

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Cross State Office Building, Room #206

Thursday, November 4, 2009

-- Agenda --

10:30 a.m. Collection of a handling fee on milk packaged for out of state retail sale -
Findings and recommendations of the stakeholders group convened pursuant to
Resolve 2009, c. 183 - Report due October 29, 2010 - Commissioner Bradstreet

11:00 a.m. Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources - Updates

- Update on the feasibility of extending the handling fee or initiating a sales tax on dairy products other than fluid milk - *Final Report due January 15, 2011 pursuant to Resolve 2009, c. 192 - Commissioner Bradstreet*
- Update on improving the reliability of cost of production studies for milk - *Final report due January 15, 2011 pursuant to PL 2009, c. 467, Sec. 14 & Sec. 15 -Tim Drake for the Maine Milk Commission*
- Transfers for the Dairy Stabilization Program in fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-2011-
update on amounts distributed to Maine milk producers and projections for when the
biennium cap of \$17,361,291 will be reached - Tim Drake, Administrator, Maine Milk Pool
- Inspection of cheese operations - *inspector workloads & ability to support Maine's*
expanding cheese industry - Steve Giguere , Division of Quality Assurance and
Regulation
- Briefing on the Iowa egg recall, FDA's response, and Maine's salmonella risk
reduction program - *Dr. Donald Hoenig, State Veterinarian*

Break for Lunch

1:00 p.m. Updates - Department of Conservation

- Budget and overview of the department's legislation proposals for 2011 -
Commissioner Townsend
- Commercial Forestry Excise Tax - *update on cooperation between Maine Revenue*
Services and the Maine Forest Service and the identification of additional acreages subject to
the tax
- Maine Forest Service - grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,
Ban on Out-of-State Firewood, Fire Season, Keeping Maine's Forests - *Alec Giffen*
- State parks - season overview, outcome of Question 3 - *Will Harris*