
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 403 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, BAKER, MARTIN, ARGALL, BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS,
BREWSTER, SABATINA, EICHELBERGER, SCARNATI, GREENLEAF,
BROWNE, VULAKOVICH, GORDNER, SCHWANK, FOLMER, KILLION,
RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, WHITE, BLAKE AND WARD, JUNE 20, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 20, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2018 as "Dairy Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Dairy farming is a major part of Pennsylvania's
4 agriculture and overall economy, generating \$14.7 billion of
5 economic activity annually; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania ranks fifth nationally in milk
7 production, and the State's 525,000 cows produce more than 10.8
8 billion pounds of milk annually, supporting more than 52,000
9 jobs across this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2016, this Commonwealth lost 120 dairy farms, and
11 1,200 dairy farms have been lost overall since 2012; and

12 WHEREAS, The retail price of milk has decreased by 50% since
13 2014; and

14 WHEREAS, According to a survey conducted by the Centers for
15 Disease Control and Prevention, the number of Pennsylvania high
16 school students reporting that they did not drink any milk at
17 all in the seven days before the survey has been steadily

1 increasing since 2009; and

2 WHEREAS, Many of our dairy farmers were notified by Dean
3 Foods that they would no longer be able to purchase their milk,
4 leaving many with little time and options to find an alternative
5 buyer resulting in many making the decision to sell their herds
6 and ultimately their livelihood; and

7 WHEREAS, This extreme downturn in dairy consumption and
8 production has led to what *USA Today* is calling a "crisis" that
9 "is so dire that dairy marketing cooperatives have started
10 providing suicide hotline information to members along with milk
11 checks"; and

12 WHEREAS, Dairy farmers have been operating under thin profit
13 margins and within hostile market conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 99% of Pennsylvania's dairy farms are
15 family owned; and

16 WHEREAS, It is clear that now, more than ever, dairy farmers
17 and their families need help; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of June 2018 as
19 "Dairy Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate thereby bring awareness to the
21 current hardships facing the dairy industry in Pennsylvania; and
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the immense value that
24 Pennsylvania's dairy industry injects into local and state
25 economies; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate applaud the hard work and
27 resiliency of our dairy farmers and their families; and be it
28 further

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate, in so doing, promote the purchase
30 and consumption of the high-quality dairy products produced here

1 in Pennsylvania.