



Department of Agriculture  
Measurement Standards  
Kings County, Hanford, CA





Our Programs, Your Breakthroughs

## ***Stress, Anger, Depression and Suicide Prevention in the Dairy Industry***

***September 25, 2012 8:30-10:30 AM***

***Dr. Robert Fetsch***

College of

# Applied Human Sciences

## Colorado State University



### **Closures hit the dairy industry**





### **Feed costs push Valley dairies to brink**





### **California dairies shut as milk price stayed below production cost**

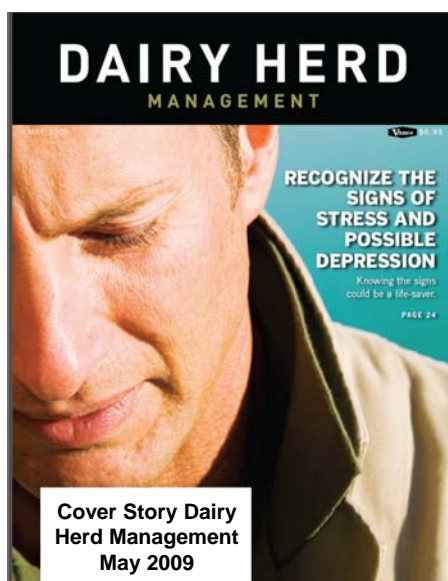




**UPDATED: Dairy farmers say farm closures are continuing to rise**

Issue Date: August 22, 2012  
By Ching Lee

UPDATE posted Aug. 22  
The California Department of Food and Agriculture has denied a request for an emergency hearing to consider temporarily raising the price of milk paid to California dairy farmers and other changes to the state milk pricing



*The economic downturn has been with the dairy industry since before the 2008-2009 downturn.*

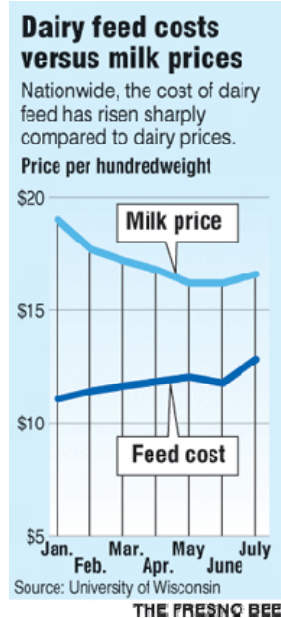
### 2009 Average:

Cost of production:  
\$16.86 / cwt

Cost paid to farmers:  
\$10.81 / cwt

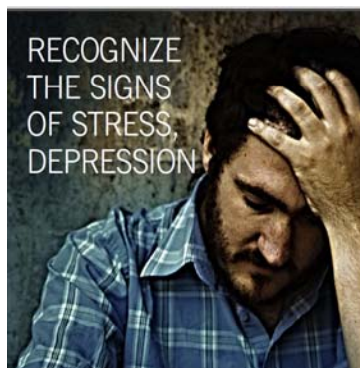
### Central Features of Dairy Losses

- Price of milk paid to dairy farmers is set by regulation.
- Cost of production of milk has exceeded price paid to producers.
- 2008-2009 many producers borrowed heavily when milk prices collapsed.
- Milk price increases have not kept pace with feed costs.
- Roughly half of dairy operational costs are feed.
- Feed prices in 2008 – 20011 highest ever.



## Effects of economic losses...

- San Joaquin valley bankruptcies
  - 10 in 2010
  - 24 in 2011
  - 28 in first ½ 2012
- Many more bankruptcies expected this year.
- One feed company has > 150 dairies on COD basis.
- Many more producers simply leaving the business.
- 2008 to 2011 the state has lost 283 dairies, 15% reduction
- Several producer suicides since 2008.



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