



Dairy Foods Awareness Day gives dairy industry representatives like MMPA's Clay Galarneau, right, the opportunity to discuss important issues with state legislators and their staff.

Dairy Foods Awareness Day at the Capitol



Above, from left: Country Fresh's Kevin Begin, MMPA's Carl Rasch and David Wittkop discuss what's going on in the dairy industry with Sen. Van Woerkom (R-Muskegon).



Left: Students touring the Capitol building were invited to enjoy the tasty dairy treats.

Legislators, their staff and visitors to Michigan's capitol building kicked off June Dairy Month with a great big sundae during MDFA's Annual Dairy Foods Awareness Day on the capitol lawn in Lansing on June 2.

Despite cool weather, the event was again deemed a success, with over 100 gallons of ice cream scooped out under the "big top" tent to legislative leaders, agency staff, Lansing opinion leaders and visitors to the Capitol.

Volunteers scooped and topped sundaes for more than 750 people, including 22 members from the Michigan House of Representatives and 13 members from the Michigan Senate, 87 legislative staff members, as well as state employees and school groups visiting the capitol.

With its location on the capitol lawn, the event provided an excellent opportunity for MDFA members and representatives to share with the State's opinion leaders the MDFA legislative concerns for 2009.

"Dairy Day at the Capital is a great way for us to informally meet with our legislators and let them know our concerns," MMPA's Director of Manufactured Sales and Plant Operations Clay Galarneau says. "Sometimes it may be a current issue or draft legislation that we may need their help with or at other times we can use a few minutes together to just provide some updated information on dairy production issues. With term-limits, the faces of our representatives are constantly changing and it is important that we use these opportunities as effectively as possible to meet and educate the new members on the importance of dairy production for the economy of Michigan."

