



Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority

FY 2019

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February 1, 2020

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Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 3.197, the cost of preparing this report was approximately \$(500).

Executive Summary

The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority continues to work with the University of Minnesota regarding the building of a new dairy research facility. The location of the next dairy research facility is a part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences master plan that has been presented to the Regents of the University of Minnesota.

Introduction

The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority was established in 2012 and is authorized and defined within Statutes 32C.01-.06. The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority has met collectively with the state’s dairy industry and higher education representatives to determine how to strengthen dairy research and educational opportunities, including a new dairy research facility. The Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority board members gathered information about other surrounding state dairy research facilities during the evaluation process including facts on construction financing, costs of operation, and operating procedures. The Board also met with dairy processors, agricultural lenders, and representatives of farm organizations to formulate a plan and assess the needs of the industry. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture offers administrative support and files the annual report to the legislature on behalf of the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority.

Board of Directors

The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority is governed by a board of nine directors each serving a term of four years. The governor appoints four members of the board. The other five are designated by organizations within the dairy industry (trade organization representing milk producers, Midwest Dairy Council, Minnesota State Colleges and University). The Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences and the Commissioner of Agriculture also serve as members of the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority.

The current Authority's nine directors are:

- **Sheryl Meshke**, Co-President and CEO, Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (Board Chair)
- **Barb Liebenstein**, Dairy Producer and Chair of Midwest Dairy MN Division (Vice Board Chair)
- **Daniel Glessing**, Dairy Producer and Minnesota Farm Bureau (Treasurer)
- **Eunice Biel**, Dairy Producer and Minnesota Farmers Union
- **Rick Rugg**, Midwest Regional Manager, Lely North America
- **Brad Schloesser**, Dean, MnSCU South Central College
- **Tom Sedgeman**, Dairy Producer and Minnesota Milk Board member
- **Dr. Brian Buhr**, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
- **Commissioner Thom Petersen**, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Board Authority Highlights

In previous meetings, challenges of locating a fully scaled dairy facility on the St. Paul campus was discussed along with needs for other livestock research and teaching facilities. In those discussions, there was general recognition of the potential need to locate a more comprehensive plan for facilities at potential off-campus sites in rural Minnesota. Several opportunities were discussed and has now led to the beginning of a new feasibility study that will evaluate a comprehensive animal agriculture research enterprise including crop and soil health, as well as dairy, swine and turkey facilities. While early in the process, a request for proposal is underway and it should be completed within a year. This will set the stage for a comprehensive plan.

Planning will require input from a variety of livestock experts and agronomic/soils experts. The future role of the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority as this larger coalition emerges is under discussion.

The Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority has not identified or received any funding at this time and does not have any assets or liabilities.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture provides, a small amount of administrative support to the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority, including authoring the annual report and helping by taking minutes and calling meetings as requested by the Chair.

Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority has not adopted any significant changes to the bylaws, policies, rules or programs during the past year.

Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority is set to expire August 1, 2020, has unless a site for a facility has been identified.

Authorizing Legislation

2019 Statutes 32C.01-.06

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