



**August 10, 2018**

## **Dairy Inventory Management**



On Monday, August 13th, California Dairy Campaign (CDC) Board Member Mark McAfee will speak

to dairy farmers from the Northeast and around the country about the importance of inventory management to ensure dairy farmers are paid equitable prices. McAfee will participate in the upcoming Agri-Mark meeting to be held in Albany, New York along with dairy farmers, industry leaders, experts, policy makers, the media and others from around the country.

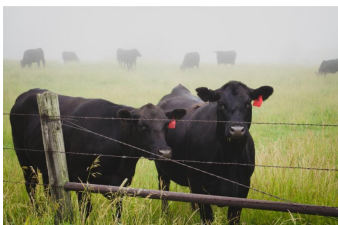
Over many months, CDC has been working with Wisconsin Farmers Union and farmers from other dairy states including New England, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania as well as staff from National Farmers Union who are all planning to participate in the meeting in Albany next week. All are in agreement in support of a farmer-led inventory management program that incorporates trade reforms and ensures that dairy producers receive a fair milk price from the market.

During the meeting on Monday, CDC will be advocating for a simple three point plan to foster a Sustainable Milk Inventory Management System which includes: 1. Equitable milk prices; 2. Supply matches demand; and 3. Export - Import discipline. The goal of the meeting is to gather all segments of the dairy industry together to focus on a solution to improve milk prices that will work for dairy farmers and the marketplace.

All the proposals that are to be considered on Monday can be found on the Agri-Mark web site at:

<https://www.agrimark.coop/open-dairy-meeting/proposals/>

## **Comment on U.S.A. Labeling**



The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is currently accepting comments on a petition to amend “Product of U.S.A.” labeling standards. The Organization for Competitive Markets and American Grassfed Association submitted a petition earlier this year to restrict the use of “Product of U.S.A.” labels

exclusively to products that are of domestic origin. Current standards allow meat products that pass through a U.S.D.A. inspected plant to use the label,

regardless of where the animal was raised.

**The comment period is open through August 17. California Dairy Campaign, California Farmers Union and National Farmers Union will be submitting comments in support of the petition, and we encourage dairy farmers to do the same.**

## **Background**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) current labeling policy standards allows meat to be labeled "Product of U.S.A." if the product is "processed in the U.S." Due to a lack of clarity in the definition of "processing," the current standard allows imported meat, regardless of its origin, to be labeled "Product of U.S.A." if it passes through a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspected plant.

On June 12, 2018, the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) and American Grassfed Association (AGA) submitted a petition for a rulemaking to amend "Product of U.S.A." labeling standards. OCM and AGA requested that FSIS amend its standards to restrict the "Product of U.S.A." label to instances in which "it can be determined that significant ingredients having a bearing on consumer preference such as meat, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, etc., are of domestic origin." The proposed amendment to the standard would effectively eliminate opportunities for foreign and multinational companies to label imported meat "Product of U.S.A."

**FSIS is accepting comments on the petition through August 17. The petition submitted by AGA and OCM and the link for comment submissions can be found at the following link:**

**<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FSIS-2018-0024>.**

## **Talking Points**

- The current FSIS labeling policy for "Product of U.S.A." grants foreign countries and foreign interests unfair marketing opportunity that harms America's family farmers by allowing foreign entities to receive a premium from consumers who unwittingly believe they are buying meat and meat products with ingredients that originate domestically.
- Research has shown that as many as 93% of Americans want to know where their food comes from and 75% of Americans indicate the source of origin of their food is a major attribute when making their food choices. The current FSIS policy misleads Americans when they are making their purchases and denies America's family farmers these food dollars. FSIS food labeling policy for "Product of U.S.A." should be based on the source of the ingredients.
- The current FSIS labeling policy for "Product of U.S.A." deceives America's consumers who have clearly demonstrated they will pay a premium for meat and meat products sourced domestically by misbranding foreign meat and meat products as "Product of U.S.A."
- In passing the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), Congress acknowledged the financial harm misbranding and mislabeling causes America's livestock producers and clearly stated this as a key basis for the adoption of FMIA.
- Both the Federal Meat Inspection Act and FSIS regulations clearly establish that meat and meat product labels must not mislead the

consumer nor must they be false. FMIA states that meat or meat food products shall be “misbranded” if its “labeling is false or misleading in any particular.” The current FSIS policy on labeling “Product of U.S.A.” must be clarified to correctly reflect the federal law ensuring U.S. consumers are not misled or deceived.

- Australia is a leading beef exporter into the U.S. and has just implemented a mandatory retail Country of Origin Labeling requirement. The current U.S. policy that allows Australian beef to pass through a USDA inspected facility and then to be labeled “Product of U.S.A.” clearly gives Australian ranchers and foreign interests a grossly unfair marketing advantage over American family farmers by allowing these foreign interests to receive a premium in both the U.S. and Australian market.

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## **Join Us for Our Upcoming Membership Meeting and Social**

Please join us for our  
CDC Board and Membership Meeting  
& Summer Social

**Wednesday, August 22, 2018**

Location:

Joe Vierra's Place-11422 Livingston Cressey Rd.  
Livingston, Ca. 95334

The Board Meeting will Begin at 4:00 p.m.  
Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.  
Join us for a discussion of:

The Establishment of a California Federal Milk Marketing Order (CA-FMMO),  
the ongoing farm bill debate, dairy trade, and other issues important to  
California dairy producers.

Please RSVP to Bertha Medina at 209-632-0885 CDC members and friends  
are more than welcome to join us on August 22, 2018

We hope to see you there! 325 Mitchell Avenue – Turlock, CA – 95380 –  
Office: (209) 632-0885, Fax: (209) 632-0706

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## **2018 Fall Legislative Fly-In September 12-14, 2018**



National Farmers Union will host more than 250 farmers in Washington, D.C., for the 2018 Fall Legislative Fly-In this September! California Dairy Campaign and California Farmers Union members are invited to join us to meet with members of Congress about the farm bill and other important issues.

During their time in Washington, farmers will hear from U.S. Department of Agriculture officials about current events, opportunities and other work the department is doing on behalf of farmers. They will receive briefings from White House officials, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Committees on Agriculture leadership and staff. NFU also honors members of Congress with one of its highest awards, The Golden Triangle Award.

The most important agenda items of the fly-in, however, are the meetings on Capitol Hill. Teams of Farmers Union members will stop by the office of every member of Congress. Grassroots efforts at their finest, Farmers Union members will highlight the key priorities for the organization, struggles they are facing, and goals for future legislation and the next farm bill. Fly-In is always an enjoyable time in our nation's capital. It is also an important and effective way to influence policy. Members of Congress need to hear directly from our family farmers, ranchers, fishermen and rural residents.

***Contact us in the Turlock office at 209-632-0885 or by email at [cdc@californiadairycampaign.com](mailto:cdc@californiadairycampaign.com) for more information. Financial assistance is available to cover traveling expenses. We hope you can join us!***

California Dairy Campaign - California Farmers Union | 209-632-0885 | 325 Mitchell Avenue |

[www.californiadairycampaign.com](http://www.californiadairycampaign.com)

[www.californiafarmersunion.org](http://www.californiafarmersunion.org)

