

2021-22 Policy Objectives

Reliable workforce

Dairy farmers need access to a practical agricultural workforce visa to address the critical workforce shortages in the dairy community.

- Support agricultural workforce reform through the creation of a visa program that allows dairy farms to 1) ensure legal status of existing workers and 2) recruit new foreign-born workers to their farms with a practical, multi-year and renewable workforce visa.
- Support and protect the limited, existing use of the TN and J-1 visa programs by dairy farms.
- Oppose mandatory E-Verify on dairy farms without an agricultural workforce visa that addresses the needs for current and future workforce.

Better access to global markets

U.S. dairy farmers will realize long-term benefits by increasing exports through free trade agreements and protecting against anti-competitive trading practices that obstruct U.S. dairy's ability to export.

- Support increased U.S. dairy exports by expanding upon existing trading relationships and establishing new bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements.
- Support funding of programs that promote U.S. dairy products to international customers.
- Oppose anti-competitive trade measures that limit U.S. dairy's ability to export dairy products.

Farm policy that works for dairy farmers

Federal dairy policies and programs need to account for all sizes and types of dairy farms, and provide transparent, market-based prices for their products.

- Support federal policy that allows dairy farms of all sizes to modernize, innovate and grow, including through technological advancements and opportunities in a free market.
- Support dairy risk management programs that are accessible to all sizes of dairy farms.
- Ensure individual farmers have a voice in Federal Milk Marketing Orders referendums.
- Support efforts to reassess the Federal Milk Marketing Orders system to identify opportunities for improvement.

Farmer-led environmental innovation

Environmentally focused policies affecting agriculture should be guided by farmers, grounded in science, driven by the market and sufficiently flexible to allow for innovation at the farm level.

- Support the creation of voluntary, financially viable solutions for farmers to use to meet carbon sequestration and climate-oriented goals.
- Support resources and programs that enhance agronomic practices and provide technical assistance to farmers in implementing sustainable practices.
- Support the creation of investment incentives for the construction of environmentally focused infrastructure on farms.
- Support science-based environmental policies that allow dairy farmers to innovate and that do not add to the regulatory burden of farmers.

Accurate representation of dairy products to customers

Dairy products are safe, wholesome and nutritious. All customers deserve honest product labeling for making purchasing decisions and reasonable access to the full nutritional dairy profile in food programs.

- Support Food and Drug Administration enforcement and legislative action directing the agency to enforce dairy standards of identity against products imitating dairy foods.
- Support additional access to a wider variety of dairy products in nutritional programs.