



March 1, 2019



California Delegation to Call for Three-Point Plan to Improve Milk Prices at NFU Annual Convention



The National Farmers Union (NFU) Annual Convention is scheduled to begin this Sunday, 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 the NFU delegates to support a three-point plan: fair milk prices, farmer-led inventory management and smart dairy trade policy.

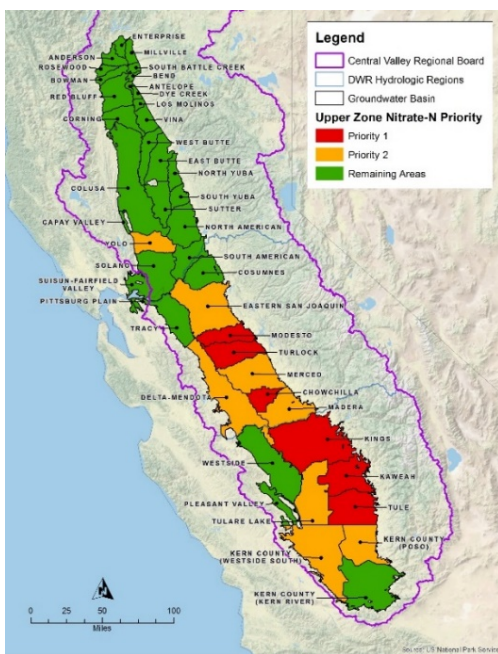
Due to strong support from California Dairy Campaign and other dairy states, National Farmers Union policy currently supports an effective dairy inventory management program, improved milk prices and dairy trade policy reform. California delegates to the NFU convention aim to build upon current NFU policy 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.

The recently passed farm bill fails to address the challenges dairy farmers face today primarily because it lacks an inventory management component that is vital to establish fair milk prices. The California delegation will call on NFU delegates to support legislation that includes:

1. The establishment of an incentives-based inventory management program to manage milk inventories based on market demand and pricing stability,
2. Establish a farmer-led plan to establish fair milk prices that are based on the dairy farmers cost of production and retail prices for dairy products.
3. Effective dairy trade policy that manages both imports and exports to ensure that U.S. dairy farmers are paid a fair price from the market.
4. Each FMMO region of the country establishes a dairy board made up of dairy farmers with limited processor involvement.
5. Prices are determined by farmers on a region-by-region basis based on cost of production and other cost indices.

6. Using processors forecast demand for milk for dairy products, each region will produce enough milk to meet processors needs.
7. Milk requested for use in export by processors would be included in regional dairy supply demand. Imports are subject to USDA market review to assure that they do not undercut the dairy farmer-led inventory management plan.
8. Changes in forecast demand for dairy products will allow for increased production for those dairies that choose to grow based on market demand and allow for new dairy operations.
9. New growth production is issued equally.
10. Dairies can buy and sell existing production based on the value set on the open market, but new production is only issued by regional boards based on demand increases.
11. This would be a farmer driven program with mandatory enrollment of all dairies including organic.
12. Organic market inventory would use similar system to set organic prices and manage inventory to meet processor and consumer demand.

Dairy Cares working with Management Zone pilot projects to provide regulatory flexibility for dairies



Dairy Cares working with Management Zone pilot projects to provide regulatory flexibility for dairies Dairy Cares staff is participating in two new pilot projects that could help make it easier for dairy operators and others who hold water quality permits to comply with the state’s strict water protection regulations.

The pilot projects, known as “Management Zones,” launched this month and are part of a plan to designate local areas where residents work together to ensure a safe drinking water supply for all, while controlling costs related to permit compliance. The idea is to protect those who hold water quality permits—a diverse group including cities, food processors and other industries, dairies, and other farmers—from excessive costs and liabilities.

The pilot projects—one in the Turlock area and another in the Alta Irrigation District (straddling parts of Tulare and Fresno counties)—are forerunners of a broader effort that is authorized under new regulations adopted by the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board last year.

Those regulations don’t go into full effect until adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board, which is expected to happen later this spring. Because the concept of Management Zones is new and complex, the two pilot projects are intended to be test cases that help organizers get a running start, hopefully building successful Management Zone blueprints that can help guide groups in other areas once the new regulations go into full effect.

“Dairy Cares has been participating in a stakeholder process known as CV-SALTS for a number of years, with the goal of reforming a regulatory system that wasn’t working. For many permit holders, it is impossible to comply, and so they are threatened with enforcement and other liability, which still doesn’t solve the problem of drinking water,” said J.P. Catiuela, Regulatory Affairs Director for Dairy Cares. “The regulatory changes were an important step, providing new options for dairy farmers in the future—reducing costs and liability compared to the options that existed previously. However, to take

full advantage of these, Management Zones must be formed locally and function properly.”

Although the regulatory changes are expected to be in place soon, Cativiela said it will be important for dairy leaders to participate in their local Management Zone processes to ensure the perspective of local dairy operators is heard.

Tulare and Fresno County dairy operators who are interested in participating in the Alta Irrigation District Management Zone should contact Charlotte Gallock (cgallock@kcrd.org) or Soua Lee (slee@kcrd.org) to receive meeting notices. The next meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Thursday, March 7 at the Alta Irrigation District Board Room, 289 North L Street, Dinuba.

The Turlock Management Zone group has held one meeting so far and has scheduled a second meeting at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6 at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Office, 1201 L St, Modesto. If interested in attending, please contact Kayla Cathers, kayla.cathers@curesworks.org. (**Source: Dairy Cares**)

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 [CDFCA 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.cdffa.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.

Tricolored Blackbirds: An endangered species dependent on dairies



As the state's wetlands have disappeared, tricolored blackbirds have been turning to forage fields to nest—forcing a few dairy farmers each year to delay harvesting winter crops. The tricolored blackbird is **listed as endangered in California**, making it **illegal to take the bird under any circumstances. Illegal take can result in**

extremely large fines.

Silage buyouts for delayed harvest are available through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program, also known as EQIP, as well as through a related grant program. Nesting season begins in February. If you need help regarding tricolored blackbirds in your fields, please contact Noelle Cremers (ncremers@CFBF.com) with California Farm Bureau Federation at 916-446-4647.

While ongoing efforts aim to restore habitats throughout the Central Valley, it is likely that tricolored blackbirds will continue nesting in dairy forage fields. **In 2018, a record number of 109,000 adult birds were protected after nesting in forage fields on 11 dairy farms throughout Kern, Tulare, and Merced counties.** That number is more than half of the entire estimated tricolored blackbird population, according to the most-recent (2017) triennial survey funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Dairy Cares continues to partner with NRCS, Audubon California, California Farm Bureau Federation, and others to promote the continued availability of funds to reimburse farmers for delayed harvests. Dairy Cares also continues to help recognize dairy farmers for their important role in protecting the tricolored blackbird. **(Source: Dairy Cares)**

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

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