



DRAFT Meetings Minutes of the Milk Marketing Advisory Council
Held via WebEx
Friday, October 22, 2021, 1:00 am – 4:00 pm

Members Attending:

Chair A. Novakovic, T. Van Slyke, C. Noble, E. Schoen, C. Alexander, C. Laughton, D. Shelmidine, R. Naczi, P. O'Brien, C. Wolf, S. Marshman, B. Keating, A. Thomas, J. Huson, B. Wallis, C. De Ronde, E. Gallagher, M. Wiedmann, M. Barnes

Others attending: R. Zimmermann, L. Bailey, J. Suarez, E. Wolters, D. Grusenmeyer

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Staff Present:

Commissioner Ball, J. Trodden, L. Canter, D. DelCogliano

Disclaimer: This was a public meeting and procedure followed all rules set forth in Open Meetings Law. Meetings were recorded and posted on the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets website, along with meeting minutes and additional materials presented. Use the following link to access the webpage: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/milk-marketing-advisory-council>

1. Opening Remarks:

Chair, A. Novakovic welcomed all and thanked Commissioner Ball and the Department of Agriculture and Markets for the work they do.

Commissioner Ball welcomed all and gave updates on the following topics:

- Commissioner Ball informed the council that Governor Hochul is very familiar with agriculture and is interested in helping the agricultural industry in NYS.
- Tri-National Accord will be hosted in Washington DC the week of October 25th and Commissioner Ball will be presiding over the delegation and dairy will be a topic of discussion.
- Pat Hooker retired as Deputy Secretary for Food and Agriculture. Kevin King has taken this position and Nicole Leblond has moved into the Deputy Commissioner role that Kevin vacated. The hiring freeze has been lifted and the Department will be able to replenish staff that has been lost.

Deputy Commissioner Trodden thanked everyone for joining and shared an update regarding Danone NA shifting their processing focus and the affect this has had on NYS producers. Deputy Commissioner Trodden informed the council that the Department continues to engage with the interested parties to find a market for the affected farms. The regulatory requirement notice is 30 days, but the effected farms received a 12-month notice, which gives more time to find new markets. Deputy Commissioner Trodden also informed the council of a letter sent, by the Department, to Secretary Vilsack asking him to close the loop on the livestock of origin rule that exist in the national organic standard. Secretary Vilsack has indicated that he does plan on closing this loop early next year. He has spearheaded a northeast regional taskforce to look at the organic market. Council members were directed to contact Deputy Commissioner Trodden if interested in becoming involved in this taskforce. Lastly, the letter also asked Secretary Vilsack for the modernization of the TEFAP program.

2. **Dairy “Think Tank” Overview and Next Steps:**

Deputy Commissioner Trodden presented on the “Think Tank” initiative. *Please see the recorded presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

3. **2020 Northeast Dairy Farm Summary:**

C. Laughton presented on the Farm Credit East Dairy Farm Summary. *Please see the recorded presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

4. **NYS Funded Dairy Support/Services Discussion:**

- a. J. Suarez presented on Cornell’s Pro-Dairy, Dairy Advancement, Agriculture Workforce Development, NY FarmNet, Dairy Foods Extension, Small Farms, Organic Dairy Task Force, and Degree Programs.
- b. D. Grusenmeyer presented on the Farm Viability Institute Programs, such as the Selective Dry Cow Therapy Project, the Stem Cell treatment of mastitis to decrease the use of antibiotics, and dairy product development projects.
- c. Deputy Commissioner Trodden opened the topic to the council for discussion.

Please see the recorded presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.

5. **Federal Policy Discussion:**

Chair A. Novakovic asked various council members to give overviews on federal programs that focus on price and income support, as well as demand.

Additionally, he asked producers on the MMAC to help identify what is, and isn't, working. *Please see the recorded presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

6. **DPO Update:**

L. Bailey gave a presentation on the Dairy Promotion Order activities. *Please see the recorded presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

7. **Closing Remarks:**

Commissioner Ball welcomed Catherine de Ronde and Bethany Wallis to the council. The Commissioner stated that processing capacity remains an area that the Department is committed to. Furthermore, labor is a limiting factor that's not just a NY issue, but a national one and it needs to be advanced. Commissioner Ball ended by thanking everyone for their time and the great discussion.

8. **Meeting adjourned**

Chair A. Novakovic adjourned the meeting at 4pm.

Attachments:

1. Dairy "Think Tank" Materials
2. 2020 Northeast Dairy Farm Summary Materials
3. NYS Dairy Support Materials
4. Dairy Promotion Order Materials