



Milk Marketing Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Held at NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Albany Office and via WebEx

Monday, March 21, 2022, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Members Attending:

Chair A. Novakovic, C. Alexander, M. Barnes, M. Broadhurst, J. Davenport, C. de Ronde, A. Gabriel, M. Johnson, S. Marshman, E. Ooms, R. Naczi, C. Noble, P. O'Brien, D. Shelmidine, L. Webster, C. Wolf, E. Wolters

Others attending:

J. Barber, J. Dean, A. Kealy, J. Suarez, M. Wiedmann

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Staff Present:

Commissioner Ball, J. Trodden, J. Kraft, C. McCue, B. Steinmuller, 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, Trade, Federal Action, State Budget:

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:

- Attended the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Winter Policy meeting in February in Washington, D.C. where Commissioner Ball, with Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, submitted an action item related to workforce development that was passed unanimously.
- Shared updates from the Tri-National Accord.
- Visited the U.K. with group from NASDA and met with chief negotiators for trade and the Minister of Agriculture to discuss the potential of a free trade agreement with New York State.
- Provided an update on New York agriculture's climate efforts and work to ensure New York State is aligned with Washington.
- Updated group on meeting with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and USDA's rollout of nutrition security.

- Shared that the State is undergoing its budget process. The Governor's proposed budget is allocating the largest amount for agriculture in New York State history.

2. CLCPA Overview:

B. Steinmuller presented on New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), providing a summary of the process to develop recommendations through the Climate Action Council's Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel (AFAP) and current recommended strategies developed by the AFAP, as well as an overview of the Draft Scoping Plan and information about how to access the document and provide comments and input into the plan and process. *Please see the PowerPoint presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

3. 2022 Dairy Outlook:

C. Wolf presented on the 2022 Dairy Outlook, providing insight into milk, dairy, fertilizer and feed prices, U.S. milk production and the number of dairy cows over the last several years and into the coming year. *Please see the PowerPoint presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

4. Federal Subsidies:

J. Barber and J. Dean presented on federal subsidies, explaining the recent changes to the DMC program and providing overviews of the Farm Storage Facility Loan program, Market Assistance Loan program and disaster programs for which dairy farmers may be eligible. *Please see the PowerPoint presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

5. Federal Policy Prospects:

Chair A. Novakovic lead the council's discussion on federal policy prospects, including the upcoming Farm Bill in 2023 and Federal Milk Marketing Orders. Novakovic asked E. Wolters and E. Ooms to provide comments on the Farm Bill, and asked J. Davenport, C. de Ronde and C. Wolf to provide comments on Federal Milk Marketing Orders.

Farm Bill Discussion:

- E. Wolters stated that New York Farm Bureau currently has internal working groups to initiate an action plan for the Farm Bill, but these working groups are still in the beginning stages. Wolters also stated that for the first time there is a baseline for dairy priorities and that priorities for organizations and farmers remain similar, but an emphasis on those priorities will depend on the mid-term elections.

- E. Ooms stated that one main priority continues to be immigration and labor reform.
- C. de Ronde stated that some of the priorities for dairy-oriented legislation include federal orders, food nutrition, climate and immigration. De Ronde commented that DMC is working well, and those changes should stay.
- J. Davenport stated that dairy has a lot to offer and gain on climate policy. Davenport also commented that New York learned the importance of localizing food chains during COVID, and more diversity should be built into programs at the federal level.
- Commissioner Ball stated that there will be hearings in New York State this year to discuss priorities for the Farm Bill. Commissioner Ball commented that hearings for the last Farm Bill were very successful.

Federal Milk Marketing Orders Discussion:

- J. Davenport stated that one issue that could be addressed with federal orders is the decoupling of Class 1 from international commodities. Davenport also commented that the U.S. needs to keep a less volatile fluid milk price.
- C. de Ronde stated that making changes to federal orders need to be thought out and the intersections and consequences of changes need to be discussed and understood. De Ronde commented that hearings may be a better way to make changes as opposed to making changes through Congress.
- C. Wolf stated that there are a few members of Congress that want things to move more quickly, and while the hearing process is thorough, it moves quite slowly. Wolf also commented that priorities for federal orders will change depending on who is in charge, and they differ from region to region. Wolf also commented that federal milk marketing orders may be getting blamed for issues for which they are not responsible, and some of the suggestions are to make changes to things the orders are not intended to do.
- E. Ooms stated that we may be expecting things of orders that were never intended. Ooms commented that it wouldn't hurt to tweak the orders, but it becomes more complicated when you involve people with different priorities, and the situation where the issue becomes a political football must be avoided. Ooms also commented that the orders were never intended to turn a profit, the orders were intended to ensure the movement of milk.
- Gabriel stated that IDFA is forming a position and National Milk is trying to form a position, but the industry is fractured depending on region. Gabriel commented that a lot of concerns are with volatility.
- C. de Ronde stated that National Milk has created a task force and the pace has been good over the last six weeks. De Ronde shared that Secretary Vilsack has said consensus on this issue is mandatory.

6. Dairy Think Tank – Workforce Development Update:

J. Kraft presented on the Dairy Think Tank's workforce development activities, including an overview of the Think Tank's March meeting, presentation of the group's action items, and a summary of the workforce needs surveys developed by the Think Tank. *Please see the PowerPoint presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

7. Closing Remarks:

Commissioner Ball ended the meeting by thanking everyone for the great discussion.

8. Meeting adjourned.

Chair A. Novakovic adjourned the meeting at 4:36 pm.

Attachments:

1. CLCPA Presentation Materials
2. 2022 Dairy Outlook Presentation Materials
3. Federal Subsidies Presentation Materials
4. Dairy Think Tank Presentation Materials