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## CDC Calls on USDA Secretary Perdue to Support Farmer-Led Dairy Growth Management

*Warns Current Farm Bill Dairy Policy Leading in Wrong Direction*



**LOS BANOS, CA (June 28, 2019)**

–California Dairy Campaign (CDC) Vice President Mark McAfee called on United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue to support a dairy growth management plan before a large crowd at a Town Hall Meeting in Los Banos, CA today. California Dairy Campaign is supporting a **three-legged milk stool approach** to improve the outlook for dairy producers that includes farmer-led dairy supply management, fair milk prices paid to dairy farmers and smart dairy trade policy. (*Pictured: California Representative Jim Costa, D-16, and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue*)

“Unless dairy farmers have all three elements of the three-legged milk

stool including farmer-led supply management, fair milk prices and smart dairy trade policy, many more dairies in California and around the country are going out of business,” McAfee warned Secretary Perdue and California lawmakers present including Reps. Jim Costa, D-16, T.J. Cox, D-21, Josh Harder, D-10, and Doug La Malfa, R-1. McAfee has carried a three-legged milk stool (*pictured above*) to meetings across the country as a model of the three-point plan to end the ongoing dairy crisis caused by many years of chronically low milk prices. When USDA Secretary Perdue asked if he could put the three-legged stool on his desk at USDA, McAfee graciously agreed.

“We want an American dairy supply management system that takes the best of the Canadian system, but is all American,” McAfee stated. California Dairy Campaign has held a series of meetings featuring Canadian dairy farmers who explained how they manage milk production to meet market demand and are paid milk prices that are substantially higher than U.S. milk prices creating a thriving dairy farm economy. CDC is working with dairy farmers around the country through the [Dairy Together](#) Campaign to call for farmer-led dairy supply management policies to balance milk production with market demand and sustain dairies nationwide.

“The dairy policy passed in the last farm bill is leading us in the wrong direction by increasing milk production and taxpayer spending and lowering milk prices and net farm income,” McAfee warned. A recent analysis conducted by Chuck Nicholson from Cornell University concluded that the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program passed in the last farm bill will lower net dairy farm income by \$2.4 billion and increase taxpayer expenditures by more than \$4.4 billion. Throughout the farm bill debate, CDC warned that the DMC would make milk production less responsive to market demand lowering milk prices and increasing taxpayer spending which the Cornell analysis has now confirmed. The study is linked [here](#) and the summary of DMC impacts appears on page 12.

The 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 the California Farmers Union (CFU), a state chapter of National Farmers Union, which represents more than 250,000 farmers nationwide.

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