



February 22, 2019



USDA Secretary to Testify Before House and Senate Agriculture Committees



Next week, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue is set to testify before the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota announced a full Committee hearing with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue on “The State of the Rural

Economy.” The hearing will happen at 10:00 a.m. EST, Wednesday, February 27, 2019 and will be streamed live via the Committee [YouTube channel](#).

Action Alert: Prior to the hearing next week, it is important for California lawmakers on the House Agriculture committee to hear about how the ongoing dairy crisis is impacting dairy producers around the state. The House hearing is an opportunity for California Members of Congress to call attention to the ongoing dairy crisis due to chronically low milk prices and offer solutions to end the crisis.

The solution that California Dairy Campaign is calling for is legislation to establish a farmer-led plan to enable dairy producers to manage their milk inventories to meet market demand and earn fair milk prices from the market.

In January and February, California Dairy Campaign hosted a series of meetings featuring dairy farmers from Canada to focus on the Canadian dairy system and how it establishes a fair price for dairy producers that **totals \$26 per cwt today, nearly twice as much as dairy producers in California are paid for their milk**. Consumer prices in Canada are comparable to prices paid here according to multiple studies, but due to the ability of dairy producers in Canada to work together to match milk production with market demand, in Canada milk prices paid to dairy producers are much higher than prices paid here in the U.S.

Based on the fundamentals of the Canadian dairy supply management system,

California Dairy Campaign is proposing a [Sustainable Milk Inventory System Act \(SMISA\)](#) a three-point plan to foster a strong and sustainable dairy system in the United States that includes: supply management; fair milk prices paid to dairy farmers; and effective dairy trade policy. The plan would be no cost to the federal government because dairy producers would be paid a fair price from the market.

Contact California Members of the House Agriculture Committee

House Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee

Chair Jim Costa, D-16, Phone: 202-225-3341

Representative Josh Harder, D-10, Phone: 202-225-4540

Representative T.J. Cox, D-16, Phone: 202-225-4695

Representative Doug LaMalfa, R-1, Phone: 202-225-3076

Representative Jimmy Panetta, D-20, Phone: 202-225-2861

Representative Salud Carbajal, D-24, Phone: 202-225-3601

Secretary Perdue will testify before the Senate Agriculture Committee on farm bill implementation on Thursday, February 28 at 9:30 am EST. Current and past committee hearings can be found on the [Senate Agriculture Committee web site](#).

USDA Announces Statistical Uniform Price for January



This week, in the Market Administrator's Bulletin, for the California Federal Milk Marketing Area the

January statistical uniform price which totaled \$15.09 was announced. According to the report, 68.2 percent of the pooled milk was Class III or cheese milk. The total volume of Class I milk in the pool, the highest value class, increased to 24 percent of the pool value. The full report linked [here](#).

Beginning in March, the market administrator will no longer waive the pooling requirements for the California federal order. February will serve as the milk handler's base volume for subsequent months. During March, a milk handler can only pool up to 135 percent of the amount of milk pooled during the previous month. For every other month of the year, milk handlers can only pool 125 percent of the milk that the handler pooled the previous month. According to the CA-FMMO Market Administrator, the pooling restrictions are in place to *"maintain and enhance orderly marketing conditions by encouraging participation in the marketwide pooling of all classified uses of milk."*

Delegation to National Farmers Union Annual Convention



The National Farmers Union (NFU) Annual Convention is scheduled to take place from March 3 through the 5th in Bellevue, Washington. California Dairy Campaign President Joe Augusto, California Farmers Union Vice President George Davis and CDC Vice President Mark McAfee will lead the California delegation to the convention and call for

substantial reform to federal dairy policy to establish fair milk prices through a farmer-led inventory management program and smart dairy trade policy. Due to strong support from California Dairy Campaign and other dairy states, National Farmers Union policy currently supports an effective dairy inventory management program. California delegates to the NFU convention aim to build upon current NFU policy to call for a three-point plan including fair milk prices, farmer-led inventory management and smart dairy trade policy that will lead to better milk prices and sustain dairies nationwide.

AMMP Application Deadline April 3, 2019 Contact California Dairy Campaign to Apply



California Dairy Campaign is working with dairy producers to fill out applications for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). We meet one-on-one with dairy producers to review their applications and will continue to meet with dairy producers to finalize applications before the April 3, 2019 deadline. Contact California Dairy Campaign Field Representative Joe Melo at 209-216-7615 for more information about the AMMP application process. AMMP provides funding for up to 100% of the cost of projects up to \$750,000 per project.

What is an alternative manure management practice?

Alternative manure management practices involve handling manure in ways that don't involve using an anaerobic digester. Currently, eligible practices for funding through AMMP include: pasture-based based management; solid separation or conversion from flush to scrape in conjunction with some form of drying or composting of collected manure.

Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP)

Applications are due on Tuesday, April 3, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. PT. Detailed information including application process, application requirements is available online at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>

*Dairy producers interested in more information
about AMMP can contact
CDC Field Representative Joe Melo at 209-216-7615.
More details about the AMMP can be found
online at [CDFA AMMP web site](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/).*

Healthy Soils and SWEEP Application Deadline March 8, 2019 Contact California Dairy Campaign to Apply

**Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
Applications are due on Friday,
March 8, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. PT.
California Dairy Campaign is working**



with farmers to fill out Healthy Soils Applications, which provides up to 100% funding on projects up to \$75,000 per project.

Contact: Kathy Wilkins

kagrzd@yahoo.com 209-604-7444 for more information about how to apply.

The HSP provides financial assistance for implementation of conservation management that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Which specific soil management practices are eligible for funding? On farm management practices that include but are not limited to: cover cropping, no-till, reduced-till, mulching, compost application, and conservation plantings.

Detailed information on HSP Incentives Program is available at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html>



State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Applications are due on Friday, March 8, 2019 by 5:00 P.M. PT. California Dairy Campaign is working with farmers to fill out their SWEEP applications which provides up to 100% funding for projects up to \$100,000 per project.

Contact: Kathy Wilkins by 209-604-7444 for more information about how to apply.

What is SWEEP?

The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) provides financial assistance in the form of grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations.

What types of projects are eligible?

Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy.

What have been the benefits of SWEEP?

Projects funded through SWEEP commonly include elements such as soil, plant or weather sensors, micro-irrigation systems, pump retrofits or replacements, renewable energy, and variable frequency drives (among others). Detailed information about SWEEP is available at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep>

There is also a video available online: [SWEEP video](#)

**Contact the CDC office for more information
about AMMP, Healthy Soils, SWEEP and
the Dairy Digester Development Program
at 209-632-0885.**

**For More Information
Contact Executive Director
Lynne McBride**

**California Dairy Campaign
California Farmers Union
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Turlock, CA 95380
Phone: 209-632-0885**



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