U.S. Dairy Sector at Crossroads

2019 Midsouth Ruminant Nutrition Conference

Grapevine, TX August 7, 2019 Dr. Marin Bozic

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Driven to Discover⁵⁴

















Changes in size and management/financing model

- 1) "large farms" → multi-site dairy agribusinesses
- "family ownership" → nonfamily partnerships
- external equity financing → no longer relying solely on retained earnings for expansions
- No longer constrained to one milkshed → necessary to escape local processing capacity constraints
- Larger % of milk by dairies that are not 'lastgeneration' dairies → exists are increasingly involuntary



10









Year	3%	7%	10%	15%
2018	37,468	37,468	37,468	37,468
2019	36,344	34,845	33,721	31,848
2020	35,254	32,406	30,349	27,071
2021	34,196	30,138	27,314	23,010
2022	33,170	28,028	24,583	19,559
2023	32,175	26,066	22,124	16,625
2024	31,210	24,241	19,912	14,131
2025	30,274	22,545	17,921	12,011
2026	29,365	20,966	16,129	10,210
2027	28,484	19,499	14,516	8,678
2028	27,630	18,134	13,064	7,376
2029	26,801	16,864	11,758	6,270
2030	25,997	15,684	10,582	5,330

Block-Barrel Spread is hurting Upper Midwest dairy producers

















Golden era of U.S. exports lasted until 2015, when EU abolished milk quotas

Exports gro	Exports growth as % of milk production growth				
Period	Milk-Fat Basis	Skim-Solids Basis			
2007-2017	13%	59%			
2007-2014	34%	79%			
2014-2017	-31%	18%			



To keep the U.S. dairy herd stable, U.S. needs to exports 40-50% of incremental skim solids (protein & lactose). The single most important reason why U.S. dairy producers did not enjoy decent profit margins since 2015 are languishing exports. Without exports, markets need to depress the milk price sufficiently to incentivize herd contraction.



















South China Morning Post

Top US negotiator Robert Lighthizer 'read Chinese the riot act' to get trade talks back on track, Larry Kudlow says

House economic adviser • Kudlow appeared optimistic during an interview on CNBC, citing 'terrific' progress in talks





"Our Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably depart to their habitations, or their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act made in the first year of King George the First for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies."

GOD SAVE THE KING



Does U.S. still have a primary strategic adversary?

If that is China, what is strategy for the new Cold War?







18



The world we face

- Causes:
 - change in strategic adversary and optimal neutralization strategy (Russia to China)
 - Advances in artificial intelligence / robotics and impact on labor force
 - Energy independence
 - Aging population in countries providing cheap labor (e.g. China)
- Consequences:
 - Withdrawal from Trans Pacific Partnership and Paris Climate Agreement
 - Making conciliatory overtures to North Korea, abandoning Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan
 - New aggressively negotiated bilateral and regional trade agreements: South Korea, USMCA, Japan. Southeast Asia may follow
 - Trump wins 2nd term

Implications for dairy

- USMCA will go through, tariffs will be dropped, exports to Mexico will resume, likely already in 2019
- FTA with Japan in 2019 or 2020
- FTA with Britain in 2020 on U.S. terms
- 50% chance of deal with China in short-term. Strict implementation mechanism –U.S. to start making noise again after 2020 presidential elections
- Global recession coming soon (2020-21?) global demand for dairy may be affected. U.S. may *not* import the recession.



Dairy Margin Coverage is a *massive* improvement over MPP













The road ahead

- Global and US Milk Production slowing, prices expected \$1-\$1.50 higher in 2019 vs 2018.
- Productivity gains, changes in dairy production models, liberalization of milk production in EU and trade disorders are factors driving consolidation in U.S.
- Recent changes in U.S. dairy safety net will likely slow down U.S. consolidation rates in Q4 2019 and later. As small dairy farms (under 300 cows) start feeling less pressure to exit, medium-size farms (500-2000 cows) will carry more of the burden for matching supply and demand, and we may see higher exit rate in this category.
- Adverse block barrel spread will continue to burden Minnesota, and to some extent Wisconsin dairy sectors – regional exit rates likely to stay higher than national.

