

Rep. Mike Hanna
Remarks – Public Hearing on Dairy
August 24, 2009

- Good afternoon.
- Before we begin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Penn State Fayette for hosting us today.
- And on behalf of the entire House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, I want to thank you all for being here to discuss an issue that is vital to our state's economy.
- I would like to take a minute recognize (Reps, VIPs present...)
- Agriculture is our state's largest industry.
- It plays a major role to each and every Pennsylvanian, whether they know it or not, because the people in this industry produce much of what we eat and drink every day.
- A crucial member of the agriculture family, Pennsylvania's dairy industry supports more than 40,000 jobs and contributes more than \$4 billion annually to the state's economy.
- However, this industry is not immune to the economic crisis that is plaguing much of the nation.
- Dairy farmers throughout the state are dealing with historically low milk prices.
- They are being paid approximately 40 percent less for their product than they were just one year ago.
- With the cost of feed and fuel continuing to rise, dairy farmers throughout Pennsylvania are having a hard time making ends meet.
- Our dairy market in Pennsylvania is in crisis.

- We risk losing our valuable dairy farmers unless we provide support to help them maintain their businesses and their trade.
- It is my sincere hope that this public hearing will help us to begin doing just that.
- We have an excellent panel here today that will bring to light many of the current issues facing dairy farmers in Pennsylvania.
- I would now like to introduce...

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