



**Milk Marketing Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Held at the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse and via WebEx  
Friday, December 6, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Members Attending: Chair C. Wolf, J. Davenport, D. Fisher, C. Laughton, G. Lazara, T. Van Slyke, E. Gallagher, J. Krzysiak Smith, D. Shelmidine

Others attending: A. Jones-Brimmer, N. Martin, A. Oeser, T. Burgess, M. Davis, K. Kimball, B. McConnell, C. Elrod, M. Howlett, G. Nye, T. Pelcher

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Staff Present: Commissioner Ball, Deputy Commissioner K. Howard, C. McCue, A. Giuliano, C. Gravelle, E. Peila

Members attending via Webex: C. de Ronde, E. Schoen, M. Barnes, S. Marshman, A. Walsh, A. Galindo, C. Noble, J. Suarez

Others attending via Webex: L. Hernandez, H. Moyal, L. Ginsberg, S. Terzo

Disclaimer: This was a public meeting and procedure followed all rules set forth in Open Meetings Law. The meeting was 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:** Commissioner Ball, Deputy Commissioner Howard and Chair Wolf provided opening remarks.
2. **Discussion Topic #1:** Dairy Workforce Challenges Discussion – introduction by: Laura Ginsberg (Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center) *Please see the PowerPoint presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.* Group discussion facilitated by Deputy Commissioner Howard.
3. **Lunch Break:** The meeting temporarily paused for a lunch break.
4. **Discussion Topic #2:** Dairy Transportation Challenges Discussion – facilitated by Tonya Van Slyke (NEDPA). Panelists included: Barney McConnell (DFA), Mike Davis (Upstate Niagara), Gary Nye (Alnye), Keith Kimball (NEDPA Chair), Charlie Elrod, (NEAFA Vice President) and Michael Howlett (Howlett Farms). *Please see the PowerPoint presentation on the MMAC website, which is*

*referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*

5. **Discussion Topic #3:** Dairy Outlook – presenters: Ed Gallagher (DFA), Catherine de Ronde (AgriMark) and Jodi Smith Krzysiak (Upstate Niagara). *Please see the PowerPoint presentation on the MMAC website, which is referenced in the Disclaimer section above.*
6. **Public Comment Opportunity:** The public comment period including discussion among members and attendees regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cattle and the recently-announced national milk testing strategy.
7. **Closing Remarks:** Commissioner Ball, Deputy Commissioner Howard and Chair Wolf provided closing remarks.
8. **Meeting adjourned:** Commissioner Ball ended by thanking everyone for the great discussion and adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

**Attachments:**

1. Workforce Impact Fund Presentation – Laura Ginsberg (Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center)
2. Dairy Transportation Panel Presentation – facilitated by Tonya Van Slyke (NEDPA). Panelists included: Barney McConnell (DFA), Mike Davis (Upstate Niagara), Gary Nye (Alnye), Keith Kimball (NEDPA Chair), Charlie Elrod, (NEAFA Vice President) and Michael Howlett (Howlett Farms)
3. Dairy Economic Outlook Presentation – Ed Gallagher (DFA), Catherine de Ronde (AgriMark) and Jodi Smith Krzysiak (Upstate Niagara)