



Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation



Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture

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**Shapiro Administration Highlights Fast, Effective, Emergency Rescue
of Millions of Pounds of Milk Following Temporary Shutdown of New
York Dairy Plant**

The Shapiro Administration's quick, effective process of approving single trip permits helped preserve 3.6 million pounds of milk after a New York dairy plant experienced an unanticipated pause.

Middlebury Center, PA – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Secretary Mike Carroll and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding were joined by **New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball** and representatives from the New York State Department of Transportation, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, and the Dairy Farmers of America to demonstrate how Pennsylvania is moving at the speed of business thanks to Governor Shapiro's leadership in permitting reform. Pennsylvania led a multi-state response to redirect millions of pounds of milk that were at risk of spoilage as a result of a temporary pause in processing at the Great Lakes Cheese plant in Franklinville, New York.

PennDOT coordinated closely with the New York State Department of Transportation, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the dairy industry to authorize the issuance of single trip permits to haul milk on specific routes to milk processing plants in Pennsylvania in less than 24 hours. Rather than dispose of raw milk — a scenario every dairy farmer wants to prevent — that milk is going to be available for consumers thanks to Pennsylvania's quick permitting processes that allowed the milk's preservation during the Great Lakes Cheese plant's unanticipated pause.

"This is an incredible story of building bridges between the public and private sectors," said **Carroll**. "Thanks to the work of everyone here, millions of gallons of milk that would have potentially been wasted will be safely transported to Pennsylvania processors."

Pennsylvania has a celebrated agricultural tradition, which continues to fuel the regional economy. With the second highest number of dairy farms in the nation, the Commonwealth plays a critical role in the strength and stability of the Northeast's

agricultural economy. Pennsylvania's dairy industry provides more than 47,000 jobs and supports our state economy to the tune of \$11.8 billion annually.

"One plant closing, even a temporary one, can cost millions in lost products, and have ripple effects down to the empty grocery shelves at the end of the supply chain," **Redding** said. "This is another example of the Shapiro Administration's commitment to helping businesses stay competitive, by offering practical solutions to short-term, immediate setbacks and long-standing challenges."

Today's event underscored how the Shapiro Administration is building a government that gets stuff done — breaking down silos between agencies, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring the state is an active partner to farmers, producers, and businesses, in Pennsylvania and beyond.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "We're grateful to our neighbors at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Department of Transportation, our New York State Department of Transportation, and all of our partners for their swift action in temporarily modifying hauling regulations to allow for the transportation of New York milk. This not only mitigates the impact to our dairy farmers in New York, but also ensures minimal disruption in the supply chain for consumers."

"Agriculture is one of the largest, most important industries in both Pennsylvania and New York, and this was a true team effort to help our dairy industry quickly get its products to market," said **New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez**. "I thank Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation Michael Carroll and his team at PennDOT for working with our New York State DOT and Agriculture and Markets teams to cut through red tape to assist our New York State dairy producers, which in turn helped keep commerce in both states flowing."

Today's event was held at Dairy Farmers of America Middlebury Center in Tioga County, one of five processing plants where the displaced milk will be transported. The milk was also transferred to:

- Dairy Farmers of America in Reading, Berks County.
- Dairy Farmers of America in New Wilmington, Lawrence County.
- Leprino Foods in Sayre, Bradford County.
- Upstate Niagara Cooperative in Williamsport, Lycoming County.

"The recent shutdown of the Great Lakes Cheese plant in New York has displaced more than 3.6 million pounds of milk, which has significant consequences for dairy farmers that rely on the Great Lakes Cheese plant to get their product to market," said **Tim Wood, PFB State Board Director and member of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Dairy and Farm Policy Committee**. "It's vital that we keep this milk moving to plants in Pennsylvania to prevent farmers from having to dump their milk, which would lead to a loss of revenue and negatively impact our supply chain. A short-term adjustment is incredibly important to support our farmers, and we thank Governor Shapiro for supporting our dairy farmers impacted by this plant shutdown."

Learn how Governor Josh Shapiro's Economic Development Strategy recognizes agriculture as key to our future economic success.

Read about investments to keep Pennsylvania agriculture and Pennsylvania communities healthy, competitive and thriving in Governor Josh Shapiro's 2025-26 budget proposal at shapirobudget.pa.gov.

Information about the state's infrastructure and results PennDOT is delivering for Pennsylvanians can be found at penndot.pa.gov/results. Find PennDOT's planned and active construction projects at projects.penndot.gov.

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