



**For Immediate Release**  
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**CDC Testifies During USDA Hearing on  
Proposed Federal Milk Marketing Order for California**

**CLOVIS, CA (September 29, 2015)** — California Dairy Campaign (CDC) Executive Director Lynne McBride and dairy producers from around the state testified before the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) federal milk marketing order (FMMO) hearing in Clovis, CA calling for the adoption of the federal order proposal put forward by the state's cooperatives. CDC strongly supports the federal order proposal put forward by California's three major dairy cooperatives including California Dairies, Inc. (CDI), Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) and Land O'Lakes, Inc. (LOL).

"Since our organization was founded, we have called for California to join the federal milk marketing order system to bring our prices and the process for determining prices in line with the federal order system," McBride testified. "The failure of our state system to align prices paid to dairy producers in California with prices paid in the federal order system has cost dairy producers in our state more than \$1.5 billion since 2010."

"Our organization firmly believes that the only way to restore equity to dairy producer pricing in our state is by joining the federal milk marketing order (FMMO) system," she stated. "The federal order proposal put forward by the cooperatives will comprehensively address our state's unique marketing conditions, align dairy producer prices here with prices paid in the federal order system, restore orderly marketing conditions and sustain dairies across the state," she testified.

California Farmers Union (CFU) President Joaquin Contente, a dairy producer from Hanford, CDC and CFU Board Member Scott Magneson, a dairy producer from Ballico, and CDC Board Member Joe Machado, a dairy producer from Hanford all testified in strong support of the cooperatives federal order proposal. Each testified about how the current state dairy pricing system has failed California dairy producers, costing the average dairy producer more than \$1.2 million since January 2011 and leading to the loss of dairy farms across the state.

According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), 1434 dairies remain in operation in California, a decrease of more than 600 dairies over the last 10 years. California dairy producer prices routinely rank last in the nation and dairy producer income continues to be well below average production costs. Statewide the average cost to produce milk now totals \$19.12 per cwt while dairy producer prices totaled \$14.63 cwt in August, well below average production costs resulting in mounting losses for dairy producers across the state.

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). 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.