

TF2.0—Our New Year's Tasks

The Governor's Wisconsin Dairy Task Force (TF2.0) has gotten a strong start since its initial meeting in late summer. The full Task Force has met twice and all of the sub-committees have met at least once. There have been two fully-formed recommendations which were voted on and passed (27 to 1) by the TF2.0, and these have been passed along to the Governor Elect's transition team.

We have been in contact with the transition team as well as incoming DATCP Secretary—Brad Pfaff. Brad is no stranger to Wisconsin agriculture having served as the state Director of the Farm Service Agency and more recently as senior policy advisor to Congressman Ron Kind. We are assured that the Governor Elect and the incoming Secretary are solidly behind the completion of TF2.0's efforts.

Sub-Committee Task #1: Remind yourself as to what was accomplished at your last sub-committee meeting. Were you at the point where you had condensed and refined the issues identified for the sub-committee into a few items (no limit on number, but probably fewer than the total identified by the full committee).

These should be refined into as many carefully worded, separate issues as necessary. I.e., write a sentence or paragraph for each issue, not just a bullet point.

Sub-Committee Task #2: Do you have recommendations for the issues identified that should be brought up to the full TF2.0 committee to be voted on. These recommendations should be carefully and clearly worded.

Sub-Committee Task #3: For each proposed solution, can you classify the solution as being in the sphere of an individual business; requiring state or regional organization level support; requiring state policy or dollar support; requiring federal policy or dollar support.

For example, if price volatility is the issue, adoption of MPP-Dairy may be an individual producer solution. Education about risk management programs may be a state organization solution utilizing the UW System. Fundamentally changing the MPP program may have to employ the resources of a national organization like NMPF and ultimately Congress.

Understanding this hierarchy helps us identify what is inside our control and what we may only be able to influence in terms of a dialog beyond the state borders.

Does the sub-committee need to meet again? You should be able to see the end of the sub-committee's work by the end of this meeting, but if the issues were too many or too complex to fully address, please access your calendars to find the next meeting date before you adjourn. Please also consider whether a conference call might be adequate to finish the tasks.

The next full Task Force meeting has been scheduled for March 15th. It should be a goal of the sub-committees to complete their recommendations for TF2.0 voting.