

PENNSYLVANIA DAIRY FUTURE COMMISSION OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission (the result of Act 66) was signed by Governor Wolf in July 2019. The Commission was responsible for reviewing the status of Pennsylvania's dairy industry and making recommendations to support its future, including reviewing processing; production; marketing; current issues facing the industry; statutory, regulatory, and local government impacts in the industry; and other aspects, identified by the Commission. On July 31, 2020, the Commission submitted the report of findings and recommendations to the Governor and legislative leadership.

COMMISSIONERS

Brett Reinford, Reinford Farms, Juniata Co., Chair; Erick Coolidge, Le-Ma-Re Farms & County Commissioner, Tioga Co.; Secretary Russell Redding, PA Department of Agriculture; Deputy Secretary Greg Hostetter, Designee; Secretary Dennis Davin, PA Department of Community & Economic Development; Jared Grissinger, Designee; Secretary C. Daniel Hassel, PA Department of Revenue; Deputy Secretary Bryan Barbin, Designee; Secretary Yassmin Gramian, PA Department of Transportation; Jonathan Fleming, Designee; Secretary Patrick McDonnell, PA Department of Environmental Protection; Doug Goodlander, Designee; Brian Chalfant, Designee; Sen. Judy Ward, PA Senate; Rep. Johnathan Hershey, PA House; Gary Truckenmiller, Dry Run Dairy, Northumberland Co.; Steve Turner, Turner Dairy Farms, Allegheny Co.; Lisa Graybeal, Graywood Farms, Lancaster Co.; Doug Harbach, Schrack Family Farm, Clinton Co., Chair of Farm-Level Subcommittee; Carissa Itle-Westrick, Vale Wood Farms, Cambria Co., Chair of Consumer-Level Subcommittee; Sen. Elder Vogel, Majority Chair, PA Senate Ag & Rural Affairs Committee; Matt Parido, Designee; Sen. Judy Schwank, Minority Chair, PA Senate Ag & Rural Affairs Committee; William Evans, Designee; Rep. Martin Causer, Majority Chair, PA House Ag & Rural Affairs Committee; Kerry Golden, Designee; Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski, Minority Chair, PA House Ag & Rural Affairs Committee; Destiny Zeiders, Designee; Dr. Carol Hardbarger, PA Milk Marketing Board; Jayne Sebright, Center for Dairy Excellence; David Swartz, Penn State University; Glenn Stoltzfus, Pennwood Farms, Somerset Co., Chair of State-Level Subcommittee, PA Farm Bureau Designee; Mary Kandray-Gelenser, Center for Rural PA; Dina Zug, Zugstead Farm, Juniata Co., Chair of Market-Level Subcommittee, PA State Grange Designee*

**Retired, new designee assigned*

PROCESS

The Commission first convened on September 3, 2019 and worked diligently until June 2020. Brett Reinford was appointed by the group to serve as Chair. Commissioners organized into four subcommittees, each chaired by a dairy producer, to focus on specific areas of concern:

- Consumer-Level – Opportunities and gaps in marketing milk and dairy products, product innovation, and policies that enable dairy consumers for life
- Farm-Level – Challenges on the farm related to cost of production, reinvestment, and regulations, workforce, succession, and training and education
- Market-Level – Export opportunities and challenges, the need for new investment, and expanding current processing and funding programs
- State-Level – Issues related to government regulation, Federal milk pricing, PMMB, and environmental protection and stewardship

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission approved 54 recommendations, each with issues clearly defined, implementation leaders identified to lead, and suggested feasible timeframes for implementation of 1, 3, or 5 years.

Recommendations are listed on the reverse.

TARGETED FOR IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN

1 YEAR

- 1.1 Extend the PA 17-Day Code for Fluid Milk
- 1.2 Lower the Somatic Cell Count Limit to 400,000
- 1.3 Encourage PA Consumers to Choose Fresh Local Dairy Products
- 1.4 Continue Support for Center for Dairy Excellence
- 1.5 Allow More Flexibility of On-Farm Disposal of Milk During Crisis
- 1.6 Exempt Milk Trucks from Weather Travel Bans
- 1.7 Credit Farms for BMPs When Assessing Stormwater Fees
- 1.8 Connect Ag with Workforce Development Systems
- 1.9 Increase Awareness of DCED Loan Guarantee Program
- 1.10 Enforce the Definition of Milk on Product Labels
- 1.11 Improve the School Milk Experience
- 1.12 Encourage Regulatory Changes to FDA Product Standards of Identity
- 1.13 Support the Fill a Glass with Hope® Campaign to Provide Fresh Milk to Consumers in Need
- 1.14 Improve the Consumer Experience
- 1.15 Support the National Dairy FARM Program or Equivalent
- 1.16 Encourage Broader Utilization of Risk Management Resources
- 1.17 Require Milk Contracts or Member Agreements
- 1.18 Support Dairy Checkoff Initiatives to Increase Innovation & Milk Utilization
- 1.19 Clarify Labeling Practices for Whole Milk
- 1.20 Continue Engagement with State and Federal Government Leaders

3 YEARS

- 3.1 Reduce the Regulatory Burden for Agritourism
- 3.2 Reform State Income Tax Laws for More Consistency with Federal Tax Laws & Regulations
- 3.3 Allow Branded Advertising Partnerships with MilkPEP Dairy Processor Check-Off Program
- 3.4 Promote Agritourism in PA
- 3.5 Increase Support for the PA Agricultural Surplus System
- 3.6 Study Existing Environmental, Zoning & Other Regulations that Impact PA's Ability to Attract Manufacturing & Processing Plants
- 3.7 Utilize Student Loan Forgiveness Program for Individuals Returning to Production Agriculture or a Primarily Production-Agriculture Veterinary Practice
- 3.8 Grow Existing On-Farm Internship & Establish Apprenticeship Programs Within PA Dairy Industry
- 3.9 Incentivize Investment in PA Dairy Farms Through Tax Credits
- 3.10 Provide Additional Funding for Farm Business Succession Facilitators & Farm Team Resources
- 3.11 Enhance Access to New & Beginning Farmer Loan Programs
- 3.12 Incentivize Farmer Participation in Risk Management
- 3.13 Provide Federal Year-Round Guest Worker Visa for Dairy Operations
- 3.14 Expand Dairy Exports Through the Port of Philadelphia
- 3.15 Promote PA Dairy Products in Expanding Global Markets
- 3.16 Enhance Education & Messaging on Economic Impacts of PA's Ag Industries
- 3.17 Encourage Innovation in the PA Dairy Industry
- 3.18 Safeguard the Sustainability of the PA First Industries Fund
- 3.19 Streamline PA Act 167 / NPDES Storm Water Review Process
- 3.20 Repeal PA's Prevailing Wage Requirements for Ag/Dairy Grants
- 3.21 Enable the PMMB to Develop an Additional Revenue Stream for Individual PA Dairy Farms
- 3.22 Enable the PMMB to License Distributors Bringing Out-of-State Milk Into PA for Sale In-State
- 3.23 Address Transparency Issues Surrounding the Distribution of the PA Over Order Premium
- 3.24 Recalculate Class I Differentials within Federal Milk Marketing Order
- 3.25 Change Method in Which Make Allowances are Calculated
- 3.26 Support a Comprehensive Approach to Emergency Preparedness
- 3.27 Expand Education & Workforce Development Within Production Ag
- 3.28 Support a More Robust Extension Dairy Foods Program

5 YEARS

- 5.1 Provide State Assistance to Support a Farm Discovery Center
- 5.2 Expand & Improve Broadband Infrastructure
- 5.3 Enact Clean and Green II: Property Tax Abatement for Investing in Farm Facilities and Improvements
- 5.4 Expand PA's Shelf-Stable Milk Processing Capacity
- 5.5 Eliminate Bloc Voting in the Federal Milk Marketing Order
- 5.6 Encourage Flexibility of Dairy Processing Facilities



TO ACCESS THE FULL REPORT, SUBMIT UPDATES, & TRACK PROGRESS, VISIT:
centerfordairyexcellence.org/pa-dairy-goodness-that-matters/pa-dairy-future-commission-recommendations/

FOR COMMENTS & QUESTIONS ON THE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS, CONTACT:
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