

MMPA Advisory Committee Meets with State Legislators

Several Michigan State Senators and Representatives took time to meet with members of the MMPA Advisory Committee on Sept. 11. The legislators and staff joined the committee members during their quarterly meeting in Lansing for a special legislative luncheon.

MMPA Advisory Committee member Bill Stakenas from Freesoil explains, "We were able to talk with our legislators and help them understand what we do on our farms on a daily basis. Talking to

our elected officials is incredibly important; we need that leadership looking out for us in Lansing and Washington, D.C. As Advisory Committee members, we're from dairies of all shapes and sizes, represent all member farms and pass on our own and our neighbors' concerns to legislators and board members firsthand."

Prior to the luncheon, Dennis Muchmore, chief of staff for Gov. Snyder, reaffirmed the governor's commitment and belief in Michigan agriculture while fielding members' questions. MMPA member Sen.

Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan) then addressed the group, thanking them for their hard work and dedication. During the luncheon, the committee heard from former MMPA member Kevin Daley (R-Lum), chair of the House Ag Committee, who relayed his committee's agenda items in the coming weeks.



Left: Chief of Staff for Gov. Snyder Dennis Muchmore addresses the MMPA Advisory Committee during their recent meeting in Lansing.

Above: MMPA Treasurer Mark Halbert discusses some of the issues facing Michigan dairy farmers with Rep. Kate Segal (D-Battle Creek) during the MMPA Advisory Committee legislative luncheon.



Above: MMPA member Sen. Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan) addresses the Advisory Committee, thanking them for their tireless efforts and encouraging them to stay in touch with state and federal legislators.



Top right: Rep. Tom Leonard (R-Dewitt, left) updates Mid-Michigan area dairy farmers, including Kris Wardin (right), on current initiatives in the Michigan House of Representatives.



Bottom Right: Jim Good gives Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Lowell) an update on the impending harvest and challenges facing dairy farmers in Kent County.

MMPAC Challenge

Support the MMPAC and you could be supporting one of your favorite charities!

MMPA will award the MMPA local with the highest percentage of members contributing to the MMPAC a matching gift (up to \$1,000) to the local's choice of one of five selected charity organizations or youth foundations.

The winning local can select from the following organizations:

- **Michigan 4-H Foundation**
- **Michigan FFA Foundation**
- **Michigan Dairy Memorial and Scholarship Foundation**
- **United Way**
- **Local charity with approval by MMPA board of directors**

Contributions must be postmarked by November 6, 2013 to qualify for the MMPAC Challenge. The winning local will be announced at Leaders' Conference on Monday, Nov. 25.