

Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0
Sub-Committee Membership and Other Information

Rural Communities Support and Infrastructure

(Sub-committee combined with Economies of Scale vs. Size issue grouping from August 13th meeting.)

Membership

Darin Von Ruden — producer, Pres. Wisc Farmers Union
John Schmidt — Bus Development Manager, Landmark Services Coop
Dennis Bangart — Asst Vice Pres, Farm Credit
Elizabeth Wells* — Dir Farm Milk Management, Organic Valley
Janet Clark — producer, Vision-Aire Farms, Farm Bureau
Don Hamm — producer, Pres WI NFO
Melissa Haag — Lodi Veterinary Hospital
Michael DeLong — Vice President, First Bank of Baldwin
Jerry Schroeder — Wisconsin Milk Haulers Association

Resource Person(s)

Steven Deller — Ag Economist, community economic development, UW Madison

Issues Identified

Community loosing Ag infrastructure
Fewer farms->fewer customers to support community businesses
Decline of rural communities
Rural infrastructure
Business management (financial lit.)
Supportive infrastructure
Independence to a fault (all need help)
Need more collaboration
Strengthen the partnership between farmers and processors
Not let efficiency take us too far to vertical integration, we need diversity in farming
Vertical integration
Do you or do you not control industry growth-define industry growth
Farm size

* Sub-Committee Chairperson