

# MMPA Welcomes New Board Members

*Some members of MMPA's leadership changed during the cooperative's meeting season earlier this year. New MMPA Director **Eric Frahm**, of Frankenmuth, was elected February 21 during the District 10 meeting in Midland and new MMPA Director **Rodney Daniels**, of Whittemore, was elected to an at-large position March 21 during MMPA's 90th Annual Delegate Meeting in Lansing.*

## Eric Frahm

Whether he was educating dairy farmers as an extension agent or making decisions about his own dairy herd, Eric Frahm has always had an affinity for the dairy industry.

Eric grew up on a dairy farm, but his father sold the family's share of the farm when Eric was young. Feeling he could not afford to start his own dairy operation, but determined to pursue a career in agriculture, Eric attended Michigan State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Dairy Science in 1986. Following graduation, he began working as an MSU Extension Agent.

After a few years, Eric decided to take the plunge and secured financing to start his own dairy farm with 30 cows in the fall of 1990. He and his wife, Teresa Crook, now milk 90 cows and farm 250 acres near Frankenmuth.

Eric did look at other cooperatives before joining MMPA, choosing to join MMPA because the cooperative would best fit his operation for service and price.

Soon after joining the cooperative, he served as an MMPA delegate and was elected to the State Resolutions and Advisory Committees. He has also served as the District 10 secretary. In 2000, Eric and Teresa were chosen as MMPA Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators.

"I became involved with leadership in MMPA for a couple of reasons," Eric says. "First, I was raised with a belief of being involved. My parents have been, and still are, involved with many organizations and their examples have encouraged me to do the same. Second, as a small producer, the viability of this cooperative is very important to my operation. The ability of MMPA to help stabilize the milk marketing system is crucial to the long term success of my operation."

As the District 10 Director, Eric represents MMPA members in Clare, Gladwin, Ogemaw, Midland, Iosco, Isabella, Bay, Roscommon, Saginaw and Arenac counties. Eric says he believes in the cooperative philosophy and understands the responsibility which comes from making decisions on behalf of his district and the cooperative.

"I would like to ensure the long term viability of MMPA for future producers to have the same opportunities as I have had," Eric says.

In addition to the MMPA board, Eric

also serves on the Michigan Dairy Marketing Program Committee and formerly served on the United Dairy Industry of Michigan's board of directors. He is a past president of the Saginaw County DHIA and his Michigan Farm Bureau Community Action Group. In his community, Frahm serves on the Blumfield Township Planning and Zoning Commission, plus coaches and referees AYSO soccer.

Eric and Teresa have three children, Timothy (T.J.) 11, Bryce, 10 and Lance, 8.



*The Frahm family: back row: Eric, Lance and Teresa (Crook); front row: Bryce and T. J. (photo credit: Rummel Studios).*

## Rodney Daniels

As a child, Rodney Daniels remembers hearing dinner-table discussions about the future of the dairy industry and current issues facing dairy farmers. His grandfather, Peter Koelsch, was a board member of Michigan Producers Dairy, which eventually merged with MMPA.

"I grew up knowing about dairy industry issues," Rodney says. "Milk prices, dairy policy and other things affecting the dairy industry were always topics of discussion in our house."

Being involved in community and industry organizations has always been encouraged in Rodney's family. Rodney joined MMPA after he "officially" began farming with his father, Donald. He was elected to the MMPA Sunrise Local board of directors. He has also served on the Resolutions, Nominating and Credentials Committees.

"I feel like I have been around so long, that I know many of the members that I represent on the board," Rodney says. The delegate body elected him as one of the cooperative's three at-large directors during MMPA's Annual Meeting in March.

As a representative of the 13-member board, Rodney will help guide the direction of MMPA, a responsibility he does not take lightly.

"As a board member, I feel like I can learn more about our industry and influence the future for myself and other dairy farmers like me," Rodney says. "I appreciate the people that voted for me



*The Daniels family: Jennifer Daniels-Kyle, Bonnie, Anne, Rodney, Catherine, Audrey and Laura.*

and have a goal to do some good for our dairy farmers."

Involvement in MMPA and the dairy industry are important to Rodney. In addition to his position on the board, Daniels also serves on the board of directors for the MMPA Sunrise Local, District 7 of the Michigan Holstein Association and the Cloverland milk hauling co-op.

"People ought to be involved in something that is so much a part of their livelihood," Rodney says.

In the community, Rodney serves on the local fire department and is a member of the Whittemore-Prescott High School Boosters Club, where he formerly served as president.

Rodney farms in partnership with his brothers Wallace and Lynn at W-R-L Daniels Farm, in

Whittemore. The family milks 250 cows and farms 1,210 acres.

Rodney and his wife, Anne, have five children: Jennifer Daniels-Kyle, Audrey, Laura, Bonnie and Catherine.

The family's passion for dairy farming has been passed down to the next generation. Laura works with Rodney and her uncles on the family farm. Jennifer works on a 1,500-cow dairy in New York state where she is the farm's transition cow manager.

**DAIRY BARN MATTING**  
LINEAR RUBBER PRODUCTS  
**rubbermats.com**  
**1-800-558-4040**