



Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority

Annual Report



David Weinand
Livestock Supervisor

625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-201-6646

www.mda.state.mn.us

February 1, 2019

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Background	3
Board of Directors.....	3
Board Authority Highlights	4
Timelines	5
Future Role of Dairy Authority.....	5
Authorizing Legislation.....	5

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 3.197, the cost of preparing this report was approximately \$1,000.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Executive Summary

Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority continues to work with the University of Minnesota regarding the building of a new dairy research facility.

Background

The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority was established in 2012 by the Minnesota Legislature (Statutes 32C.01). For more than six years, the Authority has regularly met with the state's dairy industry and higher education representatives to determine how to strengthen dairy research and educational opportunities. The Dairy Authority board members toured neighboring states' dairy research and educational facilities, gathering information on construction financing, costs of operation, and operating procedures. In addition, the Board met with dairy processors, agricultural lenders, and representatives of farm organizations to formulate a plan and location that meets the needs of the industry. In 2018, the Authority's work was put on hold until an all-animal agriculture strategic plan being conducted by the University of Minnesota was completed. It is engaging with partners in the Minnesota State University system, Minnesota food and agriculture business leaders, and farmer led organizations in analyzing the needs of the animal agriculture sector of Minnesota. This comprehensive evaluation of animal agriculture was sparked by the future sale of sections of UMore Park, affecting the turkey facilities in Rosemount. These facilities will need to relocate within the next three to four years which will also affect the location of a new dairy facility. This presents a unique opportunity to evaluate a more comprehensive investment in animal agricultural research and teaching facilities, and recognizes the potential efficiencies in joint planning such as feed access, land for nutrient management, and teaching and research programs, as well as cost efficiencies from labor and potential shared equipment.

In 2017 the Minnesota Legislature extended the expiration date of the authority to August 1, 2020.

Board of Directors

The authority is governed by a board of nine directors each serving a term of four years. The governor appoints four members of the board.

- Two members that are currently engaged in the business of operating a dairy.
- Two members that are representatives of Minnesota-based businesses actively engaged in working with, or serving Minnesota's dairy industry.
- One named member is a representative of a state trade association that represents the interests of milk producers.
- One named member is a representative of the Minnesota Division of the Midwest Dairy Council.
- One named member is a member of the agricultural education faculty of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System.

- The Commissioner of Agriculture is a member of the board as well as the Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences.

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
- **Dr. Brian Buhr**, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
- **Commissioner Thom Petersen**, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- **Rick Rugg**, Midwest Regional Manager, Lely North America
- **Brad Schloesser**, Dean, MnSCU South Central College
- **Tom Sedgeman**, Dairy Producer and Minnesota Milk Board member

Board Authority Highlights

Previous legislative reports focused on the processes followed to collect information and conduct a feasibility study on how a new dairy facility could serve the needs of the industry. A collaborative effort with the University of Minnesota Foundation to conduct fundraising from private sources before pursuing a formal bonding request from the Minnesota legislature has been considered.

The sunset date of the Dairy Research/Education and Consumer Education Authority was extended in the 2017 legislative session to August 1, 2020.

The University of Minnesota supports the modernization of animal agriculture research and is committed to the continuation of milking cows on the St. Paul Campus for teaching purposes, where a herd of 120 cows currently resides in tie-stall and bedded pack barns. The University of Minnesota also sees the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris as having an important leadership role in the country's research in both organic and conventional dairy farming.

The three areas of emphasis of the Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority continues to be the need for Research, Education and Outreach.

1. Research is needed in the areas of new technology and information management along with nutrition and physiological understanding of the dairy cow. Research in the areas of genetics, microbial interactions as well as group management strategies will be important to recruit new faculty.
2. Education will be important to recruit and retain the next generation of leaders. Experiential learning using state of the art automation through courses and curriculum will be critical for student recruitment and maintaining a talented Minnesota workforce.
3. Outreach to the general public will be important in order to provide consumers the peace of mind relating to the new technologies being developed by the dairy industry.

Timelines

The University of Minnesota (U of M) is currently undergoing a comprehensive evaluation of animal agriculture research facilities and evaluating industry and state goals for research, education and outreach programs.

1. The U of M – St. Paul Campus Master Plan will be completed by the spring of 2019. This plan will help direct research, teaching and outreach planning that affects the configuration of livestock and dairy teaching and research facilities on the St. Paul Campus in conjunction with planning for comprehensive animal agriculture facilities on campus and at Research and Outreach Centers.
2. Financial planning will occur proportionately and inform private funding and bonding request requirements.

Future Role of Dairy Authority

Administration expenses of the Authority were primarily covered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), with total administrative costs for FY18 of less than \$2,000.

At the end of FY18, the Authority had no assets and made no changes to its operational plan. In addition, no significant changes to the bylaws, policies, rules or programs were noted.

Authorizing Legislation

2012 c 244 art 1 s 34

2017 c 88 art 2 s 57