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CDC Commends California Cooperatives for Introducing Federal Order Proposal
Joining Federal Order Would Restore Equity to California Dairy Producer Prices

TURLOCK, CA (February 6, 2015) — California Dairy Campaign (CDC) President Joe Augusto today commended California's three major dairy cooperatives for introducing a proposal to establish a California federal milk marketing order. California Dairies Inc. (CDI), Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) and Land O'Lakes (LOL) jointly submitted the proposal for a California federal milk marketing order to the United States Department of Agriculture.

"We commend CDI, DFA and LOL for working together to introduce a federal order proposal that will restore equity to dairy producer pricing in California," stated CDC President Augusto. "More than 500 dairies have gone out of business since 2007 amounting to a more than 25 percent drop in the number of California dairies. For far too long California dairy farmers have been underpaid compared to dairy farmers in the federal milk marketing order (FMMO) system costing California dairy farm families more than \$1.5 billion," stated Augusto. "Given the mounting losses that dairy producers continue to suffer due to the failure of our state system to pay a fair price, now is the time for California to join the federal milk marketing order system so our prices are brought in line with prices paid around the country," he concluded.

"California dairy producers deserve a better system than our state system which has cost the average sized dairy more than \$1 million just since January 2011," stated CDC Executive Director Lynne McBride. "The federal order represents a far better pricing system that will restore producer price equity, maximize producer participation and enable dairy farmers to have a vote on the final California federal order proposal." she concluded.

Since its founding as an organization, California Dairy Campaign has long championed a California federal milk marketing order so that California dairy producer prices are in alignment with federal milk marketing order prices. CDC recognized the importance of joining the federal milk marketing order system to ensure that California dairy producer prices were equitable compared to prices paid around the country.

California Dairy Campaign (CDC) is a grassroots organization of dairy farmers who are working to encourage lawmakers and the dairy industry to be more responsive to the needs of the family dairy farm in California. CDC is a member organization of California Farmers Union (CFU). Comprised of more than 1300 farmer, and rancher members, California Farmers Union advocates policies to lawmakers at the state and national levels on behalf of its membership throughout California. CFU is a state chapter of National Farmers Union (NFU), which represents more than 250,000 members nationwide.

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