



## **Professional Dairy Managers Of Pennsylvania**

*Seeking to Advance the Dairy Industry in Pennsylvania  
Through Increased Productivity and Profitability*  
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## **Northeast Dairy Producers Association, Inc.**

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Dear Editor:

Recently milk suppliers have taken action within their regions to increase their pool of rBST free milk. BST is a protein hormone found naturally in all dairy cattle that enhances a cow's ability to convert the feed it eats to produce milk more efficiently. The fact that some consumers request rbST-free milk suggests they may not realize all milk is equally safe and healthy to drink. Other consumers may choose rbST-free milk as a lifestyle choice.

The Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA) and the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) have two concerns about this latest move within the dairy industry. One is that to produce this niche product a dairy producer is required to stop using a profitable and scientifically approved technology. And the producer has no guaranteed compensation for the loss of income associated with this loss of technology. Second, as consumers' interest in farm production practices increases, we producers have a responsibility to provide accurate information about the care taken to produce the products we sell.

PDMP and NEDPA call upon the entire supply chain -- from producers, to cooperatives, to processors, to retailers, to consumers -- to work together. Meeting consumer demands for specific dairy products is a complex process. A high level of communication is required to determine how the demand for dairy products is filled from the farm to the marketplace. We must ensure that in this process the dairy producer receives a fair value for their milk.

And finally, we take pride to provide consumers with high quality dairy products. Regardless of how our products are labeled in the marketplace, we need to ensure that the customer has confidence in the safety and quality of all our products.

Respectfully,

The PDMP Board of Directors  
Logan Bower, President

The NEDPA Board of Directors  
Jonathan Lamb, Chairman