

President's Letter
Al Squire
October, 2015

Recently, while driving down Main Street in Roswell in the early evening, Linda and I passed the Chile Cheese Festival taking place at the Convention Center. Many activities were in progress at the time, including outdoor cooking and food vending in a fair-like setting on the patios and in the parking lot. As we drove past, we could not help but notice the unmistakable odor of composted cow manure carried into town by the stiff breeze. As we headed home, we took a route that directed us into the oncoming wind, trying to investigate the origin of the odor. We found that it was coming from a large field several miles away where several drivers were operating very large manure spreader trucks, trying to finish up the day's work. Unfortunately, a fairly large amount of the dry composted manure was never making it onto the ground, instead being dispersed into the air and carried off before gravity could do its job.

We identified an easily preventable problem. We had no idea that the Roswell Chile Cheese Festival was taking place at that time, and I am sure that the manure haulers did not know it either. Perhaps in the future some collaboration between organizers of local events and valley dairymen and farmers could take place through the office of DPNM. Events like the State and County Fairs and the Chili Cheese Festival are intended to promote agriculture and food products and to build a good relationship between consumers and producers. Events like these serve to improve our image with the public. Perhaps we could all make an effort to take into consideration prevailing winds and weather events in planning our manure hauling and spreading so that we will not negatively impact our non-ag neighbors or visitors.

It looks as though I have just delegated another job to the staff at DPNM. I am constantly amazed at the number of things Bev, Kaye and Susan do for us. The many places they go, the functions they attend, and the many phone calls and conference calls they participate in add up to very busy schedules for each of them. Every day they further the goals and defend the interests of everyone associated with the dairy industry. Be sure to thank them when you attend district meetings this fall.