

## **Minutes for Special Meeting: Utah Dairy Commission and Dairy Producers of Utah**

07/30/2024 | 12:30 PM - 04:30 PM - Mountain Time

Grand America | 555 S Main St | Vienna Room | Salt Lake City, UT 84101

### **Attendees**

#### **Utah Dairy Commissioners present:**

Kaleb Bateman, Daniel Buttars, Chace Fullmer, Chet Hansen, David Roberts, Sheila Sherwood, Landon Wisner, Trevor Wayment (arrived at 2:24pm after roll call)

#### **Utah Dairy Commissioners absent:**

Mitch Hancock

#### **Dairy Producers of Utah Board Members present:**

Brad Bateman, Dean Blackhurst, Bruce Clark, Shane Munk, Russ Otten, Jim Withers

#### **Dairy Producers of Utah Board Members absent:**

Charlie Hansen, Clint Wade

#### **Others present:**

Karianne Fallow, Amy Corley, Tonya Otten, Crystal Wilson, Jason Kajkowski, Heidi Martin, Craig Buttars, Dan Christensen, Mike Kohler

### **Call to Order**

Chairman David Roberts called the UDC meeting to order at 01:00 PM MT.

Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Roberts called for any amendments to the agenda and if none, a motion to approve. Commissioner Daniel Buttars moved to approve the agenda without amendment. Commissioner Sheila Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Economic Feasibility Study Discussion**

Chairman David Roberts began the discussion around the Economic Feasibility / Market Stabilization Study. There was discussion around what is being asked of Commissioner Buttars and the Utah Governor, the Utah State Order, difficulty with banks and agriculture lenders, the number of dairies decreasing while the number of cows remains steady, how can pressures on farmers be eased, potential solutions for fixing transportation and high cost of feed. The bottom line of the conversation was that profitability needs to stay part of sustainability.

## **Checkoff Updates from Dairy West**

Dr. Dan Christensen (Utah State Veterinarian at Utah Department of Agriculture and Food) gave an update on HPAI and discussed the importance of bio security. He discussed his interest in visiting dairies to help with bio security before they have an outbreak if possible. The current situation for HPAI is that 13 states are affected; only 7 states have active herds. Colorado has the highest number of affected premises at 50. A prevailing question remains related to whether and how bio security helps prevent spillover events where HPAI spread appears to be from dairy farm to poultry.

Dr. Christensen noted it's believed that the virus is spread by the movement of things (MOT) such as feed, equipment, etc. The virus is believed to live on equipment, soil, etc. for 10-14 days. If premise is tested positive for HPAI, this is the response plan: quarantine (if premise is positive for HPAI, you are permitted to sell milk, but you have to communicate on MOT). To be deemed "clean", the premise must receive two negative tests in a row in two weeks.

Currently Utah is asking for dairies to voluntarily send in samples. The lab in Logan is collecting from 6-12 raw milk facilities to the public health lab. The public health lab gets samples from raw milk. Any milk over 400,000 somatic cell count is deemed a hot sample and residual sample is going to Logan for additional testing. 400,000 somatic cells indicate that something is affecting the cow(s). Utah is doing its best to keep their program in-house in hopes of managing it well enough so that no federal mandate for testing is instated.

## **Dairy Producers of Utah Updates**

Discussion around the upcoming Utah elections and the candidates running. Mike Kohler mentioned organizing politicians to do a dairy on farm visits.

## **Open Discussion**

Karianne Fallow (CEO at Dairy West) gave a brief update on the Utah Dairy Commission and the Dairy Producers of Utah Agreement. She reminded the room that the agreement was once a yearly renewable agreement but is now an evergreen agreement and will continue to stay in place unless or until one of the parties decides to dispute the agreement.

## **Chair's Report**

Roberts expressed appreciation to the Dairy Producers of Utah for attending this meeting and for contributing to the board meeting and conversation.

## **Adjourn**

Chairman Roberts called for a motion to adjourn the Utah Dairy Commission meeting. Commissioner Daniel Buttars moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chet Hansen seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM MT.

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Chairman/Vice Chairman

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Secretary