

**Apple Marketing Order (AMO) Advisory Board  
Conference Call Minutes  
Final Budget Determination Meeting  
NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets  
Albany, NY**

**June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**In Attendance**

**Advisory Board Members:** Ward Dobbins (Chairman), Rod Dressel, Kaari Stannard, Gary Orbaker, Emily Verbridge, Bill Abdo

**AGM Staff:** Bill Shattuck, Emily Cook, Jacqueline Boyer, Kelly Young

**Absent**

Advisory Board Members: Randall Pratt

Meeting called to order by Chairman W. Dobbins at 2:06 PM

**Board Member Reports**

Board members reported on their individual operation and NY apple production at large.

Overall consensus from the Board is that a freeze event in May 2023 impacted apple production significantly. While the damage experienced is sporadic and dependent on geographical location and duration of freeze, preliminary statewide estimates for crop loss are in the 25% - 30% range at this point. Fruit that was beginning to blossom due to early season high temperatures was damaged by extended periods of below-freezing temperatures. Wayne County and the Mid-Hudson Valley seemed to be hit the hardest, with some growing operations losing 50% of their crop and up due to the freeze (some even had close to total loss). This has been accounted for in Apple Marketing Order assessment projections for the year ahead.

**W. Dobbins:** May freeze caused significant crop loss. Expecting 75% of last year's harvested crop (25% anticipated drop year-to-year). Expecting lower pack-out. Other than freeze, minimal adverse weather at this point in the season (minimal hail, could use a bit more rain, proper irrigation is essential). Beyond freeze event, expecting a fair season.

**R. Dressel:** Bloom began in March due to higher temps early in the season, although 4 frost events since. Expecting half of last year's crop/ harvest (50% anticipated drop in production year-to-year). Crop insurance "not much help", as it does not nearly cover all losses incurred. Snap Dragon apples hit hard by freeze, Empires are extremely light. Hudson Valley in general hit very hard by the freeze, especially U-Pick operations, many of which are having to close down for the entire season. Would be surprised if 50% of prior year crop is sustained. The extent of fruit russeting is yet to be seen. While there is no



