

Minnesota Milk helps meet your Legislators

In the Policy arena, half the battle is getting to know someone before being able to ask them to vote for or against something. That's why Minnesota Milk has a goal to annually meet with 20 legislators for an in-depth discussion beyond just the issues.

An annual activity put together by the Minnesota Milk Policy Committee is Lunch with Legislators. So far in 2017, Minnesota Milk has shared a meal with Representatives Tim Mahoney (D-St. Paul) and Kelly Fenton (R-Woodbury).

Representative Tim Mahoney is a nearly life-long St. Paul resident known for asking tough questions and being a watchdog for taxpayers. His first job after school was as a traveling carnival worker, which he said was an occupation that paid him better than his career as a pipefitter.

Mahoney entered government in 1998, in a heavy DFL district, but with a four-way race in the primary, didn't know if he would win until 8:15 p.m. that night. Mahoney was joined by President Dave Buck, Secretary Marianne Peterson, Executive Director Lucas Sjostrom, and 2017 Intern Kayla Leiding for lunch in August. Mahoney has held a seat on a jobs, labor, or commerce committee for nearly his entire career, and joined the Agriculture Finance and Agriculture Policy committees in 2017.

Mahoney says he trusts farmers are doing the right thing, and supports our state and federal government in providing a safety net to ensure farmers stay in business. But he also looks for accountability and return on the state's investments, and digs deeper for the details in government spending.

A life-long school administrator, Kelly Fenton moved to Minnesota following her husband's architecture career and immediately became a leader in the Minnesota Republican Party, rising to Vice Chair and briefly Chair during an unexpected resignation. When the seat became open in her area, she was asked to run and has held the seat for three years.

Farmers Brad Durow of Hastings and Eric Hoese of Mayer joined Executive Director Lucas Sjostrom and 2017 Intern Kayla Leiding for lunch, also in August. Durow was able to explain how DNR's maps are affecting his land, where one shows a nonexistent river running through a 20-acre field.

Hoese noted how the Livestock Investment Grant and other support for young farmers will allow him to continue to be competitive on his family's farm.

Fenton joined Durow again that day down the road at the Washington County Fair. We thank Fenton for spending part of her evening learning more about his cattle and the intricacies of the show ring.



Rep. Tim Mahoney
(D-St. Paul)



Rep. Kelly Fenton
(R-Woodbury)



- November 7** Spanish Dairy Management Workshop, Waite Park
- November 28-29** Dairy Conference and Expo, Welch
- November 28** MMPA Annual Meeting, Welch
- January 23** Winter Workshop, Perham
- January 24** Winter Workshop, Freeport
- January 25** Winter Workshop, Pipestone
- February 6** Winter Workshop, Rochester
- February 16** Winter Workshop, Hutchinson



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All Directors and their contact information are published at MnMilk.org. Please contact them anytime to learn more about your association and how we're working to advance the success of Minnesota dairy producers.



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Happy 40th Birthday!

By *Lucas Sjostrom*, Executive Director

Congratulations and thank you, Minnesota Milk members. You've made it 40 years!

One of my interests that I want to someday devote much more time to is learning and re-learning our local, state, national and world history. As we opened Redhead Creamery and started farm tours, it was fascinating finding the original deed and census materials along the way to tell the story of our little 300 acres. But, despite my family living on this land since 1983, we all learned quite a bit with just a little study.

The same is true for Minnesota Milk. I learned a ton from Bob Lefebvre and Eir GarciaSilva in my first 11 months on the job. But once I became Executive Director in January, a few of our newer board members asked, "Why do we do that? and Where did that tradition come from?" They were asking for an orientation session for Minnesota Milk, and through the research we all learned quite a bit.

Minnesota Milk actually began at the dissolution of a group in northwest Minnesota called the Red River Valley Milk Pool – a group of people organizing to dump milk in cooperation with the National Farmers Organization. In fact, the organization was so north and west, that the original papers were stamped in Cass County... North Dakota!

A few years after our 1977 start, I learned that the organization dissolved and then restarted – both of which were news to Minnesota Milk veterans Lefebvre and GarciaSilva. At one time, we had members from Canada and Iowa, and for most of our history we had no full-time staff. The first annual meeting in Detroit Lakes featured a young researcher named Mike Hutjens, and talked about the power of pairing policy and education associations with a checkoff group that would focus on promotion. Sound familiar?

While Minnesota Milk looks far different than when it started, what has not changed is our farmer leaders asking to make change where they see it



necessary, through either producer education or policy, strengthened by our engaged and active membership. But I dare say, our best years are ahead of us.

Big Changes in 2017

In addition to a new Executive Director and President, and your new-ish contract for services with Midwest Dairy (now 3 years old), we also are moving to our new Expo venue at Treasure Island Resort and Casino. Be sure to sign up at least a week in advance for FREE registration for Minnesota Milk members (see pages 7-9).

We also will be having more opportunities for input from the membership, by adding committees and/or open forums to be sure we are serving all Minnesota dairy farms.

Finally, as result of our board's strategic planning session, we slightly changed our mission statement. Rather than focusing on Minnesota Dairy Farmers, we are now aiming "To Advance the Success of Minnesota Dairy Farms," recognizing that our farms are often not one or two people anymore. We have a community or family of employees helping take care of the cows and our land.

2017 Minnesota Milk Elections

Also, by October 16, consider running for the Minnesota Milk Board of Directors. We have elections in districts 2, 6, 9, and 11, as well as a state-wide seat. While I enjoy all our current directors, change in leadership can be very healthy for an organization, so consider if you could take the time and thought to be a Minnesota Milk director.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucas Sjostrom".



Lucas Sjostrom
Executive Director



Attendees from across Minnesota's dairy industry, including Minnesota Milk's board and committee members, promotion, milk and genetic cooperatives, academia, state agencies, and others all met in one room to hear updates on current activities from across the dairy community.

This is a word cloud created by the approximately 100 attendees when asked to text in their answer as to "What word describes Minnesota Milk to you?" Larger words represent more of that answer.

Sherry Newell (right) talks with farmers Joe Borgerdering (left) and Pat Lunemann. The June 22 meeting took place with just one week remaining in Newell's career at Midwest Dairy.

Minnesota Dairy Growth Alliance Summit and Summer Escape see Big Crowds

Dairy leaders from associations, Midwest Dairy, milk and genetics cooperatives, and other industry partners were invited to the 2017 Minnesota Dairy Growth Alliance Summit held in St. Paul. Over 100 attendees learned more about the activities undertaken by Minnesota Milk, Midwest Dairy, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, AgCentric/Minnesota State, and the University of Minnesota in an effort to collaborate more and not cross paths. The 15-member Minnesota Dairy Growth Alliance Steering committee looks to meet later this year to find opportunities for collaboration or projects which they should undertake.

After the Summit, about 60 attendees traveled down the street to CHS Field to take in the St. Paul Saints game as part of the 2017 Minnesota Milk Summer Escape. The weather was perfect and the Saints came from behind in late innings to win the game.

Call for Resolution Submissions

Grassroots involvement from our members is vital in achieving our goal of advancing the success of Minnesota dairy producers. As a member, you select the issues and set the direction through your involvement in developing and setting up our Resolutions for the 2018 legislative session. Here's how you can be a part of the process:

- By October 11, review last year's resolutions and let us know if you have any additions, revisions, or concerns. Visit MnMilk.org/Resolutions
- On November 11, visit MnMilk.org to view the proposed 2017 Resolutions approved by your Board of Directors. Contact our office if you would like a copy mailed to you.
- By 12 noon on Monday, November 27, contact Lucas Sjostrom at (320) 249-8701 and lucas@mmilk.org, with any amendments you would like membership to consider. This includes an addition, revision, or deletion of a resolution, allowing staff time to put it in writing for the benefit of the membership-wide vote.
- Attend the Annual Business Meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, to vote on and approve the 2017 Resolutions. We encourage you to be present, engage in the discussion, and be a part of the democratic process to advance your business success.

Staff Member Welcomes Baby

Staff member, Jenna Davis, and her husband, Brad, welcomed their second child on June 27. Ian weighed in at 7 lbs 7 oz, and was 19 inches long. "He is such a happy little baby and brings so much joy to our lives," says Jenna. Big brother, Owen, is excited to share many future adventures with his little brother. Owen already asks his parents, "When will Ian be able to play with me?" The Davis' are thrilled to be raising two little boys and hope to pass on their love of agriculture and dairy to their sons.





USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue (left) greets Minnesota Milk President Dave Buck. The two shared conversation on labor, immigration, and dairy policy.



Past Princess Kay of the Milky Way (center) Haley Hinrichs serves ice cream to attendees during the early August gathering.



Minnesota Farm Bureau president Kevin Paap welcomes dozens of agriculture leaders across the state to his shop as they welcomed Secretary Perdue to Minnesota.

Buck/DePestel meet Secretary Perdue

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue’s “Back to the Roots” tour rolled through Minnesota with a stop at Farm Bureau President Kevin Paap’s farm on August 11. Paap was kind enough to invite a broad spectrum of the agriculture community, including Princess Kay of the Milky Way, and Minnesota Milk President, Dave Buck, and Vice President, Shelly DePestel. Policy Committee member Steve Schlangen, AMPI Chairman, was also in attendance. Schlangen laid out the need for changes to the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, some of which came later in the summer. Buck later told Perdue about Minnesota’s struggles with finding labor and the need for immigration reform. As of this writing, both topics are top of mind for dairy farmers across Minnesota.

Spanish-speaking Sessions see Big Crowds

Minnesota Milk held its first-ever Spanish-speaking session in partnership with Elanco’s Jorge Delgado in Rochester in August. Delgado explained calving protocols and best practices for mastitis prevention and detection. Nearly 50 attendees filled the room, and were very interested with the expertise of Monica Cruz Zorrilla from the Mexican Consulate of St. Paul, who talked about the services provided for citizens from Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries.

Minnesota Milk will be hosting another seminar with the same format in Waite Park on November 7. Sign up online at: <http://www.mnmilk.org/event/Stearns2017Spanish>.

Most of the 49 people who attended Minnesota Milk’s first Spanish-speaking workshop stayed for a picture with presenter Jorge Delgado from Elanco (center, blue shirt and khaki pants). Minnesota Milk thanks Elanco for putting on and sponsoring the workshop, along with Diamond members Land O’Lakes and Compeer.



Legislative Summary

By Daryn McBeth, Gray Plant Mooty

While the 2017 Minnesota Legislative Session ended after an abbreviated Special Session to finish wrapping up budget bills, a bonding bill, a tax bill, and a transportation bill — the possibility of another Special Session has remained open with Governor Dayton’s line-item veto of the Legislature’s operating funding. Recall the governor exercised this line-item veto, he stated, to bring legislators back to the negotiating table over five provisions he signed into law within other bills but that he opposed. The governor’s objectionable provisions included three tax cuts (tobacco tax, estate tax, statewide business/industrial property tax); a change to teacher licensure standards; and a provision explicitly prohibiting the state from issuing drivers licenses to undocumented residents (illegal aliens).

The legislature objected to the governor’s line-item veto of their funding on constitutional grounds, and sued the governor in State District Court in Ramsey County. In mid-July, District Court Judge John Guthman ruled that the governor was wrong to use his constitutional authority to try to get lawmakers to renegotiate items he had signed into law. However, the governor immediately appealed this ruling to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

On an expedited basis, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments from both sides and after deliberating for two weeks issued a ruling that the line-item veto was constitutional, but went on to say “[t]his conclusion does not, however, end the matter.” The Court agreed with the District Court that the right of the people of Minnesota to have three co-equal branches of government may be deprived with the veto of the legislature’s funding.

The order then required parties to enter mediation, and report back by the end of September. Mediation lasted only a day and a half before the meetings ended with “irreconcilable differences.” As of this publication, we now are waiting for

further direction or a new order from the Supreme Court.

The second year of the biennium is scheduled to begin February 20, 2018, when the Legislature reconvenes. It remains unclear if they will operate until then (though not in session) using reserve and carry-over dollars, if they will run out of funding and need to temporarily lay off staff, or if the Court will step in and direct the State to make some or all of the funding available for the legislature on a temporary basis, notwithstanding the governor’s line-item veto of that funding.

Despite the drama of the line-item veto and the uncertainty it created with recess activities of the legislature and staff until February 20, dairy producers can rest assured the progress that was made during the 2017 session will remain intact, including:

1. *Passage of a new law authorizing single-unit milk trucks to haul loads up to 88,000 lbs (10% over current limits)*
2. *Passage of an omnibus agriculture policy bill clarifying dairy enforcement and inspection provisions as well as an extension of the dairy research authority/facility*
3. *Worked to create a pathway to use Clean Water Amendment funding for good in agriculture*

MMPA resolutions and priorities for 2018 will be established and finalized at the Dairy Expo and Annual Meeting on November 28-29 in Red Wing’s Treasure Island, and these priorities will be reinforced during Dairy Day at the Capitol on April 18. Mark your calendars now to participate!



**Lobbyist Daryn McBeth,
Gray, Plant, Mooty**

Bruce Cottington passes away at age 90

Bruce Cottington was the first recipient of the “Friend of MMPA Award” at the Midwest Dairy Expo on December 5, 2006, in St. Cloud, MN. Thereafter it was called the Bruce Cottington award. He passed away on September 14, 2017. The following biography was read upon him accepting the award:

A true dairy enthusiast, Bruce spent countless hours promoting agriculture, FFA, 4-H, and of course, Minnesota’s dairy industry.



Bruce was recognized as the 2016 Legionnaire of the Year by the Litchfield American Legion Post 104 with Post Commander Danna Frazier.

(photo credit: crowrivermedia.com)



Bruce posed with Army National Guard Captain Seth Goreham and a bust of General John Vessy Jr. who was a fellow underage veteran.

(photo credit: crowrivermedia.com)

Born and raised on a dairy farm, Bruce understood our industry including the marketing and promotion of our wholesome and nutritious products to consumers. As a father of 3, he taught his children that hard work and dedication will take you far in life, just as they have for him.

Bruce spent 25 years in the grocery business as a field man and a store owner promoting the dairy case and agriculture. From his store, he would do daily radio broadcasts on KLF D Radio in Litchfield highlighting sale prices, community events plus light commentary to make the broadcasts more inviting and interesting to the listeners, all while promoting the value of dairy products.

To eliminate the winter blues in February, he started the Peanut Butter and Milk Festival in 1972. The festival helped to promote milk and peanut butter sandwiches since they went so well together, besides highlighting food production, agriculture youth, and rural America. Today, the festival continues with an exchange program twice a year between Litchfield, Minnesota and Hartford, Alabama – a sister city in the program.

In 1979, he sold his grocery store and went to work for the American Dairy Association of Minnesota, now the Midwest Dairy Association, as a field man promoting the Real Seal and working with the Check-Off program sponsored by Minnesota Dairy Farmers. Upon his retirement from the ADA of Minnesota, he continued to work with and manage the State Fair malt stand located in the Dairy Building (formerly Empire Commons) resulting in almost 20 years of service.

Eventually, he decided to un-retire and continue to do what he does best – promote Minnesota’s dairy industry. He began working for Minnesota Milk as the Membership Coordinator allowing him to travel around the state and share with dairy producers the ideals and beliefs of Minnesota Milk while promoting and strengthening the industry that he truly loved. He retired from Minnesota Milk in the early 2000s, but still found time in his busy schedule to support the activities of the organization such as the Dairy Day at the Capitol.

Believing that his local creamery is a true asset the community and the future of the dairy industry, often times Bruce was found buzzing through the First District Outlet Store checking on things, or handing out small gift certificates for 1 pound blocks of butter or cheese encouraging people to patronize the outlet store and the local dairy farmers. Taking it one step further, he did a twice weekly radio show on KLF D Radio called “Cheese Ball Corners” promoting items at the local outlet store, enlightening listeners with corny trivia and humor, discussing community events and highlighting agriculture in Meeker County. As an active volunteer and leader in his community, he supported the Meeker County Dairy Association assisting with the malt stand at the county fair, encouraging and promoting the events of the organization, and served as a dairy princess judge. It is easy to say where 2 or more are gathered in the name of dairy - Bruce was there!



(Continued from previous page)

At the age of 15, he enlisted in the Navy during World War 2 and also did a tour of duty in Korea. He served 8 years and earned 8 Battle Ribbons in the service of our country. On Memorial Day 2004, he represented the Minnesota American Legion at the dedication the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 2005, Bruce was inducted into the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame. He received the WCCO Radio Good Neighbor Award. And, he was also honored as a Hometown Hero by the Hutchinson radio station for his dedication to the community as a member of the Kiwanis, Shrine Club, and VFW.

And finally, in 2002, the Senate of the State of Minnesota thanked him for his lifelong service to his community, state, and country by a formal resolution on the floor of the Senate in his honor.

Even after he retired, he continued to serve as the President of Cottington Foods, a private consulting firm for dairy promotion and public relations – “promoting dairy for 100 years” as he would say! It was easy to spot Bruce in a crowd at any dairy event sporting his Navy Blue FFA suspenders – again, a sign of his dedication to the promotion of agriculture and the dairy industry.

Expanding *our Boundaries*



Minnesota Milk Dairy Conference & Expo November 28-29, 2017

Register now for free fun in Red Wing! Minnesota Milk producer members and employees who register at least a week ahead of time will receive 100% free registration to the Minnesota Milk Conference and Expo.

Go to mnmilk.org/expo to register.



Event Location:

Treasure Island Resort & Casino
5734 Sturgeon Lake Rd, Welch, MN 55089

Event Dates:

- Tuesday, November 28 – Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Trade Show Schedule:

- Tuesday, November 28: 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 29: 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Hotel Accommodations:

Rooms have been reserved at Treasure Island Resort and Casino. Mention “Minnesota Milk” to receive the group rate of \$84/night.



Tentative Agenda – Tuesday, November 28

	<i>Island Event Center</i>	<i>Wolf/Eagle Rooms (Spanish)</i>
10 a.m.	<i>Minnesota Milk Annual Business Meeting</i>	<i>Jaime Castaneda – How Minnesota Milk and National Milk are Fighting for You</i>
11 a.m.	<i>V.J. Smith – The Richest Man in Town</i>	<i>Jorge Delgado – Fresh Cow Care</i>
12 noon	<i>Lunch</i>	
1:00 p.m.	<i>Legislative panel with Minnesota Milk lobbyist Daryn McBeth</i>	<i>Mónica Cruz Zorrilla, Mexican Consulate – Resources for your Spanish-Speaking Employees</i>
2:00 p.m.	<i>Jaime Castaneda – Dairy Trade: Opportunity or Threat?</i>	<i>Jorge Delgado – Mastitis Prevention and Detection</i>
3:00 p.m.	<i>Networking Break</i>	
3:30 p.m.	<i>Tom Erdmann – How long until GMO-pollled Dairy Cattle?</i>	<i>Jorge Luna, Zoetis - Calving protocols (invited)</i>
4:15 p.m.	<i>Mónica Cruz Zorrilla, Mexican Consulate – Resources for your Spanish-Speaking Employees</i>	
4:45 p.m.	<i>SOCIAL HOUR</i>	
6:30 p.m.	<i>Dinner and 40th Anniversary Celebration</i>	
8:00 p.m.	<i>Live and Silent Auction</i>	
9:00 p.m. to midnight	<i>Hospitality Suites</i>	



Tentative Agenda – Wednesday, November 29

	<i>Island Event Center</i>	<i>Wolf/Eagle Rooms</i>
7:30 to 8:30 a.m.	<i>Breakfast</i>	
8:00 a.m.	<i>Wes Jamison – Agriculture Public Relations</i>	
9:00 a.m.	<i>Marin Bozic – Current Dairy Economics</i>	
10:00 a.m.	<i>Networking Break</i>	<i>Networking Break</i>
10:45 a.m.	<i>Dan Undersander – Preventing Leaf Loss</i>	<i>Ryan Roles – Starting a Farm, with Help</i>
11:45 a.m.	<i>Brad Heins – Activity Monitors</i>	<i>Ted Matthews – Farmer Mental Health</i>
12:45 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 p.m.	<i>Gerard Cramer – Hoof Trimming</i>	<i>Pluto Legal – Exiting the Business Gracefully</i>
2:45 p.m.	<i>Les Hansen – Crossbreeding: “Normal” for Beef and Pork, why not Dairy?</i>	<i>Keith Olander – Can you make as much as your Neighbors?</i>
3:30 p.m.	<i>Networking Break</i>	<i>Networking Break</i>
4:00 p.m.	<i>Dr. Laura Hernandez – Lactation Biology</i>	<i>(Speaker invited) – What I want to see on your Balance Sheet</i>
5:30 p.m.	<i>Board of Directors Social and Bowling Tournament</i> <i>The inaugural Minnesota Milk Bowling Tournament will pit team versus team for a fun night of food, drink, and camaraderie with Minnesota’s farmers and Minnesota Milk member businesses.</i>	



Policy Work does not Stop at the Legislature

In a perfect world, laws would be written in such plain language and so simply that we would never need courts to interpret them, agencies to write rules, and/or hire people to enforce them. Alas, we do not live in a perfect world, and therefore Minnesota Milk's Policy work does not stop when the legislature ends each spring. Below are examples of some of the activities in which Minnesota Milk has been involved outside of the legislature in 2017.

Processing Capacity and Ultrafiltered Milk

When 10 Minnesota dairy farmers were abruptly shut off from their market in April when the ultrafiltered milk market closed in Canada, Minnesota Milk was there to answer press questions and coordinate with the state Department of Agriculture to help. In the end, those 10 farmers did find a market but the problem was not solved as other creameries then lost their market.

Luckily, working with National Milk and others, Minnesota Milk's press activity brought the attention to the forefront so that USDA changed the definition of cheese that would include ultrafiltered milk this fall. This allows milk to move more freely and no special labeling requirements needed to reintroduce milk back into dairy products.



Officials from the Department of Ag and five federal legislative offices met with farmers to hear more about the ultrafiltered milk crisis in June.

During the summer, Minnesota Milk helped the Department of Agriculture bring together other elected officials and those afflicted farmers to talk about solutions, one of which could be a longer notice before a milk producer is dropped due to market conditions.

Environmental Review Streamlining

In February, Executive Director Lucas Sjostrom was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to the Environmental Quality Board's Environmental Review Advisory Panel (EQB ERAP) to streamline the environmental review process. While environmental review often affects larger feedlots that will use consultants that can usher them through the process, in counties or townships where it is enacted, smaller farms can be petitioned into environmental review with as few as 500 animal units.

The EQB ERAP began in February 2017 and is meeting once each month to talk about the things that could help commerce improve and keep the environment protected.

Your ideas

One of the most underappreciated ways that Minnesota Milk works is by gathering ideas from YOU! Membership Director Shannon Seifert works with our staff to visit 400 farms in 2017 talking about Minnesota Milk issues. While some will be Minnesota Milk potential members, others will be current members with ideas that we can incorporate into our policy or education discussions and perhaps our 2018 resolutions and/or workshop series. Please reach out to Shannon at any time if you want to talk through ideas you have to improve your business, or something you would like to hear more about from an educational perspective.

Mowing of State Ditches

In spring 2017, Minnesota Milk and other state agriculture organizations helped push Governor Mark Dayton to incorporate a one-year moratorium on permits in state ditches. Your Minnesota Milk staff has been meeting with Department of Transportation officials

to create a potential win-win in a new ditch-mowing system.

Immigration Moving

Immigration seems to be a moving target at the federal level, with each week providing more information as to whether that target is moving in a positive or negative direction. Minnesota Milk is weighing in through letters and communication with partners at National Milk and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to help keep federal legislators in tune with potential solutions on the long-needed reform to our federal immigration program.

State Fair VIP Tours

Another annual activity Minnesota Milk puts on are the Behind the Scenes State Fair VIP Tours, with 12 attendees of one-hour tours this year. Frequent dairy farm visitors, Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar both spent time talking with the Princess Kay of the Milky Way Finalists and Princess Kay Emily Annexstad.

Several state legislators also made a visit, including Senators Steve Cwudzinski (D-Minnetonka), Nick Frenztz (D-Mankato), Carla Nelson (R-Rochester) and Rep. Jerry Hertaus (R-Greenfield) all took a tour together, able to ask questions with varying levels of experience. Senator Nelson tried her hand at putting a milker on a cow while others (remaining nameless to protect the innocent) thought cows milked for 60 to 90 minutes per day.

Others touring either the Dairy Goodness Bar or Dairy Barn were Senator Ann Rest (D-New Hope), Kari Dzedzic (D-Minneapolis), David Osmek (R-Mound), Paul Utke (R-Park Rapids), Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake), and Representative Dave Pinto (D-St. Paul).

We hope to schedule at least 10 more Lunches with Legislators this fall. If you're interested in meeting your legislator for lunch, please contact Lucas at Lucas@MNMilk.org or 320-249-8701.



Senator Al Franken talking with the Princess Kay of the Milky Way Finalists and Princess Kay Emily Annexstad.



Senator David Osmeck (R-Mound), right, is a candidate for Governor and group working for farms near Hutchinson.



Dave and Ann Buck talk about dairy cattle with Senators Paul Utke (R-Pelican Rapids) and Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake).



The bipartisan tour of Senator Steve Cwodzinski (D-Minnetonka), Senator Nick Frentz (D-Mankato), Representative Jerry Hertaus (R-Greenfield), and Senator Carla Nelson (R-Rochester) enjoyed meeting the Showcase Herd from Jer-Lindy Farms.

Senator Kari Dziedzic (D-Minneapolis) said she learned a lot on the tour, despite visiting dairy farms in the past.

Senator Carla Nelson (R-Rochester) showed off her milking skills in the State Fair milking parlor. Since the State Fair, Senator Nelson joined the race for Congressional District 1 in Southern Minnesota.





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Inside this Issue

- Meet your Legislators
- Letter from the Executive Director
- Call for Resolution Submissions
- Expo Heads to Red Wing
- Action at the Capitol
- Reports from Dairy Growth Alliance Summit and Summer Escape
- Staff Member Welcomes Baby
- In Memoriam: Bruce Cottington

A Penny for Our Future

A penny from your milk check adds to the mission of Minnesota Milk: to Advance the Success of Minnesota Dairy Farms. Building producer membership enhances producer education opportunities and policy initiatives; increased funding allows us to fulfill the strategies set forth by the board of directors.

What could Minnesota Milk do with more funding?

- More representation at the State Capitol lobbying for important issues related to our dairy farms
- Increased education opportunities on relevant topics for members and their employees
- New benefits to new and young farmers

For this year: any producer member who recruits two new neighbors to join Minnesota Milk will earn a one free night of lodging at this year's Minnesota Milk Dairy Conference and Expo.

Together, we can all support the cause for a bright Minnesota dairy future.

For more information, call Shannon at **507-766-6864** or go to <http://www.mnmilk.org/page/membership>

