

Board Member Spotlight – Tim Hood

Newly elected MMPA board member Tim Hood can relate to the daily challenges faced by dairy producers who have small or large farms.

“I know what it is like to be a dairy farmer with 50 cows and 400 cows,” says Tim, who expanded his herd from 50 cows to 400 in 2000. “I have both of those histories to draw upon because I have been there.”

When he decided to expand his herd, dairy farming became a much bigger part of Tim’s life. Before, his income came from dairying and cash cropping. Now, all feeds raised on his 900-acre farm go to the cows.

“I expanded to keep the farm viable and to provide opportunities for my kids to be involved now and in the future,” Tim says.

Tim’s wife, Debbie, and their four children; Tammy, 20; Charlie, 17; Britney, 15 and Jennifer, 13 work with him on the farm along with 6 non-family employees. Tim’s family and employees encouraged him to run for the MMPA District 2 Director position.

“They said they would manage the farm when I was away at



MMPA Board Member Tim Hood, center, farms with his wife, Debbie (in red shirt) and their four children.

meetings,” Tim says.

The dairy industry became a much bigger part of Tim’s life when he was elected to the MMPA Board of Directors at the District 2 meeting in February. He represents members in Branch, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Allegan, VanBuren, Cass and Berrien counties in Michigan and Elkhart, Kosciusko, Noble and LaGrange counties in Indiana.

Tim succeeds Carl Kline, who retired from the MMPA board earlier this year. Prior to serving on the MMPA Board, Tim was a

member of the MMPA Resolutions and Advisory Committees.

“Being involved in the Advisory Committee and Resolutions Committee helped prepare me for the next level – serving on the MMPA Board,” Tim says.

One of Tim’s first duties as an MMPA board member was to attend the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Conference in Washington, D.C. with MMPA General Manager John Dilland and District 7 Director Jim Reid.

While there, the MMPA representatives met with Congressional Representatives, Senators and staff members to discuss policies and legislation important to the dairy industry. They left the legislators with MMPA policy resolution books to review in the future.

“It was very fulfilling to be able to travel to Washington, D.C. and meet with the legislators,” Tim says.



Newly elected MMPA District 2 Board Member Tim Hood, right and previous District 2 director Carl Kline (center) meet with Representative Fred Upton at Tim’s farm.