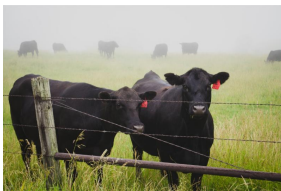




March 29, 2019



Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act Checkoff Reform Legislation Introduced



Today, the Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) legislation was reintroduced by U.S. Senators Mike Lee (R-UT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Rand Paul (R-KY) and Elizabeth Warren, (D-MA). California Dairy Campaign and California Farmers Union joined farm and ranch organizations from around the country in signing on in support of the OFF checkoff reform legislation.

The major reform provisions of the OFF Act, which would end the glaring abuses of the checkoff program boards, are:

1. Stop federally mandated checkoff dollars from being transferred to parties that seek to influence government policies or action relating to agriculture issues.
2. Enforce the prohibition against conflicts of interest in contracting and all other decision-making operations of the checkoff program.
3. Stop federally mandated funds from being used for anticompetitive programs or from being spent to disparage another commodity in the marketplace.
4. Increase transparency of the individual boards' actions by shedding light on how federal checkoff funds are spent and the purpose of their expenditures.
5. Require audits of each program every five years to ensure their activities are in compliance with the law.

In November 2018, [independent polling](#) by the nation's oldest livestock publication, Drovers, found that over half of cattle producers flatly rejected the notion that the checkoff was helpful to their farms and ranches. A November 2017 [Government Accountability Office report](#) found that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) must do more to keep checkoffs in check across commodities.

(Source: Organization for Competitive Markets)

Update on "California Cattle Council" referendum: As of March 21, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has received ballots from just 17.8% of eligible cattle and dairy producers in the statewide referendum to double the beef checkoff to establish a "California Cattle Council." CDFA will continue to count the ballots it receives and will announce the results of the referendum on April 5, 2019. More information can be found online at: [California Cattle Council Implementation Referendum](#) or contact the California Dairy Campaign Office at 209-632-0885.

Dairy Together Road Show Coming to California

Monday, April 29 in Modesto



The **Dairy Together Roadshow** is coming to California and all dairy producers are invited to participate. **Dairy Together** is a nationwide effort to bring dairy producers around the

country together to forge solutions to the crisis dairy producers face due to chronically low milk prices that are well below production costs.

California Dairy Campaign is supporting a *three-point plan or a three-legged stool approach: fair milk prices, farmer-led inventory management and smart trade policy.* At the Dairy Together Roadshow we will join with dairy producers and leaders from around the country to determine the best way to restore profitability for dairy producers by working together to manage milk inventories to meet market demand. *All are invited to join us for a lunch meeting in Modesto on April 29, 2019.*

**The California Dairy Together event is set to take place on
Monday, April 29 in Modesto at the
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
3800 Cornucopia
12-2:30 p.m. Lunch Included
Please RSVP to Bertha Medina in the
California Dairy Campaign office
209-632-0885
or by email: cdc@californiadairycampaign.com**

With events planned across the nation, the **Dairy Roadshow** is focused on improving the situation for dairy farmers. Our goal is to share information and present options with as much research base as we are able to compile, present those ideas and engage farmers and policy makers in community conversations.

The Roadshow welcomes dairy producers of all backgrounds and is being organized by National Farmers Union, National Farmers Organization, Holstein Association USA, California Dairy Campaign and state Farmers Union organizations from Wisconsin, New England, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, California, and the Rocky Mountain region. We're focused on policy changes that align with our organizations' core values of family farming, fair economic policies, and thriving rural communities.

We're looking beyond milk labeling, increasing exports, and dairy insurance plans to actual long-term solutions. Join us in identifying actions American dairy farmers can take to advance our organizing efforts, direct our advocacy and influence policy makers.

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 can be found online
at [CDFA AMMP web site](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/).*

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

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



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