



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **DAIRY TASK FORCE VISITS CAPITOL, REINFORCES DAIRY'S IMPORTANT ROLE WITH LEGISLATORS**

*Group Seeks Legislative Support for State Dairy Programs*

**HARRISBURG** – Pennsylvania dairy producers recently met with more than 20 key legislators and staffers in the Capitol building during the June Dairy Month celebration to seek their support for the dairy industry.

The delegation of 15 dairy producers and five industry representatives was organized by the Government Relations Committee of the Pennsylvania Dairy Task Force, with assistance from the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania and the Center for Dairy Excellence.

“With milk margins at all-time lows and many of the state’s dairy farms in danger, it is crucial that legislators recognize the vital economic engine our dairy industry is for Pennsylvania, and the important role a strong support system provides to the industry,” said Tim Kurtz, chair of the Government Relations Committee and a dairy producer from Elverson. “This was a monumental event because it was the first time we’ve had a significant number of dairy producers and industry representatives converge at the Capitol on the same day.”

The delegation visited with members of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Appropriations committees, as well as other House members. Participating dairy producers also visited with legislators representing their districts providing updates on dairy’s role in Pennsylvania, the current state of the dairy industry, and support programs for dairy in the state.

“The meetings were overwhelmingly positive, with many of the legislators and staffers saying they don’t hear enough from the dairy sector of the state,” Kurtz said. “They seemed to have a genuine interest in agriculture, recognizing the enormous value dairy contributes to Pennsylvania. With the current budget situation and their hectic schedules, we were amazed at their willingness to visit with us and listen to what we had to say.”



The visits were coordinated with the June Dairy Task Force meeting and the giant ice cream sundae celebration hosted by the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program and Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association on the steps of the Capitol.

“It was truly a collaborative effort to promote dairy at the Capitol,” Kurtz says. “The General Assembly members and their staffers were first invited to enjoy free ice cream sundaes in honor of June Dairy Month. Later, we followed up with visits to reinforce why dairy is important to our state. It was really a unique opportunity to share our ideas with state policy leaders.”

The Government Relations Committee is planning additional outreach with General Assembly members in the state in the upcoming months. Anyone interested in participating in these efforts should call the Center for Dairy Excellence at 717-346-0849 or e-mail [info@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:info@centerfordairyexcellence.org).

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*The Center for Dairy Excellence is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture and was launched in January 2004 by Governor Edward G. Rendell. Bringing together people from more than 40 different dairy organizations in Pennsylvania, the Center’s mission is to enhance the profitability of the dairy industry by empowering people, creating partnerships, and increasing the availability and use of resources. Learn more about the Center at [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org).*