



June 7, 2019



Call on Congress to Support Dairy Supply Management



When California Farmers Union Vice President George Davis traveled to Washington, DC earlier this month he met with a number of lawmakers including freshman lawmaker Josh Harder, D-Modesto, to call for passage of nationwide farmer-led dairy supply management legislation. *(Pictured: George Davis meeting with Rep. Josh Harder)*

Karen Warner, district director for Rep. Harder participated in the [***Dairy Together Roadshow***](#) meeting California Dairy Campaign hosted in Modesto in late April. During that meeting we discussed how even modest changes in milk production can have significant impacts on milk prices paid to dairy producers. Warner encouraged dairy producers to reach out to Rep. Harder's office directly to speak about supply management and other dairy issues. **Contact information for Karen Warner 209-579-5458 or you can email her at karen.warner@mail.house.gov.**

After the [***Dairy Together Roadshow***](#) meeting, CDC members and staff met with Rep. Harder on a dairy operation in his district. During that meeting, Rep. Harder expressed an interest in determining the level of support for supply management among dairy producers in his district. Support is growing among dairy producers for a nationwide supply management plan and CDC is calling for a three-point plan or three-legged stool approach to: establish profitable milk prices; farmer-led supply management and smart trade policy.

Rep. Harder is a member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee and represents California's 10th Congressional District, located in California's Central Valley which includes Stanislaus County and parts of San Joaquin County. Because Rep. Harder is new to Congress it is important for him and his

staff to hear directly about how federal dairy policy is failing California dairy producers who have been paid chronically low milk prices for more than four years. The benefits of the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program passed in the last farm bill are directed at dairies producing 5 million lbs of milk per year or less, a fraction of the production of an averaged-sized California dairy operation. CDC is calling for fundamental reform of federal dairy policy to end insurance schemes and empower dairy producers to manage their milk production and regain profitability.

Central Valley Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

Rep. Jim Costa, D-16 - contact Ben Goldeen 202-225-3341

District 16 includes: All of Merced and parts of Fresno and Madera Counties

Rep. T.J. Cox, D-21 - contact Jared Henderson 202-225-4695

District 21 includes: All of Kings and parts of Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties

California Dairy Campaign and California Farmers Union have joined with National Farmers Union, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Holstein USA, National Farmers Organization and other organizations and dairy producers through the [Dairy Together](#) campaign to call for an effective nationwide inventory management system to provide incentives for dairy producers to manage milk production growth to meet market demand.

Reps. Courtney, Thompson Introduce School Milk Nutrition Act to Mark the Start of National Dairy Month



On June 5, Representatives Joe Courtney (CT-02) and Congressman Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson (PA-15) introduced the *School Milk Nutrition Act of 2019*—bipartisan legislation to expand milk options for students and reverse the decline of milk consumption in schools.

This legislation reaffirms recent regulation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture by

providing schools with the option to serve low-fat milk with flavor and requires that the milk offered to be consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

“Milk provides the cornerstone of a healthy meal for our nation’s children,” Rep. Courtney said. “It packs valuable nutrients including protein, potassium, and calcium—a solid foundation for building a healthy menu in America’s schools. Unfortunately, we’ve seen a ten percent decline in school milk consumption in recent years as a result of removing low-fat flavored milk from school menus. Our bill will positively impact the quality of children’s diets while supporting our local family dairies.”

“Milk is the No. 1 source of nine essential nutrients in many young American’s diets and provides many significant health benefits,” Rep. Thompson said. “I am proud to join with Rep. Courtney in an effort to reverse the decline of milk consumption in schools throughout Pennsylvania and across the country. By codifying what USDA is already allowing, it is my hope that we will witness consumption return to their historic levels with kids enjoying nutritious milk at

school.”

In November 2017, the U.S. Department of agriculture announced regulatory changes for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, including a provision that provides schools with the option to serve low-fat, 1-percent flavored milk. The *School Milk Nutrition Act of 2019* will codify this milk provision and will maintain the option for schools to offer low-fat, 1-percent flavored milk if it is consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

From 2014-2016, schools served 213 million fewer half pints of milk, even though school enrollment was growing. Children over four years-old are not meeting the recommended daily servings of dairy based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Declining milk consumption in schools not only affects students, but negatively affects dairy farms and farm families across the country. Providing students the option to consume low-fat milk with flavor, has the potential to positively affect milk consumption trends while supporting local dairy farmers.

The bipartisan *School Milk Nutrition Act of 2019* is commonsense bipartisan legislation that will provide schools with the certainty that they will continue to have the flexibility in providing nutrition milk varieties and maintaining that 1-percent flavored milk offered in schools remain consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

This legislation is strongly supported by the National Milk Producers Federation, International Dairy Foods Association, National Farmers Union, and National Farm Bureau Federation. (Source: Rep. Joe Courtney)

CDC Action Alert: Contact your member of Congress and urge their support for the "School Milk Nutrition Act."

Farm Service Agency County Committee Nominations Open June 14



#LeadYourFSA and be the Voice of Farmers in Your Community

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting nominations for county committee members on Friday, June 14, 2019. Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the

county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate.

“I encourage America’s farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards to nominate candidates to lead, serve, and represent their community on their county committee,” FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. “There’s an increasing need for diverse representation including underserved producers, which includes beginning, women and minority farmers and ranchers.”

Committees make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. Their input is vital on how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serving on FSA county committees. The committees are made of

three to 11 members and typically meet once a month. Members serve three-year terms. Producers serving on our FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency.

Producers should visit their local FSA office today to find out how to get involved in their county's election. Check with your local USDA service center to see if your local administrative area is up for election this year. Organizations, including those representing beginning, women and minority producers, also may nominate candidates.

To be considered, a producer must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections. All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2019.

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 4, 2019. Read more to learn about important election dates. *(Source: USDA)*

**For More Information
Contact Executive Director
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