

**President's Letter**  
**Ted Boersma**  
**August, 2004**

It has been said that there are four seasons to a man's life. There is a time when he believes in Santa, there is a time when he no longer believes in Santa, there is a time when he is Santa, there is a time when he looks like Santa. Many of you will remember a popular song of the 60's by "The Byrd's" entitled "Turn, Turn, Turn." The words of the song were taken from Ecclesiastes 3:1-22, written by the wise King Solomon. These verses talk about everything having a season and a time.

We as farmers understand that "a time to be born and a time to die" is not left up to us to decide whereas "a time to plant and a time to harvest" require some activity on our part. So to politically say "a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones, a time to embrace and a time to shun embracing" speaks of building relationships and holding to principles. We as DPNM Board members have to deal with these types of issues in our rapidly changing dairy environment. Do we hold to principles or do we stand by our friends? These issues include federal orders, forward contracting and production caps. If you are interested or concerned about these or any other issues, please contact either your district director or the office with your opinion. That same wise king also wrote, to paraphrase, "the more voices you seek for advice, the greater chance you'll make the right decision."

As we have been blessed with generous milk prices, at this time it is also important as that wise king wrote to remember that we rejoice and are thankful (positive attitude), that we do good while we live (share with those less fortunate), that we see the fruit of our labor (enjoy life), and that we recognize all of this as a gift from God (gratitude).

I want to thank Kaye and Susan once again for the job they did with our annual meeting. I have heard nothing but praise from both producers and vendors. Thanks again, gals, for a job well done!