

July 25, 2007

To: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation

We're happy that our state's dairy industry has come together with a compromise on farm bill dairy programs, including dairy forward contracting, that passed the House Committee on Agriculture, and will now will be considered by the full House of Representatives.

While the House may consider other broad reform measures that apply to the farm bill as a whole, we urge you to keep the committee's dairy compromise intact. This compromise was supported by the two major dairy industry trade associations – the International Dairy Foods Association and the National Milk Producers Federation. This compromise supports dairy farmers across all regions, and balances the needs of dairy farmers and processors, including cooperatives.

The dairy title passed by the Committee on Agriculture continues all of the support programs that were in the 2002 farm bill, including the Milk Income Loss Contract program, that were sought by producer groups. While funding stays in these traditional dairy programs, we encourage you to protect the new reform measures that were added:

- USDA's successful dairy forward contracting program.
- A commission to review and improve milk marketing orders.
- Streamlining requirements to improve the government's 70-year-old milk pricing system.

These are all positive steps to help improve our state's dairy industry. While there is still work to be done, we hope that you will support this dairy compromise package and we thank you for your efforts to set the stage for a healthy Wisconsin dairy industry, now and into the future.

**International Dairy Foods Association
Wisconsin Dairy Business Association
Badgerland Farm Credit Services
Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association
Alto Dairy Cooperative
Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin
Dr. Robert Cropp, Professor Emeritus, Department of Agricultural and Applied
Economics, University of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Manitowoc Milk Producers Cooperative**