

President's Letter
Sybrand Vander Dussen
January 2022

This most recent trip around the sun, peppered with the continued trials presented by the pandemic, has come with countless unprecedented changes in how we all conduct our businesses. Although parts of our lives returned a bit to usual operations, many meetings remain virtual in whole or in part. Public participation in the previous New Mexico legislative session was primarily limited to Zoom meetings and distance communications. Despite a few face-to-face meetings, business in Washington, D.C., has similarly been conducted through technology, as well. A second annual convention and membership meeting has been lost to COVID. And the economic impacts of the pandemic—now extending to supply chain upheaval, labor and material shortages, and inflation have added to the challenges of conducting business as usual.

Many of us have had friends and family affected by the pandemic. Despite the unknowns associated with the new Omicron variant, we all hope this coming year will provide a merciful end to this chapter of our shared experience.

Knowing those who read this newsletter, the Christmas season and New Year likely provide a time for gratitude and foresight, as well as reflection. Looking back reflects a series of trials that we would not wish to re-experience, but the view in front reveals a year of both challenges and opportunities. There is a new legislative session beginning January 18. In D.C., work on the 2023 Farm Bill will begin in earnest. It is an election year. Thankfully, Class III and IV milk futures are near or above \$20.00 for each month through November 2022. On a more general note, DPNM will be launching a new website in the coming weeks, which is the first step in improving the communication between the association and our members, and the larger dairy community.

But the most significant challenge that DPNM will meet, at least in the short-term, relates to our leadership. As some of you will undoubtedly know before reading this, Beverly Idsinga will be on extended medical leave. Until Beverly can return to work, Kaye Whitefoot will be assuming Beverly's duties. Kaye will be supported by DPNM's consultants. Please direct any of your inquiries and communications to Kaye or the DPNM office during this time. Most importantly, we ask that you join us in wishing a prompt and full restoration of Beverly's health.

I look forward to serving as your new President for Dairy Producers of New Mexico.
Best wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sybrand Vander Dussen

Sybrand Vander Dussen