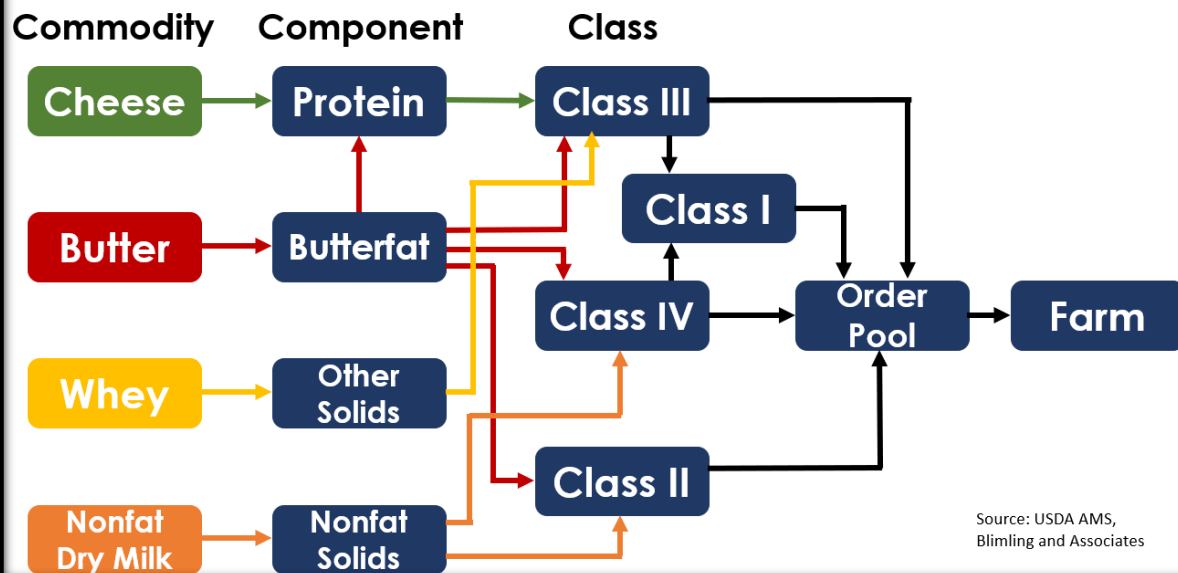


**Product shortage:** Inforce 3, the intranasal vaccine many of you use for young calves has been on extremely limited supply. We have been providing drop ship clients with product out of our inventory. We are almost out of the single dose trays. Several other viral vaccines from Zoetis are also limited in supply and similarly, we have some product in inventory in the clinic that we can provide you with. Merck offers a new intranasal vaccine that provides protection for the same respiratory diseases and has a line of vaccines similar to the Bovi Shield 8- and 9-way combinations. Discuss your options with your herd health vet.

**Figure 2. Commodity Value Flows in Pricing**



How about this chart for being busy? It does put some focus on the interplay of what happens to your milk after it leaves the farm and the complexity of trying to get milk priced according to market usage.

Did you know that from 1840 until 1860 wheat was the number one crop in Wisconsin? At that time, Wisconsin produced 1/6 of the wheat in the United States. However by the 1860's, cinch bugs and rust destroyed the crop which gave rise to dairy farming.

The first cheese plant in Wisconsin was located in Fond du Lac county in Ladoga, which is at the intersection of highway 26 and TC just down the road from Dr. Mark's home. It was built in 1864.

➡ Recent work from University of Minnesota involving 7 large herds with 30,000-pound herd averages showed that cross bred cows were the most profitable in their lifetime. The optimal cross was a three-way cross. Increased profitability was obtained from longevity, increased milk components, lower health costs, lower death loss, and higher fertility.

## COVID is like a foreign animal disease

I am part of the last generation to have experienced childhood diseases. Mumps, measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough, among other diseases, ran rampant through the schools and local neighborhoods. Families were larger, contributing more kids of various ages to the school system, thus allowing the diseases to spread more rapidly. Even the polio vaccine was introduced while I was in school. I can remember my mother not letting us eat anything at the county fair because of her fear of polio. I knew a kid that survived polio but was crippled because of it.

COVID is not close to being in the same league with prior pandemics. The reason so many people are dying is that COVID is a new disease to our population. If COVID had existed before I was born, I would have contracted it while in grade school when I contracted measles and chicken pox, and I would be immune. Even if I were exposed again when I had kids, my immunity would keep me from getting extremely sick. There are a few young people dying from COVID, but there used to be young people dying from measles. The Native American population got wiped out with diseases that came from Europe that they had no immunity to.

I am 65 with asthma and I take blood pressure meds. I am at a much higher risk of getting really sick than my 22-year-old kid who thought he had a cold, felt fine, and then tested positive for COVID.

My prediction is that with a vaccine, COVID will fade away becoming a background disease and influenza, which constantly reinvents itself, will go back to killing a lot more people every year than COVID.

COVID gives us a lesson on what will happen if a foreign animal disease escapes into the United States food animal population. Diseases like Foot and Mouth are a lot more contagious than COVID. This may be because the number of virus particles needed to cause infection is lower, and also because Foot and Mouth survives in the environment for a long time. Go to a farm in Africa with Foot and Mouth, bring your clothing home, and your clothing can infect your livestock for weeks. African Swine Fever has wiped out a large part of the Chinese swine population and it appears to be considerably more contagious than COVID. Currently the United States is trying to contain a disease called Newcastle which is spreading through backyard and pet chickens in California (Seems to me a lot of serious problems arise in California, the land of fruits and nuts).

I am working on our PPP loan forgiveness application. If you are doing this yourself, allot plenty of time and plan on some frustration. Also, you might want to get several opinions on how to proceed because I was told two different scenarios. I am going to pass on the situation as presented by my CPA. The PPP loan is not taxed as income if it is forgiven. In order to be forgiven, the loan requires a huge pile of supporting documents including payroll registers, 941 reports, rental contracts, and utility bills if rent expenses and utility expenses are used to justify the loan. THE CAVETE for the loan being forgiven and not taxed is the expenses used to justify the loan are not deductible. So, in our case, 100% of the loan went to payroll. With a \$50,000 loan, when we do taxes, our payroll deduction for 2020 will be reduced by the \$50,000. The net effect is that the loan WILL pass through as taxable income and it will take a special act of congress to change this. Also, because the loan was for payroll in 2020, even if you wait to get forgiveness in 2021, according to my CPA, you will lose the deductions in 2020. If you take the deductions in 2020 and get the loan forgiven in 2021 you will be required to file amended returns for 2020 and pay taxes due on loan amount.

