

Dairy Producer Opinion Survey Highlights

Over the next few months, our newsletters will contain information about comments or suggestions we have received from survey respondents. We will try to use something mentioned by multiple people and provide our initial thoughts on the issue.

These highlights are not intended to be a “data analysis” of the survey responses, but we hope they will inform our readers of the types of information we are receiving and let respondents know that we are reading and considering all comments and suggestions.

We are requesting that surveys be completed by March 24th and when the data analysis is completed, we will publish the results using our newsletter links.

Survey Comment: “Milk produced in PA should not leave and return to the state without falling under state minimum pricing.”

All milk that is sold in Pennsylvania must be sold at or above the minimum price. This includes producer milk, as well as milk sold at the wholesale and retail levels. *However, Pennsylvania is not permitted to enforce its minimum price on milk that is sold outside Pennsylvania.*

All milk that is sold retail in Pennsylvania must be sold at the minimum price or above. All retailers located in Pennsylvania who buy and/or sell milk in Pennsylvania must meet wholesale and/or retail minimum prices.

The PMMB staff visit retail outlets that are reported as selling milk below the minimum. One PA store – that sells milk from a processor in another state– was reported and visited in February and was found to be selling milk below our state minimum prices. The store manager was using the grocery store chain’s timeframe for pricing instead of the PMMB mandated timeframe and pricing.

Survey Comment: “No one seems to know how the price is figured.”

One of the reasons the Board distributed the survey was to learn what farmers did and did not understand well about how milk is priced in Pennsylvania. So far, the survey responses have provided us with valuable information, and we intend to increase and improve our communications about pricing to not only farmers but consumers, as well.

The survey contained 13 items of information designed to assess what and where we need to focus on in terms of distributing educational information to our farm community and consumers. Over the next few months we will be working hard to tackle these issues and hope that we can continue to receive information about what people want to know.