

# Harold Gremel Retires from MMPA Board of Directors

Ensuring that MMPA members receive the greatest benefit from their cooperative has remained Harold Gremel's focus during his 21-year tenure on the board of directors. He officially retired from his position during MMPA's Annual Meeting in March.

"Harold has served the members of Michigan Milk for 21 years," says MMPA President Elwood Kirkpatrick. "In addition to that, he has made many contributions to other dairy organizations like Michigan DHIA and the Holstein Association. We appreciate all the effort Harold has put into serving the dairy industry."

Harold was first elected to the MMPA board of directors in 1983. Prior to that, he served as the secretary and a delegate for the Sebewaing Local. He was also a member of the Michigan Producers Dairy Company board of directors prior to their merger with MMPA. In 1964, Harold and his wife, Lillian were selected MMPA OYDC.

"As long as I was a member, I always had a job with Michigan Milk," Harold says. "There was never a year there wasn't something for me to do."

During his time on the board, Harold helped lead the direction of the cooperative through many significant events, such as: MMPA's partnership with Leprino Foods, moving the

headquarters from Southfield to Novi, hiring Walt Wosje as general manager, renovation of the Ovid plant and construction of the wastewater plant in Ovid.

"The decision to renovate the Ovid plant from a butter powder facility to all types of products has allowed the plant to produce higher valued products than in the past," Harold says.

The renovation made the Ovid plant more profitable, which increased profit sharing for MMPA members.

"The board is always looking forward to what is best for the members," Harold says. "That's the main reason we are here — our purpose is to guide the cooperative for the benefit of everyone."



Harold and Lillian Gremel

Harold and Lillian farm in partnership with their son, Walter, and their daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Darwin Sneller. They milk 80 cows and farm over 1,000 acres. The Gremels have two other children, Larry and Michelle.

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