

## PDPP Hires Summer Intern

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program has recently hired a summer intern, Stephanie Corbin, to coordinate the program's summer ice cream promotion.

Corbin, a former county dairy

princess, started with the program on May 21.

"We are anxious to have Stephanie join our staff," said Brian Ross, PDPP program manager. "Her skills in communications and promotion will be a great asset to the program. We hope she enjoys

her internship with the PDPP and learns more about Pennsylvania's dairy industry."

Corbin will be charged with coordinating the PDPP's statewide ice cream promotion, "There's Something About Pennsylvania Ice Cream." The promotion is to be

held from July 14 to July 20 at locations across the state.

"I am excited to join the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program's efforts," Corbin said. "I wanted to experience promotion activities at the state level after serving as a dairy princess and

county promoter."

She is currently a senior at Grove City College, majoring in secondary education and communications. Following graduation, she said she hopes to work in public relations/communications or teach high school English.

## New York, New Jersey Actions Boost Over-Order Premium Effort

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Even as basic milk prices continue to stagnate at levels well below the cost of production, local dairy farmers have gotten a boost from several recent state actions supporting higher prices.

State officials in both New York and New Jersey moved last month to provide higher prices through the exercise of existing, if little used, regulatory authority.

The actions have given a boost to dairy farmers throughout the Middle Atlantic region, according to local cooperative officials, by stabilizing the imposition of so-called over-order premiums throughout the region.

In New Jersey, lobbying efforts by farmers and farm groups for state action resulted in an order signed May 31 by Gov. James Florio authorizing a statewide premium on Class I milk to begin June 1. Woodson Moffett Jr., director of the Division of Dairy Industry in the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, proposed the \$1.05 per hundredweight premium for a period of one year.

In New York, the state legislature passed a law May 2 to give state Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Richard McGuire the ability to set prices immediately under existing regulatory authority. McGuire subsequently established \$13.85 as a statewide minimum Class I price for June, as well as minimum prices for Class II and Class III milk.

The New York premium is \$1.39 higher than the average Class I price in June for Federal Order 2, which regulates the New York City-northern New Jersey milk market. The Class II and Class III minimum price also is higher than expected federal order prices for those classes.

McGuire must still rule formally on the official request for state-regulated prices -- the subject of 12 days of testimony in April -- but his emergency response suggests he will rule for at least a continuation of the current premium, according to observers there.

"We do think he's going to rule favorably," said Gregg McAllister, a spokesman for the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency. RCMA was instrumental in the lobbying effort that led to the New York action. The over-order bargaining agency formed a subsidiary, the Regional Cooperative Bargaining Agency, expressly for the pur-

pose of requesting emergency action on behalf of more than 35 percent of New York's producers, as required by the new law, McAllister said.

New York's action already has prompted similar responses throughout New England, McAllister noted. In the weeks since the state's action was announced, officials in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine and Ver-

mont also have implemented or boosted statewide minimum prices. The emergence of all these state-regulated prices has achieved a more uniform and more widely applicable over-order pricing system than RCMA managed by itself during its heyday in the late 1980s.

Likewise, both the New York and the New Jersey actions have shored up the

existing over-order premiums implemented through the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board and the Middle Atlantic Cooperative Milk Marketing Agency in Pennsylvania and the other parts of the Federal Order 4 marketplace, according to Bob Yonkers, a Penn State University dairy economist.

Indeed, the \$1.05 level set in New Jersey also is the over-

order price that dairy cooperatives and farm groups, at a hearing in May, asked the PMMB to lock into place for the year beginning July 1, said board spokesman Tom Kugel. The current PMMB premium, set at \$1.35, is due to expire June 30. The three-member board should rule on the industry's request later this month, according to Kugel.

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