

2021-2022 Session

Change Session ▾

Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

Previous Meetings - Full Report

Monday, May 3, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM Introductions

Election of Officers

Review of Task Force Charge

Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

9:30 AM Department of Financial Regulation

Act 129 (2020) Report - Vermont Dairy Industry Price Regulation - Assessment and Recommendations

Jill Rickard, Director of Policy, Department of Financial Regulation

10:00 AM Committee Discussion and Planning

10:30 AM Adjournment

Monday, June 7, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM **Introductions**

9:10 AM **Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets**

Diane Bothfeld, Director of Administrative Services & Dairy Policy, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

E.B. Flory, Dairy Section Chief, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Laura Ginsburg, Agricultural Development Section Chief, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

10:15 AM **Break**

10:30 AM **Agrimark**

Catherine DeRonde, Vice President, Agri-Mark

11:00 AM **Dairy Farmers of America**

Leon Berthiaume, Senior Advisor, Dairy Farmers of America

Kiersten Bourgeois, Business Development and Communications Manager, Dairy Farmers of America

12:00 PM **Adjourn**

Monday, July 12, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM **Overview of Task Force work**

Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair

9:10 AM **Milk Purchasers in Vermont**

Rolf Carlson, Commonwealth Dairy

Catherine DeRonde, Vice President, Agri-Mark

Tom Gates, Values Led Dairy Specialist, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream

Cheryl Pinto, Values Led Sourcing Manager, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream

10:40 AM **Break**

10:50 AM **Milk Purchasers in Vermont**

Mateo Kehler, Owner, Jasper Hill Farms

Jon Rooney, Owner, Monument Farms Dairy

11:50 AM **Planning next meeting**

12:00 PM **Adjourn**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM **Small Farm Producers**

Andy Birch, Maple Grove Farm, Derby, VT

Joanna Lidback, Wheeler Mountain Farm, Barton, VT

Mary White, Fort Waite Holsteins LLC, Corinth, VT

9:55 AM **Medium Farm Producers**

Rebecca Manning, Manning Dairy Farm, St. Albans, VT

Stephanie Pope, North Wind Acres Farm, Shoreham, VT

Brett Urie, Shadagee Farmstead, Craftsbury Common, VT

11:00 AM **Large Farm Producers**

Clara Ayer, Fairmont Farms, East Montpelier, VT

Reg Chaput, Chaput Family Farms, Troy, VT

Will Gladstone, Newmont Farm, Bradford, VT

12:00 PM **Adjournment**

Monday, September 13, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM Secretary's Assessment of the Vermont Dairy Industry

Update on farmers shipping to Horizon Organic

Diane Bothfeld, Director of Administrative Services & Dairy Policy, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

E.B. Flory, Dairy Section Chief, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

9:20 AM Organic Farmers

Abbie Corse, Owner, Corse Family Farm

Leon Corse, Owner, Corse Family Farm

Jennifer Lambert, Vice President, Orange County Farm Bureau

Peter Miller, Organic Farmer

10:40 AM Break

10:50 AM Overview of Organic Farming in Vermont

Nicole Dehne, NOFA - Vermont

11:10 AM Organic Dairy Processors

Travis Forgues, Executive Vice President of Membership, CROPP Cooperative

12:30 PM Organic Standards

Tom Berry, Policy Advisor on Agriculture, Conservation, Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Sen. Leahy

Ed Maltby, Director, Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

Monday, September 27, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 9:00 AM** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:10 AM** **In-State Analysis and Proposals For Change**
- Stacy Cibula, Agriculture Director
Steven Collier, General Counsel, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Paul Costello, Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development
Liz Gleason, Director, VHCB Farm and Forest Viability Program
Jennifer Hollar, Director of Policy and Special Projects, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Ellen Kahler, Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
Gil Livingston, Former President, Vermont Land Trust
Anson Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- 11:15 AM** **Break**
- 11:25 AM** **Cooperative Initiatives**
- Catherine DeRonde, Vice President, Agri-Mark
Jim Mulhern, National Milk Producers Federation, Inc.
- 12:40 PM** **Public Comment**
- 1:00 PM** **Adjourn**

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 9:00 AM** **Milk Hauling Issues**
- Barney McConnell, Director of Transportation, Dairy Farmers of America
- 10:15 AM** **Status of under-utilized dairy capacity**
- 10:30 AM** **Dairy Statistics on VT Milk Shipments**

Brian Riordon, Chief Economist, Federal Milk Market Order #1

- 12:00 PM** **Introduction to Maine Tier Payment Program**
Julie-Marie Bickford, Maine Dairy Industry
Tim Drake, Executive Director, Maine Milk Commission

- 1:00 PM** **Adjourn**

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 9:00 AM** **Welcome and Introductions**

- 9:10 AM** **New Market Opportunities and Consumer Choice**
Michael DeAngelis, Vice President of Integrated Communications, New England Dairy
Rene Thibault, Public Relations and Communications Specialist, New England Dairy

- 10:00 AM** **Break**

- 10:25 AM** **New Market Opportunities and Consumer Choice**
Adeline Druart, President, Vermont Creamery

- 11:15 AM** **New Market Opportunities and Consumer Choice**
Rick Smith, CEO and President, Dairy Farmers of America

- 11:55 AM** **Regulatory Environment**
Abbie Corse, Member, Vermont Climate Council
Billy Coster, Director of Planning and Policy, Agency of Natural Resources
Ryan Patch, Deputy Director, Water Quality Division, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

- 12:40 PM**

Risk Management

Jeremy Forrett, Senior Vice President, Crop Growers/Farm Credit East

1:00 PM **Adjourn**

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM **Welcome and Introductions**

9:10 AM **Overview of Task Force work**

Co-Chairs report

9:35 AM **Task Force Members' Proposals**

10:35 AM **Break**

10:45 AM **Roundtable Discussion**

Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

Amy Richardson, Richardson Family Farm, Hartland, VT

12:00 PM **Adjourn**

Monday, December 20, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM **Introductions**

- 9:10 AM** **Presentation of Report**
Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

 - 9:30 AM** **Task Force Discussion**

 - 10:30 AM** **Break**

 - 10:45 AM** **Task Force Discussion**

 - 11:30 AM** **Submit Report and Draft Legislation**

 - 12:00 PM** **Adjourn**
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Monday, August 29, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 9:00 AM** **Overview**
Task Force Charge and Task Force recommendations from 2022 report
Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

- 9:45 AM** **Overview**
Status of Vermont Dairy Farming by Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Diane Bothfeld, Director of Administrative Services & Dairy Policy, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

- 10:45 AM** **Break**

- 11:00 AM** **Continue Testimony**
Diane Bothfeld, Director of Administrative Services & Dairy Policy, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

- 11:30 AM** **Future Meeting Plan**

12:00 PM Adjournment

Monday, September 12, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions**

Dan Smith, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry
Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry
 - 9:15 AM Overview of Regulated Producer Pricing**

Christopher Wolf, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University
 - 10:30 AM Break**
 - 10:45 AM Overview of Regulated Producer Pricing**

(continued)
 - 11:45 AM Concluding Comments**
 - 12:00 PM Adjournment**
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Monday, September 26, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Dan Smith, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

9:15 AM Milk Production and Processing in Vermont

Vermont dairy industry structure and how this market structure might conceptually support a state order-order milk price regulation, and a handler fee/tier payment system.

Dan Smith, Former Founding Executive Director, Northeast Dairy Compact Commission

10:15 AM Break

10:30 AM Milk Production and Processing in Vermont

Continued

11:15 AM Legality of State Pricing

Presentation of Report by Brandon Denning on the legality of a Vermont state order-order milk price regulation, and a handler fee/tier payment system

Brandon P. Denning, Starnes Professor of Law, Samford Law School (Birmingham AL)

11:45 AM Concluding Comments

12:00 PM Adjournment

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Comments POSTPONED to 10/24/22

Meeting Record

9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

Dan Smith, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

- 9:15 AM** **Pricing Milk for State Milk Market Regulation**
Dan Smith, Former Founding Executive Director, Northeast Dairy Compact Commission

 - 10:50 AM** **Break**

 - 11:00 AM** **Environmental Requirements and Costs of Dairy Farming in Vermont**
Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

 - 11:45 AM** **Concluding Comments**

 - 12:00 PM** **Adjournment**
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Monday, October 24, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 9:00 AM** **Welcome and Introductions**
Dan Smith, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry
Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

 - 9:15 AM** **Pricing Milk for State Milk Market Regulation**
Dan Smith, Former Founding Executive Director, Northeast Dairy Compact Commission

 - 10:50 AM** **Break**

 - 11:00 AM** **Environmental Requirements and Costs of Dairy Farming in Vermont**
Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

 - 11:45 AM** **Concluding Comments**

 - 12:00 PM** **Adjournment**
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Monday, November 14, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM **Welcome and Introductions**

9:05 AM **Economic Issues on Vermont Farms**

Small Farms

Andy Birch, Maple Grove Farm, Derby, VT

Abbie Corse, Corse Dairy Farm, Whitingham, VT

Joanna Lidback, Wheeler Mountain Farm, Barton, VT

Mary White, Fort Waite Holsteins LLC, Corinth, VT

10:10 AM **Economic Issues on Vermont Farms**

Medium Farms

Stephanie Pope, North Wind Acres Farm, Shoreham, VT

Brett Urie, Shadagee Farmstead, Craftsbury Common, VT

10:30 AM **Economic Issues on Vermont Farms**

Large Farms

Kylie Quesnel Chittenden

Will Gladstone, Newmont Farm, Bradford, VT

Steve Kayhart, Kayhart Brothers, Vergennes, VT

Amanda St. Pierre, Pleasant Valley Farm, Richford, VT

12:00 PM **Adjournment**

Monday, December 5, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM **Welcome and Introductions**

9:10 AM Milk Pricing Alternatives for Vermont

Administrative regulatory procedures the State could use for a state pricing program

Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

9:30 AM Milk Pricing Alternatives for Vermont

Input on a state over-order pricing program for Vermont milk

Catherine DeRonde, Vice President, Economics and Legislative Affairs , Agrimark

Travis Forgues, Executive Vice President of Membership, Organic Valley

Mateo Kehler, Owner, Jasper Hill Farms

Jon Rooney, Monument Farms Dairy

11:15 AM Break

11:25 AM Milk Pricing Alternatives for Vermont

Input on a state over-order pricing program for Vermont milk

Rolf Carlson, procurement, Stonyfield

11:45 AM Concluding Comments

Committee Discussion

12:00 PM Adjournment

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:00 AM Introductions and Comments

Daniel Smith, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry

9:15 AM Increased Funding for Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC)

Task Force discussion

9:30 AM Recommended Legislative Draft Pricing Legislation

Task Force discussion

Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM Recommended Legislative Draft Pricing Legislation

Continuation of Task Force discussion

12:00 PM Adjournment
