

CALIFORNIA DAIRY CAMPAIGN

Dairymen working for Dairymen



March 2, 2018



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Contact House Agriculture Committee Members from California: California Dairy Campaign (CDC) members are urged to contact California members of the House Agriculture Committee. During the Farm Show in Tulare, dairy producers signed post cards that were sent to California lawmakers calling for comprehensive federal dairy policy reforms. The post cards stated:

I write to urge Congress to pass an incentive based milk inventory management program as part of the 2018 farm bill. California milk production has been in decline for 33 of the last 37 months, but production in other dairy regions has continued to grow depressing milk prices nationwide

The recently passed "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018" is a really bad deal for California dairy farmers who are incurring substantial losses due to chronically low milk prices that are well below milk production costs. The benefits of the budget deal focus on dairies with a herd size of 220 cows or less, while the average herd size in California totals more than 1200 cows. The Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP) in the budget act fails to provide a safety net because the margins on California dairies are at least \$3 lower than the margins in the MPP.

The only way to improve the outlook for California dairy farmers is by establishing an incentive system that will provide signals to dairy farmers to manage their milk production based on market demand.

Contact California U.S. House Agriculture Committee Members:

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-10

Staff: Tracey Chow 202-225-4540

Rep. Jim Costa, D-16

Staff: Ben Goldeen 202-225-3341

Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R-1

Staff: Colleen McGowen 202-225-3076

Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-20,

Staff: Brandon Honeycutt 202-225-2861

California Delegation Travel to Kansas City for National Farmers Union Convention: California Dairy Campaign President Joe Augusto, California Farmers Union Vice President George Davis, CDC and CFU Board Member Mark McAfee and Blaine McAfee will travel to Kansas City to participate in the National Farmers Union (NFU) Annual Convention which begins on March 3. California delegates will call for passage of a policy resolution in support of an incentive based inventory management program so that milk production is more responsive to market demand. During the last farm bill debate, when milk prices had reached record highs, legislation to establish a milk inventory management program was a key part of the debate, and farm leaders from CDC, CFU, Wisconsin Farmers Union and other Farmers Union state organizations believe it is the only solution to ensure that dairy farmers nationwide receive fair prices from the market.

Alternative Manure Management Projects (AMMP) Update: The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is expected to open the application process for the AMMP program this month and allocate between \$19-\$33 million for AMMP. More information on CDFA web site: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ammp/> After the AMMP announcement is made some time in March, applications will be due in May, the proposed AMMP projects will be reviewed by CDFA through July and announcements made on grant recipients in August 2018, although the dates continue to be subject to change. **Contact CDC Field Representative Joe Melo, a technical expert on the AMMP, to work with you on your AMMP application by phone at 209-216-7615.**

www.californiadairycampaign.com