



## Presidential Changes at MMPA

In 91 years, MMPA has only had five presidents, two of which collectively served the cooperative for more than half a century. For the past 26 years, MMPA has benefited from the steadfast guidance of Elwood Kirkpatrick, a leader who ensured the cooperative kept on track with our mission: to market our members' milk to the greatest possible advantage.

Elwood officially retired from his presidency during our recent State Annual Delegate Meeting on March 20. During the board's re-organizational meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting, at-large board member, Ken Nobis, of St. Johns, was chosen as our next president.

Ken has served on the MMPA board of directors since 1992 and was our vice-president until his election as president. Bob Kran of FreeSoil was elected as vice-president by his fellow board members to fill Ken's former position.



As the current treasurer of the National Milk Producers Federation board of directors and a member of the NMPF Environmental Committee, Ken is already very involved and familiar with national issues and policies affecting the dairy industry. At the state level, he is vice-president of the United Dairy Industry of Michigan board of directors and serves on the Michigan Dairy Market Program Committee and MSU Dairy Advisory Committee. These involvements have provided Ken with a good understanding of the issues impacting Michigan's dairy industry.

Ken is not new to leadership with MMPA. Prior to his election to the board, he was a past secretary of the MMPA Advisory Committee and a past president of MMPA's Mid-Michigan Local. Ken and his wife, Liz, are

former District Six MMPA Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperators.

Ken began farming in 1968 after completing his college education at Western Michigan University and serving a two-year stint in the Army. He and his brother Larry, operate an 800-cow dairy and farm 3,000 acres near St. Johns, Mich. The brothers were recognized as MSU's Dairy Farmers of the Year in 2006.

I am confident that Ken's presidency will allow for a smooth transition in leadership and he will guide this cooperative with the same dedication as MMPA's past presidents.

MMPA's change in leadership does not alter the direction or philosophy of our cooperative. Our mission continues: to market our members' milk to the greatest advantage possible. I look forward to working with Ken and the rest of the MMPA board toward the achievement of that goal.