

AGRICULTURE from 13

to local farms, greenhouses and a winery. She learned about microbiology, hydroponics, sustainability and the wide variety of career fields within agriculture. She also balanced work and family life.

"The PPQ position for APHIS through the USDA was an excellent option to work in the field and gain hands-on knowledge, all while improving my children's lives," she said. Tammy plans to pursue a bachelor's degree and, ultimately, a career that helps people. She is interested in the connection between environmental and medical sciences.

"Honestly, when I began my educational pursuit at Monroe Community College, I wanted to learn and research in a science-related field," Tammy said. "MCC gave me the adequate tools and resources to achieve my three main objectives: understanding of the fundamentals of science, research and investigating, and working for the government."

Tammy frequently shares her knowledge of agriculture in the community, especially with people interested in starting a garden. Serving the needs of farmers and the USDA this summer has helped her achieve her goal of working for the government. "I needed financial support and guidance from the government while being a stay-at-home mother. Now it's my turn to give back."

MCC's agriculture and food processing certificate is affiliated with the Finger Lakes Food Processing Cluster Initiative at the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies at Rochester Institute of Technology. Together with RochesterWorks!, Genesee County Career Center, Finger Lakes Works Career Center, and Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park, the initiative develops and delivers education and training to support the workforce needs across a 9-county area (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne,

Wyoming and Yates counties).

Robert King, Ph.D. is director and senior specialist of Monroe Community College's Agriculture and Life Sciences Institute. www.monroecc.edu/go/agriculture

Tammy Quick's daughters Lindsay (pictured left) and Abby admire their mother's passion for agriculture and the environment.



NMPF comment on passage of biotech labeling bill in House of Representatives

On July 14, Jim Mulhern, President and Chief Executive Officer of NMPF issued the following statement:

"Today's action in the U.S. House to pass the Senate's biotech food labeling bill is a resounding rejection of activists who have been working for years to undermine consumers' understanding of the safety of food biotechnology. By reasserting the federal government's role in regulating food labeling, the Congress is ending the 'death by a thousand cuts' approach of potentially conflicting state laws in this area.

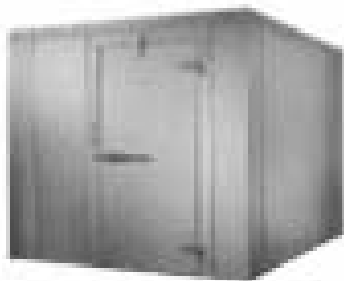
National Milk greatly appreciates the efforts of members of both the House and Senate on this issue, which unfortunately has been one of the most challenging — and important — food policy issues of the 21st century. We strongly urge President Obama to sign this legislation into law. Once this process is complete, we can begin moving beyond specious ar-

guments over labels, terminology and absence claims, and work to address real food safety and nutrition issues, and further the sustainability of our food system."

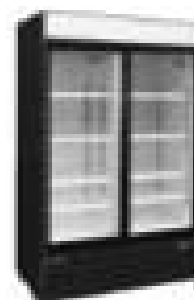
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