



Mi  
Milk  
Maidens

# Monthly Musings



DECEMBER 2008 / JANUARY 2009

## Share Prices Reduced

Back in our August newsletter, during the time when gas prices had increased to around \$4/gallon, we decided that we needed to raise our share prices in the last quarter of the year (October—December) to cover the extra delivery costs. We said that at the end of the year we would reevaluate and see how things were going, before the new agreements were due in January. Now that gas prices have gone back down, we are sticking to our word and lowering the

share prices back down.

**So in January, the monthly share prices will go back down to \$27.** Please remember that the new annual membership agreements and \$25 membership fees are due on or before your first January delivery.

If gas prices go up again to above \$4/gallon, we'll need to look at raising the share price again, but hopefully that won't happen! Keep fingers crossed!

We want to thank everyone for your support in what we're doing to help you get what you need from your cows. If you ever have questions or suggestions, please be sure to let us know. We have families just like you do, and we try to do our best to accommodate others within our own abilities and time limits. Thanks, and we hope you enjoy your holidays!

## Members Only Online

Kristi has finally created a Members Only section on our website! Members may log in with the username "xxxxx" and the password "xxxxx". Please don't share this information with your friends—this is for our current members only, and the password will be changed occasionally (we'll let you know). From this members only section, you can do the following:

- View our monthly delivery calendar (so you know who is delivering when).
- View and print current membership agreements and delivery information.
- View maps to all of our delivery locations.
- Get cell phone #'s for both Shawn and Kristi, so you can contact us directly.
- Pay for your monthly shares online via paypal (with a small fee to cover pp fees).

Nothing too fancy, but it's something new, and if you have suggestions for improving our website, please let us know, as all ideas are welcome.

## Tastes Can Change

You've probably heard the old adage, "you are what you eat". Most of us know that very well, which is why we are part of this membership in the first place. What we put into our bodies makes a difference.

On that note, the same goes for our cows. One of the joys of owning our own cows is that we can sometimes actually taste the changes of the seasons in our milk. When the cows are out on fresh grass, which is most of the year, the taste of the milk is fairly consistent, unless they find a

patch of tasty onion or clover. As winter approaches and the cows graduate to a diet of hay, alfalfa, and corn silage (no soy is ever given to our cows), their stomachs gradually adjust to this new food and the taste of the milk will probably change (hopefully also gradually). Then in the spring as the cows start birthing their new calves, the milk we share with those calves (they are left with their mamas to nurse, unlike large dairies who remove the calves within the first few hours) will be full of the nutrients that the new calves need at birth. We

may taste that change, too.

This information is mainly for new members who have joined over the summer and who haven't yet experienced a winter on fresh milk. Past members know what I'm talking about. Some taste changes are more, shall we say, extreme, than others. However, our farmer is doing his best to adjust their diet gradually, and he tastes milk from each pull, so he will notice any taste changes as well. Again, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

## Notices

- All deliveries for the December and January holidays will be as regularly scheduled, **except for Wednesday, Dec. 24th in Portage—this delivery has been rescheduled to Friday, Dec. 26th, from 4:00—4:30.**
- **New members agreements and annual membership fees (\$25)** are due on or before your first delivery in January.
- Your regular share amounts will be carried over into January unless you tell us otherwise.