

State of Connecticut
Department of Agriculture
Milk Regulation Board

1 May 08

30 Apr 08 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

F. Philip Prelli, Chairperson, Commissioner DAG
Robert D'Alessandro Robert Jacquier
Neil Marcus Joseph Ruwet
Mae Schmidle Jim Stearns
Jack Tiffany Tracey Weeks, CT DPH

Members Absent:

Peter Fabbri (Raju Bangalore substituting with no vote)

Public:

Bruce Gresczyk, Ct Farm Bureau Herman Weingart
Jay Ruwet Steve Reviczky, CT Farm Bureau
Wayne Kasacek, CT DAG Raju Bangalore, Kolher Mix Specialties

Meeting called to order at 10:15.

Agenda Item 1: October 17, 2007 meeting minutes

Motion to accept Jack Tiffany, 2nd Robert Jacquier, Approved by unanimous consent

Agenda Item 2: Reports

Commissioner Prelli discussed the two bill on the Senate calendar.
Commissioner Prelli and Wayne Kasacek attended a Dairy Leadership meeting in Binghamton, NY. Commissioner Prelli discussed the projections presented by Dairy Farmers of America and, NH and VT bills to set minimum milk prices in those states.

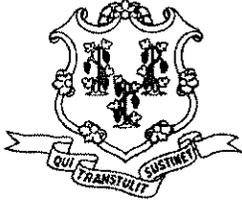
Commissioner Prelli advised the board that the States Ratification Committee was reorganized and is now headquartered in PA.

Commissioner Prelli discussed the Farm Bill. Senator Leahy from VT was proposing an amendment that would link MILC payments to grain prices.

Wayne Kasacek informed the board that the department had issued 2 cease and desist orders. One to farm selling milk to an unlicensed cheese manufacturer and one to an individual manufacturing cheese in New Haven without a license.

Wayne Kasacek discussed the results of recent FDA check ratings of the departments dairy enforcement program. Both ratings were favorable with no significant deficiencies noted.

Commissioner Prelli discussed recent rBST labeling regulation in PA and OH.



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Commissioner Prelli told the board that the department had offered a change on the "CT Grown" statute that would make it clear what the term "locally grown" meant and that milk would be included as a product that was regulated under that statute.

Public Comment:

Herman Weingart, spoke about an article in Hoard's Dairyman about re-blending milk in the west and how that hurts eastern producers.

New Business:

Neil Marcus made a motion to open the agenda to hear a report from Jack Tiffany on the Council of State Legislators' 2nd by Joe Ruwet. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Jack Tiffany attended a Council of State Legislators' meeting. Jack Tiffany reported that there were 25-30 people at the meeting. NH, VT and NY had large delegations. 1 from MA. Robert Starr, Dan Smith and VT Secretary of Agriculture Albie are pushing the VT Milk Commission to set producer prices in VT hoping other states will follow.

A transportation bill passed in NH that would require processors to pay milk transportation costs if other states had similar language.

Dan Smith presented a plan to establish a fund that would receive proceeds from a milk tax and redistribute those proceeds back to producers regardless of where they are located.

Announcements:

Commissioner Prelli announced that The University of Connecticut had selected a new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Gregory Weidemann will be taking over the Dean's position.

Bob Jacquier noted that Dean Kerr had done an excellent job expanding the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources during his tenure.

Motion to adjourn made by Mae Schmidle, 2nd Robert D'Alessandro, Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:29

Wayne Kasacek

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 15 Oct 08

Wayne Kasacek
Clerk of the Board