

# 92<sup>nd</sup> MMPA Annual



## Governor Jennifer Granholm Praises Michigan Dairy Farmers for Their Economic Contributions to the State



Governor Jennifer Granholm addressed the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Michigan Milk Producers Association on Tuesday, March 18. During her speech to the MMPA delegates, Governor Granholm praised the dairy farmers and their organization for their contributions to Michigan's economy.

"I want to say thank you for what you are doing for Michigan's economy," Granholm told the over 400 members and guests at the meeting. "This is an important sector of Michigan's economy. That the dairy producers in Michigan are doing so well, makes me proud of your contribution to our economy — over \$5 billion annually."

The governor also expressed her interest in renewable energy and commented on her recent trip to a Muskegon area dairy farm to explore the use of anaerobic digesters to convert manure to energy.

"Poop to power," as she phrased it. "We want to use every aspect of the waste stream to be able to create energy. The efforts to convert the poop from your operations is a huge opportunity for us."

The governor also commended the agriculture industry for their role in creating jobs in the state. She voiced her support to the industry and promised to make sure Michigan citizens are aware of agriculture's role in the economy.

"I want to say to you, that as your governor, I want to be a partner in your successes and in the new things coming down the pike. There is an awful lot of opportunity for job creation in agriculture," she stated. "We have such a robust ag sector — which dairy is a significant aspect of — is doing well. I want to make sure citizens are aware of this."

# al Delegate Meeting



*District 4 Director Dan Javor presented the 2007 MMPA Top Quality Award to Kevin Cavanaugh of the Ingham County Local. Kevin earned the award with quality averages of: 53,583 SCC, 1,083 PI and 1,000 raw bacteria. The Cavanaugh farm will be featured in the May Messenger.*



*Dr. Miriam Weber-Nielsen and John Dillard recognize Harold Gremel for the establishment of the Harold and Lillian Gremel Michigan Dairy Memorial Endowed Scholarship created by members of the Gremel Family. The \$3,500 scholarship will be awarded annually to a veterinary student at Michigan State University.*



*During his Annual Meeting speech, MMPA President Ken Nobis highlighted many issues facing dairy farmers today including the need for the dairy industry to become engaged in the political process.*



*MMPA member Mary Nichol congratulates at-large board member Rodney Daniels who was re-elected by delegates to a three-year term on the MMPA Board of Directors.*

*(right) 2007 OYDCs Aaron and Andrea Gasper and 2006 OYDCs Tom and Dianne Cook discussed their experiences in the OYDC program. The Gaspers shared photos and stories about their farm in Belding during the morning session. They were presented with a clock as a memento of their year as MMPA OYDC.*

