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Illinois Milk Producers' Association

March 2006

Legislative Update

SB 2744 – Livestock Nuisance Protection

Senate passed the bill by a vote of 56-0. The bill will now move to the House.

This legislation is an Illinois Pork Producers Association initiative to provide that no person may bring a civil suit based on potential nuisance with respect to a proposed livestock management facility. No suit can be filed until all required federal, state, and local permits and approvals for the proposed facility have been granted and until animals are present and operations have actually begun at the proposed facility.



SB 2333 – No Anonymous Complaints

Passed Energy and Environment Committee 10-2, passed the Full Senate 51-2-1. On to the House Rules Committee in hopes of assignment to the Ag Committee. Representative Grandberg has indicated his interest in sponsoring the bill.

Jerry Gaffner and Carl Baumann (pictured above with bill sponsor Senator Frank Watson) testified on this bill and were keys to the success of moving it out of committee. This bill will require a verified name and address on any IEPA complaint dealing with agriculture. Legislators called their testimony “compelling” and remarked on how much they appreciated their appearance that day. An attorney representing IEPA also testified that morning in opposition of the bill.

Whole Milk Called “Minimally Nutritious”

On December 9, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) unveiled publicly for the first time proposed rules to officially ban junk food and soda in Illinois elementary and middle schools. Banning junk food will remove the temptation for young children to replace nutritious meals with candy, soda, pizza, chips and gum. Research shows that healthier students have higher attendance rates, better behavior, and superior test scores.

IMPA submitted a letter of opposition to these rules based on the fact that whole milk would be classified as “minimally nutritious.” We pointed out that research shows children who get recommended amounts of dairy foods have better nutrient intakes overall. Milk, yogurt, and cheese are naturally nutrient-packed, together providing nine essential nutrients kids need every day including:

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From the President

Among agenda items at our last IMPA board meeting was a report on the tremendous impact that two IMPA directors, Jerry Gaffner and Carl Bauman, had on Illinois Senate Bill 2333. The bill would require a verified name and address on any IEPA complaint dealing with agriculture and would, thus, eliminate

anonymous complaints which have been troublesome in some parts of the state. Sponsored by Senator Frank Watson, legislation was languishing in committee, and some had given it little chance of passage. However, this testimony, called "compelling" by some committee members, revitalized the bill. It passed out of committee on a 10-2 vote and passed the Senate on a 52-2-1 vote! Hats off to Jerry, Carl, and Senator Watson.

Let's keep the momentum rolling on this project. We would like our IMPA members to contact their Illinois House Representatives and urge support of SB 2333 which has been sent to the House Rules Committee. This effort is not only an example of why we need to be organized as Illinois Milk Producers' Association, but also of what we can accomplish by so doing it.

Have a safe planting season.

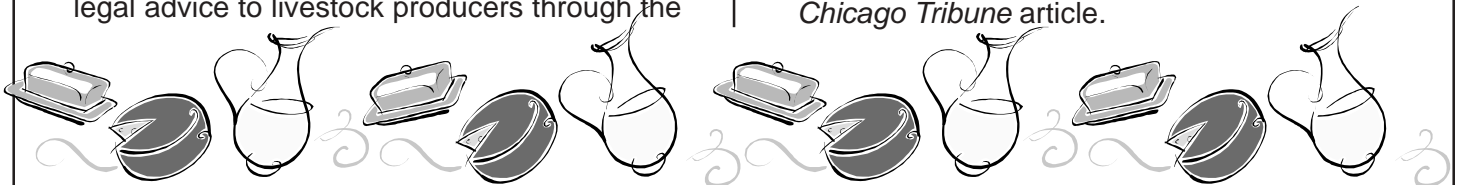
Executive Summary

A meeting of the Illinois Milk Producers' Association was held on Monday, March 6, 2006, at the IAA Building in Bloomington, Illinois. There were ten directors present and one absent. Several advisory members and guests were present and monitored the meeting.

- The board reviewed and approved the financial reports and approved the IMPA obtaining a credit card for the purpose of facilitating grant purchases, lobbyist registration, and occasional purchases.
- IMPA reviewed three proposals from attorneys who have been contacted to provide contractual legal advice to livestock producers through the

Illinois Livestock Development Group. The consensus was to approve of the concept with stipulations.

- Received oral reports from several advisory members to IMPA, including: Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Mid-West Dairy Association, University of Illinois, and Illinois State University. Delayne Reeves, IDOA, and Dr. Pat O'Rourke, ISU, were welcomed as new advisory members.
- The board approved funding to the Illinois Junior Holstein Association in the amount of \$100. The board intends to switch its funding from the Illinois Holstein Association to its junior members.
- IMPA reviewed a recent *Holstein World* article that placed two Illinois dairy herds in the top twenty BAA herds in the country. Several other Illinois herds ranked very high.
- The IEPA pilot project has been funded. Details will be forthcoming.
- Jerry Gaffner and Carl Baumann provided key testimony on SB 2333, which would require a verified name and address to issue an ag-related complaint. This bill has passed the Senate and now has moved on to the House.
- IMPA reviewed its letter to the Illinois State Board of Education which had sought public comment on banning "minimally nutritious foods" in all elementary and middle schools. Whole milk would have fit into this category.
- Environmental Stewardship Award applications are now available. The board will review the applications at its June meeting and select a winner.
- The *Meatrix II* will be out sometime in March. This is an anti-dairy message from PeTA.
- The board received updates on two grants that IMPA received - one on premise registration, the other on a county fair pilot project.
- IMPA will be presenting a workshop on helping livestock producers deal with IEPA inspections in the Bond and Clinton County areas.
- The board discussed our role in facilitating Chinese cheese-making efforts. After a considerable amount of discussion, the board asked the IDOA's international marketing arm to take over this effort.
- IMPA discussed the Nunes bill and a recent *Chicago Tribune* article.



County Fair ID Demonstration Project

IMPA recently received a grant to work with three different Illinois County Fairs to pilot an RFID project to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of an electronic reading system. County Fairs will be on the front-line of an animal disease tracking system, but little study has been done to evaluate the process of tagging and recording the movements of exhibition live stock. Fifty dairy and 50 beef cattle, 50 sheep, and 50 swine will be tagged prior to the Stephenson, Livingston, and Bond County Fairs. As the animals come into their respective fairs, they will be read into a database. The tags will be evaluated for readability, retention, problems associated with the tag, as well as general ease or difficulty of the system. Cooperators on the project are Dave Seibert, Jim Endress, Dave Fischer, Lynn Weis, and Marion Shier.



IMPA Manager, Jim Fraley, demonstrates the type of EID reader used in the county fair study.

A Livingston County steer is tagged at the fairgrounds in Pontiac.



“Minimally Nutritious”

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calcium, protein, potassium, phosphorus, vitamins D, A and B₁₂, riboflavin and niacin. Dairy products are key to providing calcium, which helps build and maintain strong bones and teeth; and vitamin D which helps promote the absorption of calcium. In part because of our efforts, ISBE has decided not to proceed with the new rules at this time.

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Ear Tag Location

Using radio frequency ID (RFID) ear tags will be critical to the success of tracking animal movements as the NAIS program moves forward. It is important to follow these guidelines when using the RFID tags (see photo below):

1. Place the RFID tag in the tagger's clamp with the raised bump portion between the clamp's jaws. This will ensure the tag is not bent or damaged during installation.
2. Dip the tag in a disinfectant, like Nolvasan, prior to tagging the animal. This will help sterilize the tag, and lubricate the punch.
3. Place the tag in the middle of the LEFT ear, on the inner one-third of the ear. If it's too far out, there is a greater chance of the animal "shaking out" the tag.



Premise Registration

The Illinois Milk Producers' Association is encouraging all Illinois dairy farmers to register their farms with the Illinois Department of Agriculture as livestock premises. This is the first step toward establishing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), a project to help maintain our high standards of animal health and to complete a traceback within a 48-hour period, in the event of the discovery of a foreign animal disease. Producers can register their operations on line, or using the enclosed brochure.

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The *Illinois Milk Producers' Association Newsletter* is a quarterly newsletter provided free of charge to all Illinois dairy farm families. For further information, contact:

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Link Between Dairy and Weight Loss

A new clinical trial published in the December 2005 issue of *Obesity Research* provides more insight into how dairy product consumption is linked to weight and body fat loss.



The study found that when adults on a reduced-calorie diet exercised and consumed the recommended three to four servings of dairy foods each day, their metabolism changed so that their bodies burned more fat than those who only consumed one serving of dairy under the same conditions.

“Our data suggests that when you restrict calories slightly and increase calcium intake by increasing the number of low-fat dairy servings, the amount of fat burned over 24 hours is increased,” said Edward Melanson, Ph.D., lead investigator and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Colorado. “This is the third study in the last six months that adds more support to the body of research on dairy’s role in weight management,” said Mel Kunstleben, a

Minnesota dairy producer and chairman of Midwest Dairy Association. “These studies, funded in part by dairy producers through their checkoff investment in nutrition research, help form lifelong consumers by reinforcing dairy’s role as part of a healthy diet.”

National, state and regional dairy council staffs are communicating the study results to the public through the media. For more information about the study, visit www.nationaldairyCouncil.org.

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Environmental Stewardship Award

IMPA is excited to once again honor a dairy farm family with this award. You will find a brochure included in this newsletter which will provide more information about how to apply. The dairy farm family recipient will be selected at the June IMPA board meeting and will receive their recognition during the Ag Day luncheon at the Illinois State Fair. The winning dairy producer will also receive a large metal sign that they can place outside their dairy to let visitors know they are committed to environmental stewardship. The deadline for submitting an application is May 29, 2006.



Illinois Milk Promotion Board

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Vacant (*NFO*)

IMPB March Board Summary

- The Illinois Milk Promotion Board (IMPB) met at Illinois Farm Bureau on Tuesday, March 7, 2006. The meeting was called to order by Harold Rice, President, at 9:59 a.m.
- The board's responsibility is to administer the collection and distribution of milk check-off funds (10¢/cwt.) from Illinois dairy producers.
- The Illinois Milk Promotion Act became effective July 1986. We have seen annual milk promotion receipts fluctuate from a high of \$2.45 million in 1988 to a low of \$1,884 million in 2004.
- The purpose of the board meeting was to develop guidelines for the distribution of milk promotion receipts to be received during the months of July-December 2006.
- Funding agency managers, Rita Duncan (SLDDC) and Mike Kruger (MDA) were each given an opportunity to summarize their agency's accomplishments during the past year and submit funding requests for the period July - December 2006. Karen Schmitt and Marla Behrends also outlined their activities with MDA.
- After administrative expenses and management fees are deducted from the milk promotion receipts, the balance is distributed to three agencies for "promotion" and "nutrition education" programs. The three agencies include: (1) Midwest Dairy Association (MDA); (2) St. Louis District Dairy Council (SLDDC); and (3) Southeast United Dairy Industry Association (SUDIA).
- The board approved funding of the IMPA management fee in the amount of \$6,000. The board also approved the funding request of SUDIA in the amount of \$4,802 for July - December 2006.
- After deducting administrative expenses, management fee, and out-of-state funding, the board approved that the balance will be distributed between SLDDC (23.7%) for nutrition education and MDA (76.3%) for promotion and nutrition education programs. Based on these percentages, the following dollar **estimates** (based on July - December 2005 milk receipts) of funding were approved for July - December 2006.
Midwest Dairy Association - \$695,657
St. Louis District Dairy Council - \$216,082
- The 2005 audit was reviewed by Robert Beerup, IAAA Auditor. The board approved and placed on file the 2005 IMPB audit as prepared by DBH & Associates, LLC.
- Districts I - IV were reviewed as to the volume of milk represented by each district. According to the Illinois Milk Promotion Act, the districts shall represent as nearly an equal volume of milk as may be practicable. A reconfiguration of the districts to equalize milk volume was approved by the board.
- The Illinois Milk Promotion Board will meet next on Thursday, September 7, in Bloomington, IL.