

PMMB SUBMITTED COMMENTS

MAY 14, 2018

From: NELSON TROUTMAN, DAIRY FARMER

I talked to Doug Eberly chief counsel, PMMB, the past few weeks. He said every year we lose a certain percentage of farms in Pennsylvania. I agreed, but I also note that these farms that got termination notices from Deans really were not planning on exiting the dairy business.

When I testified at the Dec. 6, 2017 PMMB hearing, I told the board and the 7 lawyers present that this milk marketing board is very costly and corrupt. The Pennsylvania dairy farmer has no idea what the over-order premium – whether at the \$1.60 or \$0.75 level -- is costing the industry, and especially the dairy farmers.

There is absolutely no transparency in this system.

When I was asked at the hearing, what level I think the over-order premium should be, I said: Zero. Remember, I said the premium system is corrupt.

Way too much milk is moved back and forth across our 4 milk-producing borders, by the processors, to get around paying the premium to the PA dairy farmers.

Keep in your mind that the PA dairy farmer is paying all the transporting cost of raw fluid milk and processed milk.

At a meeting, I told Brad Keating of DFA that they pick up milk in Lancaster County, truck it to Ohio, process the milk, truck it back to our area, sell the milk at the PA state minimum price (or higher, never lower), keep the over-order premium, and the PA farmers pay the trucking both ways.

The PMMB has sold 20-plus licenses to sell milk in Pennsylvania among companies that bring in lots of out-of-state milk, and our PA dairymen are getting termination notices.

We need to replace the 2 members of the PMMB board whose terms are up. In the 8 years of attending PMMB meetings, I have seen some very disturbing actions, but no action on farmer requests for transparency.

Sincerely,

Nelson Troutman, dairy farmer