

News

Wednesday 15 July, 2009

You are in: Home > Dairy

Email Newsletters

Browse news by type:

All Livestock Arable Dairy Poultry Machinery Business Local



Dairy farmers protest as new MEPs meet in Strasbourg

14/07/2009 11:55:00

FWi

Thousands of dairy farmers from across Europe gathered in Strasbourg on Tuesday morning (14 July) to vent their anger at the continued slump in EU milk prices.

The demonstration, organised by the **European Milk Board**, was timed to coincide with the **opening session of the new European Parliament** following last month's elections.

Producer prices have slumped by around 25% over the past 12 months and most EU dairy farmers are receiving just 20-22 cents/litre (17.5-19p/litre) - way below the cost of production.

"As an immediate measure, we demand that at least 5% of the milk quota be frozen," said EMB president Romuald Schaber. This, he claimed, would bring supply and demand in Europe into better balance, leading eventually to fairer producer prices.

The EU Commission has consistently rejected the idea of cutting quota, arguing that production is already below this artificial ceiling and quota no longer exerts an impact on the market.

But it has recently proposed extending the availability of intervention purchasing for butter and skimmed milk powder, to provide a base level of support for the market.

And yesterday (13 July) in Brussels, **EU agriculture ministers** agreed to the proposal, which will see intervention stay open until the end of August 2010, instead of closing next month.

Some ministers also wanted to increase export refunds for cheese, just as refunds for butter and powder have been increased in recent months. But EU agriculture commissioner **Mariann Fischer Boel** said this could be interpreted as dumping, and would be in breach of the EU's WTO commitments.

So far this year the EU has taken in 81,000t of butter and 231,000t of skimmed milk powder, based on a system of tenders.

Author: Philip Clarke

Keeping up to date? **FWi newsletters direct to your e-mail** will keep you in the picture.

A screenshot of the Opodo travel search website. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Flights' (highlighted), 'Hotels', and 'Cars'. To the right of these tabs is the 'opodo' logo. Below the tabs, there is a large image of two women in red dresses running joyfully on a grassy field under a clear blue sky. The overall theme of the page is travel and tourism.

A yellow advertisement for 'Gatekeeper'. The word 'Gatekeeper' is written in large blue letters at the top. Below it, there is a photograph of a green and white tractor in a field. To the left of the tractor, the word 'Farmplan' is written in blue, with the tagline 'The business tool you can trust' underneath. The overall theme is agricultural business.

Spread the word: bookmark it! diggit! reddit!

SAVE 20% TODAY ON FARMERS WEEKLY

Join over 70,000 readers and stay up-to-date with what's happening in the Farming industry. Subscribe here and save 20% on Farmers Weekly.

Printer Friendly Email a friend Sign up to our emails