

American Dairy Coalition - 2023 Dairy and Farm Bill Priorities – Jan. 23, 2023

The American Dairy Coalition will continue working on key priorities within and outside of the federal Farm Bill in 2023. Some of these policy priorities are neutral, even beneficial, to the Farm Bill baseline and include:

Dairy Policy

- 1) **Restore the ‘higher of’ formula for the Class I milk price ‘mover’ in the most expeditious way possible** – for example, reverting the ‘simple average’ language from the 2018 Farm Bill back to the ‘higher of’ in the 2023 Farm Bill.
- 2) **Conduct a congressional hearing on Federal Milk Marketing Order sustainability** due to the long-term systemic issues of declining fluid milk sales and declining FMMO participation. FMMO dysfunction and instability are concerning as there is no other mechanism for dairy price discovery and payment oversight.
- 3) Improve price discovery and transparency with expanded dairy product price reporting.
- 4) Assure dairy farmers the right to cast an individual, confidential ballot in Federal Milk Marketing Order producer referendums.

Nutrition Innovation

- 1) Restore whole milk in federal nutrition programs like National School Lunch and WIC.
- 2) Prioritize nutrient density of foods like whole milk by exempting them from the saturated fat limits that the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are imposing.
- 3) Fulfill the intent of the 1983 Dairy Production Stabilization Act by targeting a portion of dairy checkoff funds to support Class I fluid milk promotion innovation because Class I underpins the function and stability of the FMMO system for orderly marketing.
- 4) Continue to work for labeling integrity for milk and dairy products vs. alternatives so consumers can make informed choices.

Conservation and Climate

- 1) Encourage public-private policies that reward farmers for what they are already doing.
- 2) Ensure conservation and environmental programs are voluntary and incentive-based.
- 3) Limit intrusive scope 3 emissions data collection and protect farmers from backdoor ESG implementation by supply chain vendors / lenders. Farmers should own / control their data and retain achievements in their farm’s footprint -- even if used as insets / offsets.
- 4) Ensure methane math is correct using the appropriate Global Warming Potential calculation (GWP-star not GWP100) for biogenic ag methane such as cattle. Relatively stable ruminant herds are climate-neutral contributing no new warming as cattle are part of a perpetual carbon recycling that is not adding new methane.

Agricultural workforce

- 1) Work with other Ag groups and industries for commonsense workforce modernization that includes year-round guest-worker provisions.