

# IDFA Cheese Board



## Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Vienna North | Conrad Indianapolis | Indianapolis, IN

Presiding: Louie Gentine, Chair, IDFA Cheese Board | Counsel: Danielle Quist, IDFA

IDFA Staff Liaisons:

J. David Carlin, Senior Vice President, Legislative Affairs and Economic Policy

Cary Frye, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

**(1) Introduction and welcome by Louie Gentine, Chair, IDFA Cheese Board. In attendance were the following:**

### **Members**

**Chair: Louie Gentine, Sargento Foods Inc.**

### **Directors**

Troy Ammann, Agropur U.S. Operations  
Chadwick Baker, Crystal Farms Dairy Company  
Michael L. Brown, The Kroger Co.  
Rob Byrne, Schreiber Foods, Inc.  
Wilf Costello, Glanbia Nutritionals  
Kurt Epprecht, Great Lakes Cheese Co., Inc.  
Jeff Gentine, Masters Gallery Foods, Incorporated  
Chris Hoeger, Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.  
Jeff Kent, Foremost Farms USA  
Kim Parks, Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.  
Jim C. Sartori, Sartori Company  
Doug Wilke, Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.  
Dan Zastoupil, Marathon Cheese Corporation

### **IDFA Executive Council Members**

David Ahlem, Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.  
Terry Brockman, Saputo Cheese USA Inc.  
Peter Cotter, The Kraft Heinz Company  
Tom Murphy, Brewster Cheese Company

### **Gold Business Partner Representatives**

Betsy Erdelyi, BMO Harris Bank  
Brian Rice, Rice Dairy LLC

### **Guests**

Nathan Arnold, Hixson Architects & Engineers

Philippe Caradec, Danone North America  
Crystal Dohner, Crystal Creamery  
Ted Jacoby, T.C. Jacoby & Company, Inc.  
Mary Ledman, Rabobank  
Brian Linney, Maryland and Virginia Producers Cooperative Association, Inc.  
Matt McClelland, Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.  
Mike Neu, Chr. Hansen, Inc.  
Phil Plourd, Blimling and Associates, Inc.  
Mike Reidy, Leprino Foods Company  
Mike Suever, HP Hood LLC  
Larry Webster, Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
Dan Zagzaebksi, Great Lakes Cheese

**IDFA Staff**

John Allan  
Dave Carlin  
Michael Dykes  
Tony Eberhard  
Cary Frye  
Beth Hughes  
Danielle Quist  
Heather Soubra  
Josie Wagler  
Tom Wojno

**(2) Antitrust Statement**

Danielle Quist reminded board members of IDFA’s antitrust policy that governs their conduct at the board meeting and all activities associated with IDFA.

**(3) Chairman’s Remarks**

Louie Gentine welcomed members and made some overall comments about the state of the industry and the purpose of the board meeting.

**(4) Strategic Priority Review**

Chair Louie Gentine presented the proposed strategic priorities for the Cheese Board. He noted that some priorities are unique to the cheese sector, while others are also of importance to other dairy categories. The board agreed that the proposed priorities aligned with industry expectations and interests.

**(5) Key Actions and Discussion**

Cary Frye and Dave Carlin reviewed the key actions that IDFA staff is currently executing to implement each of the strategic priorities.

Standards: There was discussion related to flexibility to use microfiltered milk (MF) in cheese making with the ingredient labeled as milk. The Segment Board directed IDFA staff that the scope of our request to FDA should be to permit the use of all forms of MF milk for cheese making, including dry forms such as milk protein concentrate, but they wanted to limit that the MF milk could not go through further processing to make products such as rennet casein or acid casein. One member also asked IDFA to get clarification from FDA if microfiltering milk within a plant could be considered as part of an alternative make process and permitted under the current standards. Cary Frye will follow

up on the standards scope of work with the Standards and Labeling Committee and undertake outreach to NMPF and other dairy organizations.

**(6) Federal Milk Marketing Order Reform**

Mike Suever presented a report on the Economic Policy Committee's consideration of FMMO issues related to Class III & IV products. Following a brief board discussion, Kurt Epprecht updated members on the committee's evaluation of possible changes to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) rules. At this point, the committee is still studying possible policy changes so no board action was requested. It is expected that the committee will present policy recommendations for the board to consider at a future meeting. Chair Louie Gentine asked committee leaders to keep the board apprised of further developments.

**(7) New Business and Adjourn**

Board members updated the board regarding efforts to encourage the CME to broaden its cheese futures and options offerings to include additional, cash-settled contracts for NDSPR block and NDSPR barrel cheddar. A board member volunteered to provide IDFA with a copy of the letter his organization plans to submit to the CME in support of such a change. The board requested staff to circulate additional information regarding this topic to the board and the Economic Policy Committee in order to determine whether there is consensus among board members for IDFA to submit a letter to the CME in support of such a proposal.