perfectday-disrupts-dairy/amp/)

[com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.forbes.com/sites/michaelpellmanrowland/2018/02/27/perfectday-disrupts-dairy/amp/](https://www-forbes-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.forbes.com/sites/michaelpellmanrowland/2018/02/27/perfectday-disrupts-dairy/amp/)

Berkeley-based startup [Perfect Day](#) just announced the completion of their \$24.7 million dollar Series A round, making another strong statement for the cellular agriculture industry. While most of the other prominent cellular ag startups are focusing on meat ([Memphis Meats](#), [Super Meat](#), [Mosa Meats](#)), [Perfect Day is focused on disrupting the dairy industry.](#)

The round was lead by Temasek, the \$275 billion dollar sovereign wealth fund in Singapore. Perfect Day hopes to tap Temasek's network and accelerate commercialization with a wide variety of partners across the food and dairy sectors. Other prominent investors that joined the round were Horizons Ventures, alongside additional investments from Continental Grain (USA), Jeremy Collier (UK), Iconiq Capital (USA), Lion Ventures, Verus International, and others. This caps off a strong February for the ambitious startup, as they received their first patent for the use of animal-free dairy proteins in food applications earlier this month.

'In the milk market, plant-based products, such as soy, rice and almond milk have grown to command 10% of the overall dairy market, while animal-based dairy products have stagnated. That demonstrates the growth potential for the likes of Perfect Day and the 'sustainable protein' sector as a whole.' – Jeremy Collier

The company says the money from the recent round will be used to accelerate scale-up efforts, grow the existing team of 30 employees within its 17,000 square foot facility, and zero in on its commercialization potential.

Backstory

In 2014, Ryan Pandya and Perumal Gandhi were introduced via Isha Datar at New Harvest, a non-profit assisting in the field of cellular agriculture. Isha knew these doe-eyed boys were interested in creating a cellular milk product. It wasn't long after the introduction that their shared vision led to the formation of Muufri (the original name of the company, and a bit on the nose).

After securing pre-seed funding via Indie Bio to get the company off the ground, they managed to get the attention of Horizon Ventures. This led to a successful meeting in Hong Kong with Solina Chau, which unleashed the seed money they needed to hire staff and expand research and development.

No longer happy with the name Muufri, the decision was made to change it to something with broader appeal. When they learned that dairy cows produce more milk after listening to soothing music like the Lou Reed song 'Perfect Day', they knew they'd found the right fit.

How Do They Make This Stuff?

Perfect Day applies gene sequencing and 3D printing to make dairy proteins without the need for cows. Bare with me. Using yeast and age-old fermentation techniques, Perfect Day can make the very same dairy proteins (casein and whey) that cows make. The company often describes it as dairy meets craft brewing.

Through biotechnology, they give this yeast a 'blueprint' that allows it to ferment sugar and create real dairy proteins. This is the very same blueprint, in the form of DNA, which cows use internally every day. The process of using fermentation is similar to how vegetarian rennet, vanilla, insulin, and many other everyday products are made, while being cleaner and more resource-efficient than animal farming (more on that later).

Today, milk is made by artificially inseminating a cow at 13 months of age, having her birth a calf 9 months later, and removing the baby cow (sold for [veal](#)) to begin using the mother for milk. Three months later, the cow is impregnated again. By the age four, the mother cow is killed for beef. What a production cycle. You can start to understand why making milk in a lab is seen as an attractive proposition to many investors and consumers.

'Free From'

One of the more unique aspects of Perfect Day's creation is that it's free from the hormones, antibiotics, steroids, and cholesterol found in many of the dairy products currently in grocery stores, restaurants, and fast food joints. The Perfect Day products are also vegan, soy-free, gluten-free, and lactose-free. In the US, 30-50 million

people are lactose intolerant (National Institute of Children's Health & Human Development). For these folks, traditional dairy milk will never find its way to their fridge.

Perfect Day's proteins could allow food manufacturers to create entirely new products or build on existing ones to address how we eat today and in the years to come. People with casein or other milk protein allergies will have to wait for the hypoallergenic version, which Perfect Day's founders have said is in the works.

B2B Business Model

Perumal's [founder letter](#) on LinkedIn this past November announced their decision to shift to a B2B model, which was apparently well received by investors during their conversations throughout the Series A round. In order to deliver on their mission to remove animals from the supply chain and drive the greatest impact, Perfect Day realized they would be most effective in partnering with large companies already ensconced in our food system.

This could catalyze a variety of new animal-free dairy products into market, instead of a single product (which was Perfect Day's original game plan). In a way, [Perfect Day could be the 'Intel Inside' for the dairy industry](#)

Environmental Potential

Temasek's investment in Perfect Day aligns with the firm's belief that strong action is needed to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By 2050, protein demand is expected to jump by 80% across the world. This signals one of the most globe-altering challenges that our food system will face in the coming years. Animal agriculture consumes 2,422 billion cubic meters of water annually (about one-fourth of the global water footprint), and nearly 20% of it is related to dairy cattle ([Water Footprint Network](#)).

Increasingly, conscious consumers have been choosing non-dairy products to minimize their carbon footprint. For example, sales of almond milk shot up by 250% between 2011 and 2016. Meanwhile, sales of dairy milk decreased 7% in 2015 (\$17.8 billion) and are

projected to drop another 11% through 2020 (Mintel).

Just to give you an idea how bad things have gotten, the latest data from the USDA show that Americans are drinking nearly 40% less dairy milk than they were a few decades ago. (In 1970, the average American was drinking about 12 ounces of milk per day. Now it's closer to 7 ounces).

Declining milk sales have created an opportunity for Perfect Day and the dairy industry to partner up.

In 2015, Mark Steer of the University of West England reached out to Perfect Day to conduct a [preliminary life cycle analysis](#) and environmental impact study on animal-free brewed milk compared to milk from cows. Here's a summary of what he found:

- 84% fewer GHG emissions compared to traditional milk
- 98% less water use than regular dairy
- 91% less land use since no farms are needed
- 65% reduction in energy use compared to farmed dairy

Perfect Day says it is in the process of conducting an ISO compliant LCA, but that hasn't been completed yet.

If these numbers turn out to be anywhere close to his projections, it will give Perfect Day and other cellular agriculture companies even more ammunition in convincing companies and consumers that the future of dairy will be made in labs, not farms.

Milo washes off milk-powered health rating

6:13 pm on 1 March 2018

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/351581/milo-washes-off-milk-powered-health-rating>

The product was given a Bad Taste Food Award by Consumer NZ in 2016 because the rating was based on the assumption the drink was being made with skim milk.

Consumer NZ chief executive Sue Chetwin said Milo on its own would only earn 1.5 stars because it was made of almost 50 percent sugar.

"It's the skim milk that boosts the number of stars," she said.

"But our research found most milo drinkers prepare the drink with standard blue top or full-cream milk."

Ms Chetwin said health star guidelines allowed companies to use the nutritional values of additional products, such as skim milk, to add to a rating.

Consumer NZ was campaigning to get rid of this loophole, she said, because it undermined the purpose of the health star rating, which was to quickly give consumers information about a product's nutritional content.

The 4.5-star rating will disappear from Milo powder in June.

Regulatory/Legal

Milk adulterators may be jailed for 3 years

| Wednesday | 14th March, 2018

<https://www.nyoooz.com/news/mumbai/1056232/milk-adulterators-may-be-jailed-for-3-years/>

The state government on Tuesday announced that milk adulteration would soon be punished stringently and perpetrators would be put behind the bars for minimum 3 years of rigorous imprisonment instead of present term of six months.

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Girish Bapat announced in the state assembly that state Government is effecting amendment in criminal procedure code section 272 to 276 to deal with milk adulteration cases. He informed that milk tankers entering city of Mumbai would also be checked stringently.

He added to introduce stringent punishment for adulteration and for amending the CrPC,

the state Government has availed permission from the Union Government. Leader of Opposition Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil had raised the issue of milk adulteration through calling attention motion. Bapat informed the House that while effecting the amendments, government wants to prevent the loopholes in the present provisions in the act. He informed that it is being done after due consultation and advice from experts in the field.

The Minister informed that four mobile vans have been deployed to track and prevent such adulterated milk tankers. Members Balasaheb Thorat, Subhash Sabane, Rahul Kul and Atul Bhatkhalkar also asked supplementary questions on this issue.

PFA destroys 280 litre adulterated milk

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/290078-pfa-destroys-280-litre-adulterated-milk>

Punjab Food Authority (PFA) sealed a milk shop and destroyed 280 litre adulterated milk at Zaman Milk Unit in the Katcha Jail Road area on Thursday.

A PFA team visited the unit and took into their custody around 280 litre adulterated milk and 15kg yogurt. The team destroyed the milk after it was found adulterated with chemical and water. Moreover, blue drums were being used for milk storage.

In other operations, food safety teams imposed heavy fines on food outlets for not complying with the PFA instructions. The teams destroyed a number of expired and poor quality food items at different food selling points across the city. PFA also served improvement and warning notices to dozen of food points.

Will new FSSAI rules undercut baby food law?

Mar 6, 2018, 04:47 IST

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/will-new-fssai-rules-undercut-baby-food-law/articleshow/63178447.cms>

Does special infant food for certain rare medical conditions have to be kept out of the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act — a law to prevent predatory marketing practices by baby food companies — to ensure their availability? This question sparked a tussle between public health activists and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Ostensibly to deal with three very rare medical conditions in infants, FSSAI decided to exempt several products from the IMS Act. Baby food companies used this to sponsor doctors and market these special foods, which the IMS Act prohibits. Following protests from health activists, FSSAI clarified that the Act's provisions on marketing, promotion and sponsorship would apply to these special foods, but they would otherwise remain out of its ambit.

The Act is hailed globally as one of the most effective laws to protect breastfeeding against unethical marketing by baby-food companies. As a result, the sale of baby food formula in India is a tiny fraction of that in China, which does not have a similar stringent law.

So why is FSSAI keeping these special foods out of the Act? FSSAI says that since the Act says all baby food labels have to carry a statement "mother's milk is best for your baby" in capital letters, special foods for inborn metabolic errors have to be kept out of the legislation. However, according to the WHO and the American Academy of Paediatrics (AAP), there are only three inborn metabolic diseases in which breastfeeding can harm the baby. Of these, AAP says

breastfeeding is an absolute no-no in just one, galactosemia. In the other two, phenylketonuria and maple syrup urine disease, breastfeeding is allowed along with special formula under medical monitoring.

FSSAI's other argument is that products under the IMS Act can be taken on the advice of a health worker, while these special diets need medical supervision.

The problem is that FSSAI has exempted all foods for special medical purposes (FSMPs). FSMPs include formulas for low birth-weight babies, hypoallergenic formulas for babies with cow milk allergy and lactose free formulas. These are already sold in India, regulated by the IMS and FSSAI Acts. They have labels saying that mother's milk is best, an advisory that they are to be used under medical supervision and a label clearly identifying them as infant milk substitutes.

Even before the draft regulation of exemption to these products got approved, FSSAI okayed labels of many of these special foods with a sticker, "This is neither an infant milk substitute nor an infant food". This is the key concern, pointed out Dr Arun Gupta of the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India, one of four bodies responsible for reporting IMS Act violations. "Will violations under IMS Act attract penalties when the products are being kept out of its purview? The exemption will only create confusion that baby-food companies will take advantage of. The policy to exempt some baby foods from IMS Act is flawed and is the result of partnership with baby food companies," he charged.

FSSAI issues standardised testing methods for five food product types

Monday, 05 March, 2018, 08 : 00 AM [IST]

<http://www.fnbnews.com/Top-News/fssai-issues-standardised-testing-methods-for-five-food-product-types-41851>

FSSAI has issued approved methods for analysis of various food products. These are the standardised testing methods for five different food product types. They are: methods of detection; analysis and estimation of melamine in milk and milk products; total polar compounds in edible oils and fats, estimation of coumarin content in cinnamon, parameters in sago and detection of acid value in oils and fats.

These methods are standardised and would be helpful in uniform testing methods across India, resulting in non-variable results. The country's apex food regulator said that these methods were approved by the scientific panel on methods of sampling and analysis.

Ashwin Bhadri, chief executive officer, Equinox Labs, explained that it has been a while since the testing methods of these food products were debated.

"These five product types have been in news for a while, and with the new, standardised testing methods, we can look forward to unbiased and unpolluted results across every testing laboratory pan-India," he added.

"These testing methods were quite relevant," Bhadri added, saying, "As mentioned previously, these five product types have been in constant headlines from FSSAI. Their testing standards were not organised, which is why discrepancies were observed."

"With a fixed testing method, it will now benefit testing companies, FSSAI officials and the people of course. Melamine, and its famous 2008 Chinese scandal, has not been forgotten; the chemical gives a presence of higher protein content. With only the common objective of food safety, these highly sensitive food types have been selected as of now. More such standards might soon follow," he added.

FSSAI may also add further product categories and list their testing methods. In the recent past, the regulators issued a notification which included the maximum levels of total polar compounds (TPCs) that should be present and the testing of the edible oils for the same. New inclusion of training for milk and milk products under the Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programme is another example.

"Each of these contribute to become a major and a positive change in the entire food safety ecosystem," Bhadri said, adding that a standardised testing method across the nation will leave no benefit of doubt.

"This means that the reports across varied labs shall carry results that are not hampered by irregular testing methods. This will ultimately ensure that the food served to end consumers is quality and safety-validated, and that they are aware what they are consuming," he opined.

FSDA makes it mandatory to display manufacturing date on sweet box

| Sunday | 4th March, 2018

<https://www.nyoooz.com/news/bareilly/1047746/fsda-makes-it-mandatory-to-display-manufacturing-date-on-sweet-box/>

In an attempt to prevent the general public from consuming stale perishable items that often cause diarrhoea and food poisoning, the deputy commissioner of food safety department, Sanjay Pandey, has instructed officials to ensure all sweet shops in the district must display the manufacturing date of sweets as well as the “best before” date. Pandey added, “Sweets made of condensed milk are extremely perishable.

They expire after 48 hours.

We will conduct a survey of all sweet shops and instruct them to display the ‘best before’

date on boxes.” The Food Safety and Drugs Administration (FSDA) department has run an intense drive against adulterated edible items before Holi, destroying several quintals of condensed milk and other items. “During a week-long drive before Holi, we have destroyed around 25 quintals of adulterated condensed milk and other raw material used in making sweets and other edible items.

Our drive will keep continue round the year.

The malpractice of selling stale and adulterated edible items is not limited to the festive season.

Survey/Report

Take research to farmers, budding scientists advised

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/take-research-to-farmers-budding-scientists-advised/555868.html>

Parveen Arora

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh today exhorted budding scientists to be connected with farmers and take research to the fields so that farmers could avail benefits of research work.

He was chairing the 16th convocation of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), a deemed university, in which degrees were conferred on 278 passouts — 105 PhD (including a foreigner), 146 masters and 27 BTech. Singh lauded the contribution of the NDRI and said it had been providing a large number of trained young professionals in dairy production, processing and management to the nation.

He said with the contribution of such institutes, India continued to be the largest milk producer in the world for the last 20 years. In the last six years, milk production had increased from 121.8 million tonnes in 2010-11 to 165.4 million tonnes in 2016-17, he said.

In the first three years of this period up to 2013-14, the increase in milk production was 13 per cent, after which the increase was over 20 per cent, he said. He added that the per capita availability increased by only 9 per cent

from 2010-11 to 2013-14 while it increased by 15 per cent from 2013-14 to 2016-17.

Singh emphasised the commitment of the government to the dairy sector. He said that the national mission on bovine productivity with allocation of Rs 825 crore was initiated for genetic upgrade of cattle and buffalo population through delivery of breeding inputs at the farmers' doorstep.

He emphasised that there was a need for developing and commercialising value-added products prepared by using cow urine and dung.

Dr RRB Singh, Director, NDRI, presented the progress report and expressed satisfaction over the placement of students. He said that in 2016-17, the average salary offered to the NDRI passouts was Rs 4.8 lakh and Rs 6 lakhs per annum for graduates and postgraduates, respectively.

The minister presented the best teacher award to Dr Rajan Sharma, principal scientist, in recognition of academic excellence. Dr Singh presented gold medal for highest marks during PhD in production, processing and management groups to Dr Sunil Kumar, Dr Ritu Chakravarty and Dr Showkat Ahmad Bhat, respectively.

Milk production up 20% in 2014-2017

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/milk-production-up-20-in-2014-2017-agriculture-ministry/article23040630.ece>

NEW DELHI, MAR 11

Milk production in the country increased by 20 per cent from 137.7 million tonnes to 165.4 million tonnes between 2014 and 2017, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh has said.

Also, the per capita availability of milk has risen by 15.6 per cent from 307 gms a day to 355 gms per day between 2013-14 and 2016-17, an official statement quoted the minister as saying.

Singh, who was addressing the 16th convocation ceremony of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), said the government is committed towards ensuring more income to farmers, uplifting the economically backward sections of society, youth employment, better education and healthcare.

He pointed out that Budget 2018 had laid special emphasis on animal husbandry.

With a corpus of Rs 2,450 crore, the government has set up an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for financing infrastructure requirement of animal husbandry sector.

Also, in order to meet the working capital requirement of dairy farmers, the facility of Kisan Credit Card has been extended by the government to the fisheries and livestock farmers, he added.

Besides, the government has initiated the National Mission on Bovine Productivity in order to help the benefits of animal husbandry schemes reach the farmers directly.

Milk is India's largest crop worth around Rs 6.5 lakh crore, says RS Sodhi of Amul

Updated: Mar 05, 2018, 04.38 PM IST

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/expert-view/milk-is-indias-largest-crop-worth-around-rs-6-5-lakh-crore-says-rs-sodhi-of-amul/articleshow/63171485.cms?from=mdr>

Talking to ET Now, RS Sodhi, MD, Amul, says in another 50 years, our per capita consumption will be equal to that of the US or Europe for about 800 grams per person per day.

Edited excerpts:

There is greater competition as opposed to what was the case perhaps seven years back. India's dairy per capita consumption has been growing very healthily. It has been outpacing growth in some of the developed markets like the European Union. But now with so much competition coming in the segment, is there still scope for penetration and higher consumption in India than the numbers that you are already clocking?

India is contributing about 20% of world milk production at around 167 million metric tonne and we are growing at the rate of 4.5%. World is growing at the rate of around 1.8%. Out of 1.8% growth, 1% is coming from India. Milk is India's largest crop worth around Rs 6.5 lakh crore it is much more than paddy and wheat put together.

Till the '70s, per capita consumption was only 110 gram per person per day. Today, it is 360 gram per person per day and that is really growing.

In another 50 years, our per capita consumption will be equal to that of the US or Europe for about 800 grams per person per day, which is already there in some parts. You go to north of Punjab, there might be consumption of around 800 grams per person per day. Now, as far as the growth is concerned, 40% is retained at the producer level in the villages, 60% is surplus. Of that surplus, about one-third is coming to the organised sector -- cooperatives and private companies put together and two-third is going to be the unorganised sector.

Growth in an organised sector is coming from two places -- one is increase in consumption and people shifting from unorganised or move to the organised sector. Volume wise, the organised sector is growing at a double digit. More or less, in all categories, on an average 10% to 12%, 15% growth is coming. Some new

categories like cheese, cream may be growing at 20%, 30% but old categories like butter, ghee etc. may be growing at around 8% to 10%.

Coming to European Union, today India's production of 160 million metric tonne equals to 28 European countries. European milk production could be stagnant and we are growing 20% higher in six to seven years. This is the overall picture of the dairy industry in India.

I am trying to understand the point that you have raised about the shift from unorganised to organised plays. Amul has been the oldest organised player in the industry. How do you think there will be that reduction in organised players going forward and how will Amul strive to gain a higher market share at a time when competition from some of the other new players is only intensifying?

In the dairy industry, business depends on how much milk you collect from the farmers. Amul is collecting on average more than 20 million litres of milk per day. Next to Amul, there is another cooperative called Nandini which is collecting around 7 million litres. There is no private sector company which is collecting more than 1.5 million litres or 2 million litres. In the private sector, the nearest competitor is in the south. East on an average, produces one-tenth of us so.

In the cooperative sector, in each state the local cooperative is the market leader. In Karnataka, Nandini is number one, in Rajasthan, Saras is number one; in Punjab, Verka is number one. Amul may be number one pan India. As such, in India, the organised market is the hands of cooperatives only and their market share is growing.

Which are the non-liquid milk categories where you think that the projected growth could be 20% plus for next two to three years. Will it be cheese? Will it be butter or will it be something else?

Because of the lower base of the small categories like beverages or ice-creams, their natural growth rate will be much higher than the liquid milk because the base is much higher. In India, milk is the dairy product that is

consumed most. Then comes dahi, ghee, and then the other categories.

If you have to be market leader in India like Amul or any other cooperative, until and unless you are market leader in that particular category, you would not get major market share in other products. It will not be commercially viable to get into cheese or ice-cream or other things without getting into milk or other fresh products. There is a myth that people think only value added products give more margin and value addition means only cheese and ice-cream. That is the biggest myth.

In the dairy sector, biggest value added product is the fresh pasteurised milk which is sold to the consumer directly. So, you buy milk, you process it, you pack it and sell it. Milk is the biggest value-added product and like that, another value-added product is curd or buttermilk, milk powders and dairy whiteners and baby food. They are much, much bigger categories than the so called cheese or ice-cream categories.

Where exactly are milk prices headed in 2018 because milk prices in 2017 were quite firm and if milk prices are headed higher, are you in a position to increase your product prices?

The milk prices world over peaked in 2014 May, after that prices started falling especially of commodity world over and the impact was also felt in India where cooperatives were not strong and in 2017 also prices were much lower than the prices in 2014 or 2015.

No doubt, it was slightly higher than in 2016 and whatever was the price today in areas where cooperatives are not stronger, there farmers are under distress. They are not even getting the cost of production. Take the case of Maharashtra. For cow milk, Maharashtra farmers were getting Rs 17-18 in 2016. Then in 2017, it increased to Rs 22-23 and today also farmers in Maharashtra are getting only Rs 21 to 22 per litre of cow milk vis-à-vis the Gujarat where every year there is increase in price. Today farmers in Gujarat are getting around Rs 30 to 32 for cow milk because we have not reduced the price of any finished product, whether it is butter, cheese or ghee. We have rather increased it. So, naturally farmers are getting better price.

Milk processor cancels farm contracts as Walmart makes own milk

Updated 5:09 p.m. ET March 13, 2018

<https://www.publicopiniononline.com/story/news/2018/03/12/milk-processor-cancels-farm-contracts-walmart-makes-own-milk/417995002/>

As if low milk prices aren't nerve-racking enough, dairy farmers are worrying about getting a steady monthly milk check.

Milk processors face dramatic changes in the marketplace. They buy the farmers' milk, or at least most still do.

"The fluid milk market has always been competitive, but we're in unprecedented times," said Reace Smith, a spokeswoman for Dallas-based Dean Foods.

Jason Martin walks past feeding cows on his Waynesboro area farm on Monday, March 12, 2018. Dairy farmers are dealing with low prices and processors are taking action to deal with low demand nationwide. (Photo: Markell DeLoatch, Public Opinion)

Dean Foods, branded as Swiss Premium, is ending contracts this spring with more than 100 farmers in eight states, including Pennsylvania. The company's reasons: Consumers are drinking less milk, and other companies are entering or expanding their presence in milk processing.

Industry observers say a recently constructed Walmart milk plant in Fort Wayne, Indiana, played a major role in Dean Foods' decision. The new plant will bottle 100 million gallons of milk annually for 600 Walmart stores.

"By operating our own plant and working directly with the dairy supply chain in the Midwest, we'll further reduce operating costs and pass those savings on to our customers so that they can save money," said Tony Airoso, senior vice president of sourcing strategy for Walmart U.S.

Americans are drinking 28 percent less milk than they drank in 2000, 42 percent less than in 1970. Cheese and yogurt consumption has increased, but not enough to mend the hole in a farmer's pocket.

U.S. farmers meanwhile have more cows, each increasingly producing more milk, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The industry is producing about 350 million more gallons of milk each year than the year before, Smith said.

Local milk processors are taking other actions.

The Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association reduced advance payments on milk checks. The move affected most cooperative members. About a third of 440 dairy farms in Franklin County are co-op members.

"At a time when farmers are struggling to make ends meet, we realize this change in the advance pay price put an unexpected burden on our members," said cooperative CEO Jay Bryant. "We are working on a solution that will prevent this from happening in the future, and we will be sharing more about that with our members at our upcoming annual meeting."

Lancaster Farming reported that Land O' Lakes is offering a voluntary dairy buyout to members.

"It's not a good situation for dairymen anywhere," said Jack Martin, a Waynesboro area dairyman. "We feel fortunate to be with Land O' Lakes."

Land O' Lakes has a system that encourages farmers to limit their milk production, Martin said. The cooperative penalizes farmers financially for producing more milk at a time when there's a surplus at the milk plant.

The milk industry or the federal government has sponsored dairy-herd buyouts to limit milk production, from time to time, but currently there is no industry-wide program.

Franklin County is Pennsylvania's No. 2 dairy county and No. 33 in the U.S.

The milk produced in Franklin County is worth \$178 million a year, according to the USDA. The milk production accounts for 40 percent of the value of all agriculture in the county.

Martin recently returned from his cousin's cow sale. The third-generation dairyman was only in his 40s when he decided to exit the dairy business.

"He didn't have the family support he thought he was going to have," Martin said. "He didn't see a future to keep going on. It's not the best time to sell out. Prices aren't as good as they could have been."

Buy Photo

Dairyman Jason Martin milks cows in his Waynesboro area parlor on Monday, March 12, 2018. Dairy farmers are dealing with low prices and processors are taking action to deal with low demand nationwide. (Photo: Markell DeLoatch, Public Opinion)

Martin tells of dairy farms in West Virginia getting out. A farm family in Somerset County refused to expand and quit dairying.

"People you don't think would consider (it), are selling," Martin said. "It's just surprising. I'm not sure I want to stay in either with these depressed prices. Everybody can handle low milk prices, but the length keeps wearing them down."

"The dairy industry is in as challenging a time as we've seen it since 2009," said Amber Sheridan, communications director for the Maryland & Virginia milk cooperative. "Globally, milk production is strong and inventories are high, making for a very competitive marketplace. In response, milk prices have fallen, and dairy farmer profit margins are razor thin, if not in the negative. This prolonged period of tight margins has farmers weary and concerned about the future of their own farms. We need to see a response in the milk supply before there's any price recovery or relief for dairy farmers."

Shannon Powers, deputy communications director for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture said, "Our agency is working with other state agencies, the Center for Dairy Excellence and numerous other partners on both long-term solutions to the crisis dairy farmers are facing. We're also reaching out to stakeholders who may be able to provide emergency help in the short term."

Unlike factories that downsize or close up shop, milk processors are not required to issue a notice when they cancel contracts, according to Powers.

The year is shaping up to be "very difficult" for dairy farmers, according to the latest Dairy Outlook from the Penn State Extension. Milk prices are expected to be higher than those in the dismal 2009, but many farm expenses have grown faster. Premium programs once offered to dairy producers are no longer available.

Dean Foods canceled contracts with 42 farmers, Powers said.

"Our decision was an incredibly difficult one and a step that we worked very hard to avoid," Smith said. "We will provide farmers with resources to help them connect with counselors if needed."

Retailers are expected to put continued pressure on existing, aging milk processing plants. Kroger Co. and Publix Super Markets, prior to Walmart's action, began supplying milk to their stores from their own processing plants.

Dean Foods said only "the introduction of new plants at a time when there is an industry-wide surplus of fluid milk processing capacity forced us into this position. Competition for milk volume has increased, and Dean Foods lost volume at higher levels than anticipated."

The 100 or so Dean Foods' contracts will end on May 31. Affected farms were notified the week of Feb. 26. The company will continue to buy milk from about 12,000 farms across the U.S., including Pennsylvania.

The Maryland & Virginia cooperative is managing "a tight cash position," according to a press release from the cooperative. "The decision to reduce the announced advance price was driven strictly by cash availability. We are pursuing a new credit facility that is better suited to meet the needs of our evolving business model."

"Unforeseen mechanical issues at two key plant operations" made the cooperative's financial position even tighter. The mechanical issues have been resolved, Sheridan said.

Cooperative members who did not get their full advance will see a larger-than-usual final check, she said.

The number of Pennsylvania dairy farms has declined since 2000, but each cow is producing more and total production is up, according to the U.S.D.A.

Qatar to become self-sufficient in dairy products

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/10/03/2018/Qatar-to-become-self-sufficient-in-dairy-products>

The Qatari market is expected to become self sufficient in dairy products by the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, in about two months.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Moutaz al-Khayyat, chairman to the board of directors for Baladna, said the company will fulfill demands of the local market.

The move comes as part of efforts of the Gulf state to overcome the blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt since June 2017.

Al-Khayyat said in two days the company will collect 3,200 cows shipped by sea from the U.S.

"Baladna company, immediately after the blockade, had imported 4,000 cows from the United States and Europe," he said.

"The new number of cows represents a significant step towards a more sustainable and productive growth phase and will help us meet the market demands of high quality fresh dairy products," al-Khayyat said.

Qatar had relied mainly on dairy product imports from Saudi Arabia with 400 tons of milk and yoghurt imported daily.

"We will be exporting after self-sufficiency in dairy products in Qatar," al-Khayyat said.

An Anadolu Agency correspondent visited Baladna company's Al-Khor Farm, which has

4,000 cows, located 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Doha.

"The farm is equipped to comfortably house more than 20,000 cows," Peter Weltevreden, Chief Executive of Baladna, told Anadolu Agency.

He added the farm is specially designed to suit Qatari environment and high temperatures.

"After the arrival of the new number of cows, production will increase to about 200 tons of fresh milk daily," Weltevreden said.

By 2019, he said, the farm will function in full capacity with 20,000 cows.

"In May 2018, 3,200 cows will arrive and in November of the same year 3,000 more," he added.

The company expects to increase the production of fresh milk and yoghurt to 500 tons per day, which is sufficient for domestic demand, with a surplus of 100 tons for export.

The farm includes a milk packaging plant and another plant is planned for the end of 2018.

"Most of the packing equipment for Baladna's products are imported from Turkey, and many Turkish experts and consultants are working with us," he added.

Every day, nearly 2,000 people visit Baladna Farm that includes a zoo, a large park and a restaurant, according to the company's employees in charge of the farm.

Dairy cows adjust to Daylight Saving Time

Posted: Mar 11, 2018 8:32 PM

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/37697132/dairy-cows-adjust-to-daylight-saving-time>

Animals can be thrown off when we turn the clocks forward, just like the rest of us.

Renee and Clayton Kenny run Kenny Jersey Farm in Lawrence County, a dairy farm that's been in the family for 60 years.

"I think people always think that it's a lifestyle for us, and it's not. It's a business," said Renee Kenny.

A business that gets thrown off a bit for Daylight Saving time.

"Cows require about 16 hours of daylight, so in the barn that we're standing in right now, you can see that it's very light and bright in here. That just allows for extra daylight as it starts to get dark," said Kenny.

Now that it's getting dark an hour later, that changes the equation a little. Some farms choose to move up the milking times in the days leading up the time change just to make sure they stay on schedule.

The Kenny's have experimented with the idea in the past, but this year they are just letting the cows adjust naturally. It could make for a couple long days to start the week.

Much like the rest of us, cows are creatures of habit. One of the biggest challenges with the time change is simply getting used to a new schedule.

"Every day, they are milked within about a ten-minute window, morning and night," said Kenny. "That's simply by the manner the cows will enter our milking parlor. They really will enter in the same row every time and enter in almost the same exact area."

So, cows can get knocked off their routine just like us today. They milk 200 cows on that farm, producing around 55 pounds of milk a day, so they say especially in a case like this, keeping them all happy and healthy is a top priority.

Sharemilkers win farming award

12 Mar, 2018 12:00pm

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=12011072

Four days after being crowned the 2018 Hawke's Bay Wairarapa Dairy Industry Awards

Share Farmer of the Year, Thomas and Jennifer Read were still coming to terms with their achievement.

They had counted coming third last year as a career highlight but this year's win tops it, they said, at the farm owned by Thomas's parents Shayne and Lydia Read.

They have 50:50 sharemilked 260 cows on the 91.5ha property on Armstrong Road Dannevirke for the last four years after managing it for two.

The couple were named the 2018 Hawke's Bay Wairarapa Share Farmers of the Year at

the region's annual awards dinner held at the Copthorne Hotel and Resort in Masterton Thursday March 1.

Thomas and Jennifer say entering the competition has been excellent for networking, growth and knowledge of their business. The couple say their strengths are their ability to see their weaknesses and then improve on them, which minimises risk in their business.

"It's been a huge benefit to receive feedback from the judges on ways we can improve our business. Plus we love the thrill of the competition," they said.

"Team-work is another strength we are proud of," says Jennifer. "We are a family business

and strive to have good working relationships with our farm owners, staff and everyone we work with.

They would like to progress to farm ownership and as a good start they won \$9250 in prizes.

At the end of the season they take on additional share-milking at the property owned by Mike and Sherynn Harold and Stuart and Sandra Cordell 2km further up

Armstrong Road, farmed by 2016 National Share Farmer of the Year winners Mark and Jaime Arnold.

Thomas has known the property and the Cordells all his life and when the property became available he said taking it on was a no-brainer. Having very supportive and active parents, the Cordells to show him the ropes, and the farm in great shape thanks to the Arnolds, Thomas and Jennifer are excited to take on the new challenge.

Why low milk prices are really bad for New York farms

Updated 11:53 a.m. ET March 12, 2018

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/politics/albany/2018/03/08/why-low-milk-prices-really-bad-new-york-farms/384592002/>

What do low milk prices mean for the future of New York's dairy farmers?

With the price of a gallon of milk dropping to the lowest in 10 years might be good for consumers, it has meant New York farmers are making less money than they used to.

And the impact is apparent: New York has 6,000 fewer dairy farms than it had in 1989. And the number of dairy farms fell 27 percent over the last decade, records show.

The situation is critical for New York's farming industry: Milk is its number one commodity, and the state is the third largest producer in the nation.

"Things are pretty dire right now," said Jerry Simonetty, managing partner of Hudson Valley Fresh Dairy in Poughkeepsie. "Every month, local dairy farmers are losing money."

State officials and farmers point to national and worldwide factors as disrupting New York's milk and dairy industry.

In 2016, New York farms earned about \$568 million -- about one third of what it was 2013, according the state Farm Bureau.

The bureau does not expect 2017 numbers to show improvement, and a rebound in 2018 is also not anticipated.

Milk prices dropping

A gallon of milk currently costs about \$2.96 nationwide, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 2008, it was \$3.87.

"Six months ago, we thought this year would be challenging, a little sober, but gradually gaining on the milk pricing issue," said Richard Ball, commissioner of the state Department of Agriculture and Markets.

"But the world supply issue and concerns about NAFTA, etc., we still have an oversupply -- and it looks like it's going to be another challenging year for our dairy industry."

Around 25 percent of milk exports from the U.S. go to Mexico, Ball said.

The average price paid in 2016 to New York dairy farmers for a hundredweight -- which is 100 pounds of milk -- was down for the seventh year in a row to \$17.25, according to the agriculture department.

Dairy farms fading

From 2006 to 2016, the number of dairy farmers decreased by about 1,600 -- from 5,984 to 4,624, according to the state.

Many of those who have stayed open are trying to find new ways to turn a profit. Some farmers, for example, are selling more grain, corn or hay to supplement their dairy income.

Brent Maynard, co-founder of Ithaca Milk and Finger Lake Farms, said he has tried to address the declining prices by working with multiple, small farms.

"New York farmers are affected greatly," said Brent Maynard co-founder of Ithaca Milk and Finger Lake Farms.

"I'm a little different, I combat it by processing my own milk. I work with other farmers who I pay a premium. I pay my guys about \$10 more per hundredweight than they receive from the large co-ops. We're a backstop to low-dairy prices in central New York."

The yogurt boom

The recent trouble for dairy farms is a stark shift from several years ago when the industry was on the rise because of New York's yogurt boom.

In 2013, New York surpassed California as producing the most yogurt in the nation, thanks in large part to Chobani producing Greek yogurt in central New York.

The yogurt production growth fueled an increase in milk production: It takes as much as four times as much milk to make Greek yogurt as regular yogurt.

The boom led Gov. Andrew Cuomo to cut regulations to help the industry, but the growth has not been sustained because of the worldwide drop in milk prices.

Also, some upstate factories have foundered, leading to less milk than some producers had expected.

A big Quaker Müller plant in Batavia closed 2½ years after it opened and Kraft sold off a cheese plant in the Southern Tier, which even with a new buyer is not expected to need as much milk.

"Low milk prices remain a real struggle for dairy farmers," said Steve Ammerman, spokesman for the state Farm Bureau.

"We are in our fourth year of a low-price cycle, and it is indeed causing a lot of stress out in the countryside."

Too much milk

But the amount of milk produced has created its own problem: There is an overabundance.

There were about 400,000 less total sales of packaged milk products in New York in 2016 than there were in 2006, state figures showed.

During that same time span, though, the amount of milk being produced in New York went up by more than 2 million pounds, or 22 percent more milk over the 10-year period.

One of the problems is apparent: People are simply drinking less milk.

The number of children who said they had not drunk milk on a given day doubled between 1978 and 2008 — from 12 percent to 24 percent, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study.

According to the Pew Research Center, Americans today are drinking about 42 percent less milk than they did in 1970.

There are more varieties of soft drinks, energy beverages, bottled waters and other milk alternatives, like soy or almond milk, available to consumers than there has been in the past.

The future of milk

Early methods of milk pricing were based on the volume of milk being purchased.

The problem is that various milks have different amounts of fat.

So milk prices now are determined by a number of different factors: the class of milk, the trade value on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange; federal pricing guidelines and dairy agreements under the North America Free Trade Agreement.

Farmers in New York said they are trying wade through all the different circumstances — and trying to stem the tide until milk prices come back.

"In the worst situations, they have to borrow money and go into debt for the year," Simonetty, of Hudson Valley Fresh Dairy, said.

"The problem with that is they can never pay it back because the prices never get high enough extra income to pay back the debt.

"Some do it, but it's not a good answer."

The raw truth about milk

<http://www.hutchnews.com/news/20180306/raw-truth-about-milk>

Posted Mar 6, 2018 at 7:43 PM

The promised land has been said to be “flowing with milk and honey,” which sounds delicious to me, and our Midwestern land promises to provide a good bit of that nutritional bliss as well.

While Kansas ranks only 16th on a 2016 survey of states’ milk production, that still amounts to over 3.2 billion pounds of milk annually. Most of that milk is produced on dairy farms that are “overwhelmingly family-owned and managed,” according to the USDA. As I’ve mentioned before, while small, local business doesn’t necessarily always equal better, in this case, you are almost guaranteed that both workers and cows are treated better.

Unfortunately, a shocking majority of these family farms have been forced to shut down due to many factors, including unstable milk prices and pressures of large corporations.

Thirty years ago, our state boasted 2,300 dairy farms, but now we have fewer than 300. That’s just another statistic -- until you remember hundreds of families were pushed out of their livelihood, probably leaving behind some of their heritage and dreams in the process.

The family I was going to highlight had to start phasing out of the dairy business just days ago. No more big-eyed Jersey calves frolicking around in the pasture.

That leads me to talk about “pasture-raised” milk vs. pasteurized milk.

People tend to be polarized on issues surrounding dairy products; raw milk is often either the problem or the panacea. Media hype surrounding the nutritional pros and cons of milk consumption in general pelts conflicting information and research results at us daily.

Rivel Soup (sounds like “Rivva Süp”)

Most likely you will either love the warming simplicity of this soup or be unimpressed by its basicness and wonder if you’re missing

something. Technically, I’m closer to the latter option, but I totally relate to Brian’s family’s passion for this bowl of hot milk, since it’s ladled out alongside tradition and memories. To be fair, my family used to make oyster soup on Christmas Eve, and it was literally hot milk, butter, and a can of oysters, and it was special, too.

Prep tips: They all laughed out loud at me when I asked if there was a recipe I could look at. Incidentally, there was, but be assured that you just throw stuff together and it works out.

1 farm-fresh egg

¼ t salt, plus more

all-purpose flour (about ¼ c)

1 qt whole milk

Optional, my additions: lots of cracked black pepper or freshly grated nutmeg; a tablespoon or two of lightly browned butter; substituting in whole-wheat or oat flour, and while you’re at it, a small can of oysters doesn’t hurt.

Beat the egg with a fork, then stir in the salt and enough flour to make a crumbly “dough.” Heat the milk to a simmer, and drop in the crumbs. Let it simmer for a minute or two, until the rivels are cooked. Season to taste and serve piping hot.

I’m not going to get into arguments about nutrient absorption, environmental impact, organic and grass-fed, etc. I do know that commercial homogenization and pasteurization processes actually change the molecular structure of the milk, and in my opinion, that’s a bummer.

While a web of regulations dictates a lot of the way family farms are allowed to handle their milk, it is definitely possible to obtain raw dairy.

The recent popularization of alternate milks has also been a major hit to the dairy

industry. In my house, we call those "malks" or "nut juices."

Honestly, I think they're delicious (don't tell Brian), and extremely humorous as soon as you picture hooking up miniature milkers to an almond. But it's way less cute when you realize their toll on the environment and level of commercial processing.

At any rate, this is where local dairies come in real handy: there is a host of benefits when you can get a product straight from its source.

Plus, focusing on maligning the opposition doesn't do anything about proving your own point.

Local dairies can speak for themselves. Trust me, go find any dairy farmer, and as long as it's not milking or choring time, they'll be more than happy to tell you all about their herd.

Grandpa hasn't lived on the dairy for years now, but some of his clearest and sweetest memories come from out in the barn.

Times have changed a little in the past 90 years, but here we still are, milking cows.

Wool, wheat prices tipped to 'bounce back' after horror year

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/wool-wheat-prices-tipped-to-bounce-back-after-horror-year-20180305-p4z2w8.html>

After a dry year that hit crop production and cut farm incomes in some key growing regions, prices for major Australian agricultural commodities of wool, wheat, cotton and dairy are tipped to rise next financial year and boost farm returns.

Wool prices are tipped to rise further in 2018-19.

The federal government's chief agricultural economics forecaster tips healthy prices rises for the already strong wool price of a further 4 per cent in fiscal 2019 to a hefty \$17 per kilogram, with sheep meat prices tipped to rise 3 per cent.

The average farmgate milk price paid to dairy farmers is tipped to rise 3 per cent to 48 cents per litre, while wheat prices are tipped to rise 6 per cent, but off a low base, to an average of \$US234 per tonne in 2018-19.

But the latest forecasts from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences reveal the scale of the hit to the farm sector in fiscal 2018 from the dry conditions that cut farm revenues as crops withered in key grain growing regions of New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

Total farm production is tipped to fall to \$59 billion in fiscal 2018, down from an estimated \$62.3 billion the previous year.

Survey data collected by ABARES also gives a snapshot of how the lower production has affected the returns of Australian farmers.

ABARES's Agricultural Commodities report for the March Quarter says "farm cash income" is forecast to average \$191,000 per broadacre farm, down from \$212,600 for 2016-17. But ABARES says the result for last financial year "was the highest farm cash income recorded over the past 20 years".

The value of total farm production in 2016-17, of \$62.3 billion, was in fact a national record as favourable seasonal conditions produced bumper grain crops, while strong wool, sheepmeat and beef prices coincided with favourable pasture growing and hay production conditions.

Chief commodity analyst at ABARES, Peter Gooday, said the expected 5 per cent fall in the total value of farm production in 2017-18 was due to less favourable seasonal conditions than in the "bumper year" of 2016-17.

"But the value of farm production's still high. For 2018-19 our forecast is about 11 per cent higher than the average over the previous five years, so that's still high," he said.

Mr Gooday said that 2018-19 was shaping up as "a bounce back after this year" for Australian agricultural production.

The ABARES report tips farm exports in the current financial year of \$47.23 billion, which are forecast to rise to \$48.48 billion in fiscal 2019.

On beef prices, Mr Gooday said the US was moving to higher production, increasing competition in Australian export markets.

"We're thinking that's going to keep prices for beef below the recent highs that were associated with US production bottoming out in 2015-16," he said.

Sheepmeat and wool prices had a strong outlook, he said.

"Their prices are already high, and it looks like supply is not going to be able to keep up with demand, which will push the price up further," he said.

The ABARES report uses some key assumptions for its number-crunching including an Australian Dollar averaging US76 cents for 2018-19, world economic growth of 3.7 per cent in fiscal 2019 and normal seasonal conditions.