

*Dairy Practices Council Report*  
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The 49th Annual Conference of the Dairy Practices Council was held at the Sheraton McKinney, located in McKinney, Texas, a growing suburb north of Dallas. This location marked the 1<sup>st</sup> time the group traveled this far west and away from its northeast roots to meet. Over 120 dairy professionals were registered for the conference.

The 3-day conference, held each fall, is formatted with General Sessions that present a wide range of topics from farm to plant and Task Force Sessions that allow all six DPC Task Forces to meet simultaneously, providing a forum where topics of common interest can be shared with the membership and other attendees. Attendees at this year's conference represented a cross-section of the dairy community including representatives of dairy farm producers and cooperatives; industry manufacturers and suppliers; state and federal regulators; and academia.

General Session Programs held Wednesday afternoon (11/7) and Thursday and Friday mornings (11/8-9) featured topics of current interest to the dairy industry, from farm to plant to the consumer:

- Global Perspectives of Dairy Markets, Chris Allen (Dairy Farmers of America);
- Anaerobic Digestion for Acid Whey and Dairy Manufacturing Wastes;
- Overview of Changes to NCIMS Documents & Appendix T Food Safety Plan Requirements;
- Mentoring, Training and Education of Future and Current Dairy Industry Employees of the Dairy Industry;
- Dairy Industry Regulations;
- Nutritional Labeling and GMOs;
- Appendix N Pilot Program Update; Defending U.S. Dairy Exports;
- Producer Welfare in Tough Times;
- Pathogen Control in Rising up from a Recall; and
- NMPF's Regulatory & Environmental Pursuits.

The DPC Task Forces met Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Wednesday included presentations and discussions based on the Task Force focus areas. Speaker topics included the

- Economics of Automatic Milking Systems (TF-I);
- Water Use and Treatment in Dairy Operations (TF-II);
- Genetic Testing & Sequencing for Improving Quality (TF-III); and
- Direct Loading of Milk (TF-V).

The TF Groups also worked on updating many DPC Guidelines, allowing all attendees the chance to contribute and participate in the review and update process.

In addition to the General and Task Force sessions, a tour of the Southwest Dairy Museum & Education Center was offered Wednesday morning, November 7. Opened in 1982, the museum operates in an educational and promotional capacity for the dairy industry. Dairy farmers direct and fund all the activities of the center. On Tuesday, November 6, a pre-meeting short-course on Automatic Milking Systems (Robotics) was presented. Thirty-two dairy professionals involved with dairy farms and inspections attended the day-long workshop.

I have been fortunate enough to have attended 10 DPC conferences during my time with the PMMB, the last three serving on the executive board as an at-large director. I have found the education and ability to interact with industry professionals from across the United States to be a valuable resource. During this conference I was nominated and selected to be the Vice President of the group. I was honored and very much appreciate the opportunity to assist in directing this organization in the upcoming years. Next year will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> conference for the organization and will be held in Portland, Maine. Future locations for the DPC include Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2020, and the group makes a return to the Keystone State in 2021 when Pittsburgh will host the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference!