

CALIFORNIA DAIRY CAMPAIGN

Dairymen working for Dairymen



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Referendum on California Federal Order Continues until May 5 – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has mailed ballots on a federal order for California to all eligible dairy producers and voting continues through May 5, 2018. USDA completed an extensive economic analysis on the impact of the proposed California federal order and found that California blend prices would increase 45 cents per cwt over the baseline for 2018 to 2026. The analysis concludes that the California federal order would increase California dairy producer revenues by an average of \$269 million per year over the 9-year forecast period. **CDC urges dairy producers to vote “Yes” in the ongoing statewide referendum to ensure that milk prices in California are brought in line with prices paid in the federal order system.** *For more information about the final federal order proposal for California contact CDC Executive Director Lynne McBride at 925-385-0217.*

NFU Board Opposes Current House Version of Farm Bill - Farmers Union Urges Significant Improvements Before Passage – This week California Farmers Union (CFU) Vice President George Davis voted to oppose the House Version of the Farm Bill along with every other Farmers Union Board Member across the country. The NFU Board unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to the current version of the 2018 Farm Bill as passed by the House Agriculture Committee last week. The Board called on House members to make significant improvements to the Farm Bill before passing the legislation.

“The House Farm Bill (H.R. 2), as currently written, lacks the improvements needed to help farmers cope with continued low prices,” said the Board. “The bill fails to provide farmers with the tools they need to be the best possible stewards of our natural resources, and it reverses progress toward expanding access to local, regional, and specialty markets. Furthermore, it makes unnecessary cuts to programs that feed hungry Americans. National Farmers Union’s Board of Directors, on behalf of nearly 200,000 family farmers, ranchers, and rural members, opposes H.R. 2 in its current form.”

The NFU Board noted that weak commodity prices, large surpluses, and an increasingly consolidated marketplace prevent farmers from receiving fair market prices for their production. In 2018, net farm income is projected to be less than half of what it was in 2013. “As a result, family farmers are forced to rely on price supports to sustain their operations,” the Board said. “Unfortunately, the farm safety net does not reflect the current state of the farm economy.”

The Board resolution called on House members to make improvements to the dairy title of the farm bill to “provide dairy farmers with enhanced price supports and a mechanism that manages our nation’s milk inventories to meet market demand.” California Dairy Campaign and California Farmers Union oppose the dairy provisions in committee’s farm bill because they will disadvantage dairy operations larger than 5 million lbs. of production, do not reflect accurate on farm margins and fail to incorporate incentive based inventory management to balance milk supply with market demand.

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