



State of Connecticut
Department of Agriculture
Milk Regulation Board

Milk Regulation Board Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Attendance

Members Present:

Bryan Hulburt (Commissioner), Jeff Cone, Carolyn Russel, Kimberly Holmes-Talbot, Craig Sterns, Chris Casiello, Megan Hastings

DOAG Staff Present:

Jim Allyn, Kayleigh Royston, Jose Caban, Leia Burns

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were conducted.

3. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

4. Review of Recent Legislative Activity

Commissioner Hulburt reported significant legislative interest and concern regarding milk prices in the dairy industry statewide. He noted that he is actively working with legislators to identify solutions. The legislative session concludes during the first week of May, and there has been considerable positive feedback and a sense of urgency from legislators.

Kayleigh Royston added that similar positive feedback has been received, noting that House Bill 5570 appears to have substantial support.

Board members discussed how potential incentives for farms might be structured. Several members expressed concern that larger farms may receive more support than smaller operations, potentially widening disparities. Some smaller farms indicated that even managing approximately 60 cows is challenging under current conditions. Their goal is sustainability, not expansion.

Kayleigh emphasized the value of hearing a broad range of perspectives as conversations about the industry continue. She can provide contacts if needed. (Kayleigh.Royston@ct.gov).

5. Federal-Level Discussion

There are no current updates at the federal level. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

6. Dairy Grants

Quarterly payments remain in place.

7. Old Business

No old business.

8. New Business

- **Farm Diversification:**

Chris Casiello suggested supporting farms in diversifying their operations. He noted that identifying relevant grant opportunities could assist farms in modernizing, innovating, and potentially incorporating ecotourism to broaden income streams.

- **Review of Regulations:**

Jim Allyn shared that DOAG has begun reviewing state dairy regulations and statutes, which were last updated in 2009. Members may be contacted for input during the review process.

- **Raw Milk Regulations:**

Chris requested updates regarding raw milk regulations, noting that raw milk sales are helping sustain some small farms. However, he expressed that stronger, more stringent pathogen-testing requirements may be necessary to protect public health and the broader industry.

- **Avian Influenza Updates:**

Craig inquired about any updates related to bird flu.

Jim reported that the situation appears largely under control. DOAG continues monthly silo sampling and routine testing.

- **Farm Health and Safety Inspections:**

Jeff asked whether updates to farm health and safety inspections are expected following the recent FDA visit. Jim noted that farms will undergo reinspection, and the FDA is expected to return within 18 months for reevaluation.

- **Industry Announcements:**


Commissioner Hulburt shared that Michael DeAngelis has been named the next CEO of the New England Dairy Board of Directors. He also congratulated Arethusa on its recent awards.

9. Public Comment

No additional public comments were received.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.



4.10.2026

Next Meeting: Tentative—July 8, 2026