

2002 OYDCs Attend NMPF Meeting in Washington, D.C.

By Tony and Patti Jandernoa
MMPA 2002 OYDC



As members of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) Young Cooperators (YC) Council, we recently had the opportunity to attend the NMPF YC Council Meeting and Dairy Policy and Legislative Forum in Washington, D.C., July 7-10. We had a full agenda and, as always, learned much, especially about our role in the legislative process.

We arrived in D.C. Monday afternoon. After checking into the Hyatt Regency, we proceeded to ride the Metro (D.C.'s transportation system) and met our fellow YC Council members. It was great to get reacquainted with the council members we had met in Anaheim last November.

Tuesday morning we attended a PAC breakfast with Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) who

was recently elected to serve as Chairman of the full House Agriculture Committee. From breakfast, we moved on to the NMPF Board meeting where we received an update on the CWT program, MPC bills and customs status and the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill. We were also updated on trade policy as well as other issues affecting our industry.

Tuesday afternoon was spent with our YC Council in a planning meeting for the NMPF annual meeting to be held in New Orleans this November. We were able to share ideas and past experiences while planning for next year's meeting. The council has a great working relationship and we're really looking forward to the annual meeting in November.

Tuesday evening we boarded a bus and received a lectured tour of our nation's capitol city. The architecture is amazing and the history behind it even more so. We

visited the Jefferson, Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, and Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorials. We also drove by the White House, Capitol and many other significant buildings in the city. This was truly a wonderful experience for us, as this was our first visit to Washington, D.C.

Wednesday morning began with an update on dairy issues and lobbying strategies presented by NMPF's Roger Eldridge, VP, Government Relations. Roger filled us in on the key legislative issues NMPF is working on such as MPC bills (HR 1160 and S560), funding John's Disease Control Program, Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization (S1367) excluding soy beverages as part of the reimbursable school lunch program, Out of Market Regulation (HR1659) and the Forwarding Contract Issue which, in essence, jeopardizes the integrity of the minimum price order system. We were also updated on the Australian Free Trade Agreement. If dairy is included in this agreement, our markets will see a negative impact. Roger also stressed how important our voices are and that it is our responsibility to make sure we are heard.

Following Roger's update, we were enlightened by different speakers from NMPF including President Jerry Kozak who answered many questions on the



While in Washington D.C., the Jandernoas met with Congressman Mike Rogers from Michigan.

2003 OYDC Reunion

The Annual OYDC reunion was held this summer at the home of 1997 OYDCs Gordon and Susan Dick of McBain, Mich. Each year the past OYDCs gather together for a picnic and chance to see old friends. MMPA president Elwood Kirkpatrick and MMPA General Manager John Dilland, gave the attendees an update of MMPA activities and industry issues.



Front row L to R: Mary Nichol, Lillian Gremel, Doreen Slavik, Susan Dick, Teresa Crook, Connie Kleinhardt, Karen Clossen.

Second row L to R: Alan Nichol, Kathy Lott, Michelle Kirkpatrick, Gloria Crandall, Jim Slavik, Gordon Dick, Eric Frahm, Donna Schaible, Dick Kleinhardt, Harold Clossen, Lousia Westendorp.

Back row L to R: John Dilland, Barb Dilland, David Lott, Duane Heisler, Susan Heisler, Elwood Kirkpatrick, Harold Gremel, Larry Crandall, Kathy Middleton, Tom Middleton, Pete Bontekoe, Charles Schaible, Tim Kubacki, Debbie Kubacki, Doug Westendorp

CWT program, Chris Galen who gave us a Dairy G.R.E.A.T. update and Daniela Bals who spoke on the Caring for Dairy Animals Technical Reference Guide and Self Evaluation Guide. Late afternoon brought Tom Christensen, NRSC, to review CAFO rules, Farm Bill Conservation Programs and Livestock Stewardship. Finally, Rob Byrne, NMPF, gave us an overview of the Best Management Practices Manual.

Thursday morning we met with the legislative assistants of Senators Carl Levin - (D) and Debbie Stabenow - (D) of Michigan. We also met with Congressman Mike Rogers - (R-MI). We stressed the importance of the issues we had discussed earlier and our concerns seemed well received.

Once again we would like to take this opportunity to thank MMPA's board and staff. Your support of the Young Cooperators program has opened so many doors for us. These are experiences that would not have been possible without the YC program and we can't stress enough how appreciative we are. In closing, if you are a young cooperator and given the opportunity to participate in a YC conference, give it some thoughtful consideration. There are many wonderful experiences and new friends just waiting for you.

Tony & Patti