



# **Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority**

## **Final Report**

**FY 2020**

**David Weinand**

625 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 651-201-6646

[www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)

February 1, 2021

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	2
Executive Summary .....	2
Introduction .....	2
Board of Directors .....	3
Board Authority Highlights .....	3
Authorizing Legislation .....	4

Pursuant to MINN. STAT. § 3.197, the cost of preparing this report was approximately \$(500).

## Executive Summary

The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority was created by the legislature in 2012. It was tasked with identifying a site for a dairy industry research and education facility. It was agreed that the location of the next dairy research facility should be a part of the University of Minnesota, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences and that a comprehensive feasibility study including all animal agriculture facilities would be the best course of action. The study will be presented to the Regents of the University of Minnesota at a future date. The authorizing statute stipulated that if the authority did not identify a site for a facility by August 1, 2020 the authorizing language would be repealed. The Authority did not identify a specific site by August 1, 2020 and (MINN. STAT. 32C.06) the Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority has been disbanded.

## Introduction

The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority (MINN. STAT. 32C.01-.06 2012) met collectively with the state’s dairy industry and higher education representatives to determine how to strengthen dairy research and educational opportunities through a new dairy research facility. The Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority board members gathered

information about other surrounding state dairy research facilities during the evaluation process including facts on construction financing, costs of operation, and operating procedures. The Board also met with dairy processors, agricultural lenders, and representatives of farm organizations to formulate a plan and assess the needs of the industry in order to best position a new research and teaching facility. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture offered administrative support and filed the annual report to the legislature on behalf of the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority.

## Board of Directors

The Dairy Research, Teaching, and Consumer Education Authority was governed by a board of nine directors each serving a term of four years. The governor appointed four members of the board. The other five were designated by organizations within the dairy industry (trade organization representing milk producers, Midwest Dairy Council, Minnesota State Colleges and University). The Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences and the Commissioner of Agriculture also served as members of the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority.

The Authority's nine directors were:

- **Sheryl Meshke**, Co-President and CEO, Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (Board Chair)
- **Barb Liebenstein**, Dairy Producer and Chair of Midwest Dairy MN Division (Vice Board Chair)
- **Daniel Glessing**, Dairy Producer and Minnesota Farm Bureau (Treasurer)
- **Eunice Biel**, Dairy Producer and Minnesota Farmers Union
- **Rick Rugg**, Midwest Regional Manager, Lely North America
- **Brad Schloesser**, Dean, MnSCU South Central College
- **Tom Sedgeman**, Dairy Producer and Minnesota Milk Board member
- **Dr. Brian Buhr**, Dean, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
- **Commissioner Thom Petersen**, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

## Board Authority Highlights

Meeting discussion focused around challenges of locating a fully scaled dairy facility on the St. Paul campus along with the needs for other livestock research and teaching facilities. There was a general recognition of the need to explore a more comprehensive plan for facilities at potential off-campus sites in rural Minnesota. Several opportunities were discussed which led the Authority to evaluate the need for a feasibility study that will explore a comprehensive animal agriculture research enterprise that included crop and soil health, in addition to dairy, swine and turkey facilities. While early in the process, a request for proposal was developed to set the stage for a comprehensive plan.

The Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority did not identify or receive any funding and did not have any assets or liabilities.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture provided, a small amount of administrative support to the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority, including authoring the annual report, taking minutes and calling meetings as requested by the Chair.

Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority did not adopt any significant changes to the bylaws, policies, rules or programs during the past year.

Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority expired in August 1, 2020, after not being able to identify a specific site for a facility.

## **Authorizing Legislation**

MINN. STAT. 32C.01-.06 2019

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.