

Vermont Milk Commission May 6, 2024, 2 – 4pm

Meeting Agenda and Notes

- 2pm – Welcome, introductions, and agenda review
- 2:10pm – HPAI update: E.B. Flory, AAFFM Food Safety and Consumer Protection Director, and Dr. Kate Levine, Assistant State Veterinarian
 - VAAFFM webinar last week regarding federal requirements
 - 9 states and 36 herds impacted, last report was April 26 for new infection
 - Only dairy cows that are currently lactating are subject to the rules
 - USDA implemented cattle movement regulations on April 29
 - Any lactating dairy cow moving across state lines must have negative test unless first stop is a slaughter facility; if not going direct to slaughter then they must have a negative test
 - AAFFM working with USDA and regional colleagues to alleviate bottleneck due to most processing happening out of state
 - AAFFM working with FDA through NCIMS regarding impacts to processed products
 - Virus is shed into milk
 - Pasteurization and not using milk from sick animals is key
 - Pasteurization kills the active virus
 - Effort underway to understand if cows might be asymptomatic, potential virus load in milk that pasteurization could not handle, testing protocols to mitigate false positives, how to handle and destroy milk from impacted herds
 - Question – Dr. Roy Beckford – possibility of zoonotic transfer to humans?
 - Working with CDC and VT Department of Health, they both identify this as low risk to humans, this virus has been in North America for a number of years and CDC has not increased rating of this virus as a risk to humans. Potential risk changes will be at discretion of health agencies
 - Sanitizers currently used on farms and processing facilities currently kills the virus
 - Currently mandatory reporting requirement for any virus symptoms to VAAFFM and national authorities for tracking
 - Active discussions around how to handle cattle shows, fairs, and sales
 - Question – John Roberts – is USDA paying for testing?
 - Yes, but not for sampling. A veterinarian must take the sample.
 - Resource page on VAAFFM website, updated regularly
- 2:40pm – Dairy Farmers of America outlook: Christine Brodeur, Senior Director of Risk Management
 - Slides attached
- 3pm – Agri-Mark outlook and Federal Milk Market Order reform update: Catherine de Ronde, Vice President, Economic and Legislative Affairs



- Slides attached
- 3:25pm – Organic Valley outlook: Adam Warthesen, Director of Government and Industry Affairs
 - Slides attached
- 3:45pm – Public Comment
 - John Roberts – DMC update
 - Enrolment closed on 4/29
 - 355 Vermont operations have signed up, about 73%
 - Sign up rates higher than most of US
 - Roy Beckford – UVM Updates
 - Has hired agronomists, will do official update in June
 - Anson Tebbetts
 - Milk Matters update underway, will be published at end of year, supported by VT Dairy Promotion Council funds and UVM Food Systems Research Service
 - Harold Howrigan – some states out west use the data point of \$25,000 per cow of economic activity
 - New cheesemaker – Woodlawn Farm – has taken over Consider Bardwell and is launching cheese to the market to be available now
 - Senator Starr retiring
 - Laura Ginsburg
 - NE-DBIC update – current funding opportunities open, upcoming opportunities, awaiting the Farm Bill for future planning
- 4pm – Adjourn
 - Adjourned at 3:52

Milk Commissioners: Senator Bobby Starr - not present, Representative John O'Brien - not present, Harold Howrigan - present, Mark Magnan – not present, Allan Reetz - present, Paul Doton – present, and Roy Beckford - present