

PA Milk Marketing Board
Carol A. Hardbarger

Happy Holiday Season from the PA Milk Marketing Board

I wrote and deleted two articles before I decided that what I really wanted to do is convey holiday wishes from the Board and our staff and to introduce our staff to all of you. Besides, who wants to read about USDA price projections (lower for milk, overall) or the booming cheese manufacturing that is going on in the western states (and not in the northeast. My soapbox is put away until after Christmas.)?

My readers know me from my weekly columns and many of you know the Board members, Rob Barley and Jim Van Blarcom, from their many years of participation in PA's dairy industry organizations and activities. Their commitment to making 2021 a productive year for PMMB is as strong as possible and it is such a joy to work with them both.

I want to highlight other staff besides myself that you rarely hear about. First, the individual who glues all of us together is Fatima Roberge. She functions as the office administrator, but she does so much more than that. Fatima is responsible for beginning the process of new license application reviews and also for mailing all the renewal applications. She handles the deposits, helps pay our bills and keeps records of all our financial transactions. If you receive any mail from us, Fatima is the person who mailed it!

We have two attorneys on Board. Doug Eberly is the Chief Counsel for the Board and is responsible for the day-to-day legal goings-on from our office. He advises the Board and writes Official General Orders issued by the Board and Bulletins issued by me. Our Staff Attorney, Jim Petrascu, advises staff on legal matters pertaining to their testimonies at hearings and works with referrals associated with violations of the Milk Marketing Law. Jim also reviews new license applications and ensures bonds submitted by milk dealers adhere to the requirements of the law.

Our Chief Financial Officer is Tim Moyer, who keeps watch over our budget and provides monthly reports and regular advice to the Board. He also works with me on procurement and paying our financial obligations. The Director of Enforcement, Steven Zalman, keeps everyone on the "straight and narrow" by ensuring that all of the law and regulations are followed as intended. He is the one responsible for key decisions that involve those special circumstances falling within gray areas, so to speak, and he is often called upon to provide advice and suggestions to the Board and me.

Gary Gojsovich is our Auditor Supervisor and is responsible for the completion of the monthly and yearly audits we conduct of dairy processing plants. He provides oversight for numerous staff who conduct the audits and the review process that guarantees their accuracy. Gary is also one of the individuals who prepares and publishes monthly producer and resale prices. Jon Dadigan is a Special Investigator who investigates pricing and other violations and reports those to the rest of the team. He has official responsibility for maintaining all our legal and other

records to meet state requirements. Jon occasionally makes field visits to stores and processing plants.

Our auditing and accounting staff work hard to ensure we have accurate and verifiable records of the regulated milk sales and handling in the commonwealth. They are Joseph Wilson, Chris Bediako Anim, Tom Latsko and Brian Brandt. We also employ two individuals, Keith Hay and Forrest Carlough, who visit farms and milk hauling companies to either calibrate bulk milk tanks or administer weigher/sampler examinations, which they also process online. In addition, Keith and Forrest interact with farmers in the field to make certain they understand milk collection procedures and required sanitation methods. They each conduct audits when needed.

Our Statistician, Cliff Ackman, works with several of us to prepare hearing testimonies and to keep our online presence in good shape. He is actively engaged in the Governor's initiatives to support environmentally responsible actions in our office and represents PMMB at related functions.

We all wish you the best holiday season and happiest new year.

PMMB is always available to respond to questions and concerns. I can be reached at 717-210-8244 and by email at chardbarge@pa.gov.