



2012 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

Resolution in Support of the Dairy Industry

- Whereas,** the State Ag and Rural Leaders, (SARL) is comprised of agriculture and rural leaders of state and provincial legislative bodies from the US and Canada; and
- Whereas,** the dairy industry is a keystone industry which not only supports rural communities and valuable open space, water recharge areas, and enhances other sectors of agriculture; provides open space for recreation, sportsmen and women, and tourism; and
- Whereas,** the dairy industry provides an economic impact of an estimated \$14,000 per cow per year, primarily in the local economy; and
- Whereas,** the lack of stable prices, concentration of processing capacity, outdated regulations and labor shortages are creating a crisis in the industry; and
- Whereas,** a significant loss of capacity would create a dependence on imported milk and other dairy products, would cause prices to increase to consumers and reducing our nation's food security; now therefore be it
- Resolved,** that State Agricultural and Rural Leaders urge Congress and the administration to acknowledge the importance of the dairy industry nationwide, as well as the unique aspects of the dairy industry region by region through:
- requiring Milk Protein Concentrates (powdered milk products), regardless of their country of origin, to meet and document the same quality, animal health, inspection and production standards as a U.S. product; and
 - addressing the problems of labor shortages within the dairy industry by providing more opportunity for training and education, as well as a fair and sensible approach to imported labor; and
 - adopting legislation that creates a uniform definition of the ownership of milk as it leaves the farm; and
 - ensuring that all dairy producers receive, with reasonable advance notice, the information related to any referendum on the Federal Milk Marketing Orders and have the opportunity to cast individual ballots on such referendum; and be it further
- Resolved,** that State Agricultural and Rural Leaders urge the Department of Justice and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to pursue renewed inquiry into the concentration in the milk processing sectors of the dairy industry and to determine whether anti-competitive conduct is working to the detriment of producers and consumers, and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, members of the agriculture committee of the United States Congress and the Department of Justice.

*Approved by members of State Agriculture and Rural Leaders
Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit
January 8, 2012 - Arlington, Virginia*