



Official Ballot: Election of PDPW Board of Directors

Professional Dairy Producers® is a dairy producer-led organization—founded by dairy farmers, led by dairy farmers and serving dairy farmers.

PDPW bylaws allow one vote per dairy farm membership. Since the PDPW Board of Directors has three available positions, each PDPW dairy producer member can **vote for up to three individuals**.

You can cast your ballot in one of two manners: 1) at the 2016 PDPW Business Conference, March 16-17, in Madison or 2) mail your marked ballot to PDPW. **Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 1, 2016.** All votes will be kept confidential and will be counted by the PDPW ballot clerks at the 2016 PDPW Business Conference. Ballots will also be available on-site at the Business Conference. **All votes must be in by 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17.**

If you have questions about the process, candidates or your ballot, please call PDPW at 800-947-7379.

PDPW Board of Director Candidates: Select three (3)

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- Mitch Breunig (incumbent)** owns and operates Mystic Valley Dairy, LLC, near Sauk City, Wis. with his Mother, Jeannette. The farm is home to 420 cows, crops 920 acres and have a rolling herd average of 32,000 pounds of milk with 1,272 pounds of fat and 988 of protein per cow. Along with managing eight employees, overseeing the breeding and health care of the herd and analyzing the finances, Mitch is instrumental in marketing the farm’s genetics and milk. Mystic Valley Dairy focuses on breeding high type cattle with longevity and profitable production and their prefix Jenny-Lou is recognized worldwide for breeding the A.I. sire Toystory, the world’s only sire to sell 2 million units of semen. He and his wife, Jacquie have two daughters, Allison and Lauren, and a son, Brayden.
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- Brian Forrest (incumbent)** lives in Stratford, Wis. with his son, Lucas. Following graduation from UW-River Falls, he worked on his father’s farm, took ownership and developed it into a 140-cow dairy. In 2010, former PDPW board member and co-owner of Maple Ridge Dairy, Gary Ruegsegger approached Brian about merging their farms. After working through a successful transition, Brian officially entered into a partnership with Ken Hein at Maple Ridge Dairy. Today, they manage 28 full-time and 6 part-time employees and Brian oversees dairy operations as well as the majority of the employee administrative duties. He also serves on the Marathon County DHIA Board.
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- Marty Hallock (incumbent)** of Mondovi, Wis., is a first generation dairy producer, whose farm began with 40 cows in 1990. Today Mar-Bec Dairy, owned with his wife, Becky, and two sons, Jonathon and Josh, has grown to 880 cows, 700 heifers and 200 heifers raised off farm. A graduate of UW-River Falls, Marty works their 2000 owned and rented acres to produce the corn and alfalfa for the dairy. Marty’s son, Jonathon, is proud to be the next generation of Mar-Bec Dairy and will be joining the operation as a partner. Marty has been a member of the local school board for 18 years and served on the Ellsworth Creamery Board for 11 years, with 9 of those years being vice chair. Mar-Bec Dairy also hosted the county Dairy Breakfast this past year.
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- Mike Meyer** and his father formed a partnership on his family dairy operation in Loyal, Wis. in 2000. Since then, the dairy has grown from 400 to 1,350 cows and seen the addition of a heifer facility to house all young stock on the farm and a sand and manure solids separation facility. Mike’s wife, Tracy, is also involved in the farm, as she handles fresh cow care and ovsynch injections. They have five sons Tyler, Levi, Lane, Darin and Justin. Mike is also a lieutenant at their local fire department, and an EMT on the ambulance service, where he serves as the ambulance chief.
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- Paul Lippert** of Pittsville, Wis. is the Herdsman and Human Resources Manager at Grass Ridge Farm, LLC, which he owns and operates with his father, Matt, and brother, Carl. Grass Ridge Farm milks 550 registered Holsteins and Jerseys and raises 500 young stock. Paul graduated from UW- River Falls in 2011 where he was President of the dairy club and a member of the judging team. He was also a part of the Dairy Challenge team that took Platinum in 2011 contest. Along with being active on the farm, Paul is the secretary of the Wood County Area Holstein Breeders.
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- Brian Brown** is a long time member of PDPW and he, along with his wife, Yogi, son, Cory, and father, Jerry, own and operate SunBurst Dairy Inc. in Belleville, Wis. SunBurst Dairy, Inc. expanded several times in the 1990s and has grown to the current herd size of 500 Holsteins. The Browns have enjoyed hosting various events including the Dane County Dairy Breakfast on the Farm, international tours focused on genetics and farm management and the PDPW 100# dairy facilities tour, PDPW Hispanic training seminars and ACE meetings. Brian’s passion for the dairy industry also shows through his past involvement in the Green County DHIA, Union Coop and the Accelerated Genetics board of directors. Currently, he serves on the Agricultural Committee to the Sugar River Watershed board.