



California
Farmers Union



California Dairy Campaign

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Contact: Lynne McBride
Office Phone: 209-632-0885
Email: lmcb44@comcast.net

Representative David Valadao Speaks to Valley Farmers
Before CDC and CFU Joint Annual Meeting

HANFORD, CA (January 17, 2015) —Representative David G. Valadao, CA-21, spoke to a large audience of farmers from around the state about water policy, immigration reform, dairy policy and other issues during the California Dairy Campaign (CDC) and California Farmers Union (CFU) Joint Annual meeting in Hanford, CA. California Dairy Campaign (CDC) Joe Augusto and California Farmers Union (CFU) President Joaquin Contente commended Rep. Valadao for his work in Congress on issues important to California agriculture.

“Rep. Valadao understands the challenges faced by farmers in our state and has worked tirelessly to address one of the greatest challenges, the historic drought, by reaching across the aisle to negotiate an agreement on water policy,” CFU President Joaquin Contente explained. “Until we can devise both short-term and long-term workable solutions to ensure that water is available to farmers and ranchers, our agricultural sector, the backbone of our state economy, will continue to suffer significant losses.”

“Dairy producer prices have dropped significantly in recent weeks and are now well below average production costs in our state,” warned CDC President Augusto. “In 2015, one of our highest priorities will be to work to establish a California federal milk marketing order so that California dairy producer prices are no longer some of the lowest in the nation,” he added. “Rep. Valadao has played a vital role in this process by sponsoring the ‘California Federal Milk Marketing Order Act’ which was passed in the farm bill last year. Now thanks to Rep. Valadao and other supporters of that bill the process is moving forward and we expect federal order hearings to occur later this year,” he concluded.

National Farmers Union (NFU) Government Relations Representative Zack Clark traveled from Washington, DC to speak to the audience about a range of issues including NFU's efforts to oppose the passage of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and the Trans Pacific Partnership because of the adverse impact it will have on farmers nationwide. NFU has led a nationwide effort to uphold mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) of meat to ensure consumers have a choice at the grocery store and farmers can label their product as U.S. beef. Clark also discussed NFU's work to ensure that federal environmental regulations take into account the impact on farmers and ranchers, the need for tax reforms and other issues important to its nationwide membership.

Comprised of more than 1300 farmer, and rancher members, CFU advocates policies to lawmakers at the state and national levels on behalf of its membership throughout California. CDC, a member organization, 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. CFU is a state chapter of NFU, which represents more than 250,000 members nationwide.

325 Mitchell Avenue, Turlock, CA 95380
P.O. Box 1957, Turlock, CA 95381

(209)632-0381 Fax: (209)632-5262
Email: lmcb44@comcast.net

www.californiadairycampaign.com
www.californiafarmersunion.org