



Department of
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

David T. Daniels | Director

**Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on the Milk Sanitation Board
Janelle Mead, Deputy Director
November 30, 2015**

Good afternoon, Chairman Brown and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Janelle Mead. I am a Deputy Director at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of the Milk Sanitation Board.

The Milk Sanitation Board provides advice and recommendations to the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section, 917.031, the Milk Sanitation Board is tasked with providing following services to the Department of Agriculture. First, the Milk Sanitation Board may advise and consult the Director of Agriculture in the administration and enforcement of the Dairy laws and rules. Second, the board may provide recommendations to proposed rules and the enforcement of those rules. Third, the Milk Sanitation Board shall prescribe inspection fees relative to segments of the licensed dairy community. Lastly, the Board is charged with approving any contracts the Department would enter into relative to the Dairy Division.

The Milk Sanitation Board consists of nine members. The Director of Agriculture or director's designee and the Director of Health or director's designee serve on the board. The remaining seven members are appointed by the Director of Agriculture which is represented exclusively by the Dairy industry.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Dairy Division provides support staff for the Milk Sanitation meetings. Approximately six to seven hours are spent by ODA personnel preparing and working the Milk Sanitation Board per meeting. The Milk Sanitation Board meets three times a year.

Funding for the operation of the Milk Sanitation Board comes from the Dairy Division's budget (FY \$2.8 million) which is comprised of 63% industry money (Line item 700637) and 37% GRF (Line item 700403). The expenses directly attributed to the Milk Sanitation Board are approximately \$4,000 per year. Members of the board are compensated for their time and mileage Members are paid as E2 employees at a rate of \$18.98/hr. If you add

travel time and mileage, the average monetary compensation would be \$196.77 per member per meeting per member.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has several advisory boards that provide valuable input to the Department on policy and administration of the Department's role in protecting consumers and regulating industry. The Department respectfully asks that the Sunset committee consider making the following changes to better align the Milk Sanitation Board to other advisory boards housed at the Department of Agriculture.

First, remove the requirement that the board be compensated for their time. This is the only board at the Ohio Department of Agriculture where members are compensated for their time. Second, remove the statutory fee limit in Ohio Revised Code 917.031. The Milk Sanitation Board should not limit the department's ability to manage the budget of the Dairy Division. Lastly, remove the provision that the Milk Sanitation Board approve or disapprove all contracts on behalf of the Dairy Division.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Milk Sanitation Board.