

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
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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
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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	<div>In-State Analysis and Proposals For Change<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stacy Cibula, Agriculture DirectorSteven Collier, General Counsel, Agency of Agriculture, Food and MarketsPaul Costello, Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural DevelopmentLiz Gleason, Director, VHCB Farm and Forest Viability ProgramJennifer Hollar, Director of Policy and Special Projects, Vermont Housing and Conservation BoardEllen Kahler, Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs FundGil Livingston, Former President, Vermont Land TrustAnson Tebbetts, Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets</div>
11:15 AM	Break
11:25 AM	<div>Cooperative Initiatives<ul style="list-style-type: none">Catherine DeRonde, Vice President, Agri-MarkJim Mulhern, National Milk Producers Federation, Inc.</div>
12:40 PM	Public Comment
1:00 PM	Adjourn

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
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Meeting Record

9:00 AM	<div>Milk Hauling Issues<ul style="list-style-type: none">Barney McConnell, Director of Transportation, Dairy Farmers of America</div>
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

Monday, August 29, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
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Meeting Record

9:00 AM	Overview <i>Task Force Charge and Task Force recommendations from 2022 report</i> Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
9:45 AM	Overview <i>Status of Vermont Dairy Farming by Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets</i> 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

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	<p>Milk Production and Processing in Vermont</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Dan Smith, Former Founding Executive Director, Northeast Dairy Compact Commission</p>
10:15 AM	<p>Break</p>
10:30 AM	<p>Milk Production and Processing in Vermont</p> <p><i>Continued</i></p>
11:15 AM	<p>Legality of State Pricing</p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p>Brandon P. Denning, Starnes Professor of Law, Samford Law School (Birmingham AL)</p>
11:45 AM	<p>Concluding Comments</p>
12:00 PM	<p>Adjournment</p>

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
Comments	POSTPONED to 10/24/22

Meeting Record

9:00 AM	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>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</p>
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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

Monday, October 24, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
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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

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 <i>Administrative regulatory procedures the State could use for a state pricing program</i> Sen. Robert Starr, Co-Chair, Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry
9:30 AM	Milk Pricing Alternatives for Vermont <i>Input on a state over-order pricing program for Vermont milk</i> 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 <i>Input on a state over-order pricing program for Vermont milk</i> Rolf Carlson, procurement, Stonyfield
11:45 AM	Concluding Comments <i>Committee Discussion</i>
12:00 PM	Adjournment

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
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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) <i>Task Force discussion</i>

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
