

# Iowa State Dairy Association

## 2022 Policies



[www.iowadairy.org](http://www.iowadairy.org)

Dairy farming in Iowa is a significant part of agriculture in our state. With nearly 850 dairy herds and more than 220,000 dairy

cows, our dairy farm families bring value to all of Iowa. Making sure these families survive and thrive is important not only to the dairy industry, but to many other organizations and communities who greatly benefit from dairy's positive impact throughout the state.

The views of Iowa's dairy farmers on many issues affecting them at a statewide level are covered in this policy booklet. This grassroots organization of dairy farmers has prepared this policy booklet as a resource for you. We encourage you to read through our policies and refer back to this booklet when making decisions regarding dairy farming.

Iowa's dairy farm families are vital to our state. Our social and economic benefits are keys to Iowa's agricultural success. A recent study of the economic impact of Iowa's dairy industry reports a per-cow per-year impact of \$25,495. That means that Iowa's dairy industry has an economic impact of over \$5 billion dollars per year. We are 850 dairies strong and we want to ensure that dairy farming will be around for future generations of Iowans.

**Larry Shover**

Board President  
Iowa State Dairy Association

**Iowa State Dairy Association  
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**Iowa State Dairy Association**

**Mission:**

***Iowa State Dairy Association is the unified voice and advocate for increased economic vitality of the dairy industry on behalf of Iowa dairy farmers.***

**Objectives:**

- ❖ **Seek to unite the members of a diversified industry into a purposeful organization.**
- ❖ **Provide leadership for Iowa’s dairy industry.**
- ❖ **Develop programs to encourage and educate dairy youth within the industry.**
- ❖ **Recognize dairy leaders in the state of Iowa.**
- ❖ **Promote dairy farmers and the dairy industry in Iowa.**
- ❖ **Representation at meetings impacting the dairy industry.**
- ❖ **Monitor and influence regulatory issues in Iowa.**
- ❖ **Act as a primary contact for the dairy industry in Iowa, dedicated to the service of its membership.**
- ❖ **Organize activities, initiatives and coordinate information for the Iowa dairy industry.**
- ❖ **Ensure that dairy farms and dairy processing remains an essential business**

**Iowa State Dairy Association  
2022 Policies**

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**Abbreviations:**

**ISDA:** Iowa State Dairy Association

**IDALS:** Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

**USDA:** United States Department of Agriculture

**ISU:** Iowa State University

**ILHAC:** Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council

**VCPR:** Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship

**PMO:** Pasteurized Milk Ordinance

**SCC:** Somatic Cell Count

**MPC:** Milk Protein Concentrate

**MPP:** Margin Protection Program

**Definitions:**

**Bovine:** Of the biological subfamily Bovinae. This diverse group features about 24 species of medium-sized to large animals with hoofs such as domestic cattle. (Source: *Dairy Farmer Today*)

**FARM Program:** The [National Dairy FARM Program: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management™](#) is a nation-wide, verifiable program that addresses animal well-being. Its mission is to demonstrate and verify that U.S. milk producers are committed to providing the highest standards of animal care and quality assurance. (Source: *National Milk Producers Federation*)

**Foreign Animal Disease:** A foreign animal disease (FAD) is a disease caused by a transmissible infectious agent with the potential for rapid spread, the introduction of which would seriously affect access animals and animal products to foreign markets

**Johne's Disease:** a slowly-progressing but ultimately fatal disease of all cloven-hoofed animals. The bacteria are ingested early in life, absorbed through the intestinal wall, and hide in the animal's white blood cells. Here they can thrive and multiply without being exposed to antibodies, then spread to other cells and cause chronic inflammation. This inflammation produces the intestinal thickening that leads to weight loss, severe diarrhea, and eventually death. (Source: *Iowa State University*)

**Milk:** the lacteal secretion, practically free from colostrum, obtained by the complete milking of one or more healthy cows. (Source: *Food and Drug Administration*)

**Milk Protein Concentrate:** A product made from skim (nonfat) milk that has all of the protein of milk but no fat (removed by centrifugation) or lactose (removed by ultra-filtration). It is usually sold as a dry powder containing 42% protein and 97% solids. Various derivations of this can be made including caseinates, acid or rennet casein, whey proteins, combinations of these. (Source: *Dr. Sam Beattie, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Iowa State University*)

**Nonambulatory Animal:** a disabled animal that cannot rise from a recumbent position or cannot walk, also known as a downer animal. (Source: *National Milk Producers Federation*)

**Pasteurized Milk Ordinance:** The Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, published by the [Food and Drug Administration](#), outlines minimum standards and requirements for [Grade A milk](#) production and processing. Grade A standards are recommended by the [National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments](#) (NCIMS), which is composed of voting representatives from state and local regulatory agencies, and nonvoting representatives of the dairy industry and FDA. As a general rule, FDA accepts the Conference recommendations and incorporates

them into the revised PMO. The state regulator (which is usually either the State Department of Agriculture or the State Health Department) adopts the PMO standards as a minimum, and in many cases requires more stringent standards.

**Pasteurization:** Pasteurization is a simple, effective method to kill harmful pathogens through heat treatment without affecting the taste or nutritional value of milk. Since its introduction over a century ago, pasteurization has been recognized around the world as an essential tool for protecting public health. The process was named after its inventor, French scientist Louis Pasteur. *(Source: Dairy Farmer Today)*

**Raw Milk:** Milk that has not been pasteurized before consumption. *(Source: Dairy Farmer Today)*

**Somatic Cell Count:** The number of white blood cells per milliliter of milk or measurement of the number of somatic cells present in a sample of milk. All milk naturally contains some somatic cells, which enable cows to fight infection and ensure good health. Farmers routinely monitor their herds for somatic cell counts as a general gauge of the cow's well-being. *(Source: Dairy Farmer Today)*

**Sound Science:** Robustly supported science, confirmed by multiple peer-reviewed studies

**Veterinary Feed Directive:** A veterinary feed directive is a written statement issued by a licensed veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian's professional practice that orders the use of a VFD drug in or on an animal feed. This written statement authorizes the client to obtain and use the VFD drug in or on animal feed to treat the client's animals only in accordance with the directions for use approved or indexed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

## **IOWA DAIRY POLICY**

### **IDP-1 Iowa Dairy Policy**

**2016**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa has approximately 950 dairy producers, and a total economic impact of \$25,495 per cow and provides 12 jobs in the community for every 100 cows

**WHEREAS**, it is important for producers to have consistent dairy policy in place in order for proper representation at a statewide level

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Iowa dairy producers support ISDA policy as the official policy for Iowa's dairy producers.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

### **AHW-1 Importing Livestock**



**2013**

**WHEREAS**, importing livestock and agricultural products from other countries can have some implications if these animals or products are infected with animal diseases **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, there be higher tariffs or taxes on these animals or products to secure the value and safety of U.S. livestock and their byproducts to help pay for better surveillance and auditing

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports using the best scientific and stringent standards of testing when importing livestock and agricultural products into the U.S. to ensure the imported animals and products are disease free.

### **AHW-2 Slaughter Law**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa Code 172E.2- "Marketing Practices - dairy cattle sold for slaughter," was put in place to prevent known and identified dairy cattle with contagious diseases e.g. Johne's, from being reintroduced to another dairy herd, and

**WHEREAS**, the above stated code requires livestock marketers accepting dairy cattle from sellers who have expressed written condition that the dairy cattle are to be moved directly to slaughter

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA work with the Secretary of Agriculture to see that the Iowa Code 172E.2, as it reads, is vigorously enforced.

### **AHW-3 Forage Quality**

**2004**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA recognizes the importance of the breeding and development of forages containing highly digestible nutrients

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA requests ISU, other research institutions and commercial breeders to place continued emphasis toward the breeding, development and introduction of forages that are acceptable for dairy rations and grazing systems.

### **AHW-4 ISU Extension & Outreach**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is the largest industry in Iowa and has a major economic impact in Iowa, and

**WHEREAS**, technology is important to agriculture and is constantly developing and changing, and

**WHEREAS**, ISU Extension & Outreach plays an important role in helping agriculture maintain profitability through the adoption of unbiased, science-based technologies

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the continuation of funding of ISU Extension & Outreach Specialists to provide education leadership on technology information on a timely basis

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA urges that agriculture be given the highest priority possible in applied research and education efforts of ISU in support of the dairy industry

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA urges that high priority be given to ISU Extension & Outreach funding to the important services to support the Iowa dairy industry.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the efforts of Grow Iowa Agriculture to continue funding for research and extension programs supporting animal agriculture in Iowa.

### **AHW-5 Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council (ILHAC)**

**2005**

**WHEREAS**, the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council was formed to monitor disease research of food-producing animals at ISU

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the current definition of the term livestock utilized in Section 267.1, Subsection 1, Code 2001, and further, that the ISDA supports the current composition of membership of the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council, specifically excluding the canine, equine, ratite, bison and elk species.

### **AHW-6 ILHAC Appropriations**

**2016**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa's \$32.6 billion animal agriculture industry is critical to the economy of Iowa and food animal infectious diseases and pre-harvest food safety is a significant concern to Iowa livestock producers and consumers, and

**WHEREAS**, the appropriations to ILHAC have decreased from \$200,000 to \$172,844 in recent years

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA requests the Iowa State legislature to increase the allocation to a percentage that matches the state budget increase annually.

### **AHW-7 ISU Animal Health Research**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA recognizes the importance of quality research in the areas of animal health and well-being.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages the efforts of Iowa State University in the areas of production-dairy animal health, well-being and genetics.

### **AHW-8 Foreign Animal Disease**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, ISDA recognizes the importance of the animal industry in Iowa

**WHEREAS**, ISDA additionally acknowledges an animal disease outbreak could drastically affect the agriculture industry as well as the state's economy

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA supports increased funding for the IDALS's Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Fund

### **AHW- 9 Johne's Disease**

**2020**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA encourages state and local veterinarians to work with dairy producers on best management practices to help control Johne's through on-farm risk assessments.

## **AHW-10 Stray Voltage**

**2016**

**WHEREAS**, stray voltage can cause serious complications for a dairy herd, including reductions in milk production, animal wellness issues and in severe cases death, and **WHEREAS**, utilities, when at fault, should be held accountable for stray voltage

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports current [Iowa Code Section 1, Subsection 657.1](#) as it relates to stray voltage

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the Iowa Stray Voltage Guide for livestock farms and commends REC, Alliant Energy, Farm Bureau, and the commodity organizations for working together to complete the guidelines.

## **AHW-11 Electric Transmission Lines, Solar Energy, and Windmills**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, electric transmission lines, solar energy and windmills have the potential to interfere with a dairy operation

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, future high voltage electric transmission lines, solar panels, and windmills should be set back from all existing buildings and structures

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, setback distances should correspond to the size of the high voltage transmission line and the potential of these lines to shed strong voltage

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports farmers being fairly compensated for land usage for sustainable efforts including transmission lines, pipelines, etc. crossing farmers' land.

## **AHW-12 Drugs and Treatment of Livestock**

**2013**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA recognizes the need for the use of vaccines and medications in animal production, and

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA also realizes producers should at the same time strive to keep consumer confidence in our products by their responsible use

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we continue to make available vaccines and medications, for animal use, to livestock producers and those deemed for "prescription use only" continue to be available to producers whom have established a valid VCPR for the purchase and administration of such medications

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports all dairy producers use best management practices when treating and caring for livestock—as proposed by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) FARM Program (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) VFD (Veterinarian Feed Directive) and NMPF's Milk and Dairy Beef Residue Prevention Manual.

## **AHW-13 Embryo Transfer and Ultrasound Pregnancy Testing**

**2016**

**WHEREAS**, embryo transfer and ultrasound pregnancy testing are viable practices in the dairy industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA views embryo transfer and ultrasound pregnancy testing as non-surgical procedures

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports allowing a person to perform non-surgical procedures and animal husbandry practices for a fee with proper training and/or proper protocol with a VCPR.

## **AHW- 14 Ag Research Funding**

**2019**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa is the leader in agriculture and the bio economy, and

**WHEREAS**, additional baseline resources are needed at ISU for research on optimizing the use of feedstuffs from the biofuels industry, that better integrates the livestock industry into the bio economy.

**WHEREAS**, it is important that the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and programs be developed and supported to enhance environmental stewardship for the entire state.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports that the Iowa legislature and the Federal Government appropriate funding to ISU for faculty positions, research programs, and extension programs focused on corn silage, forage, dairy nutrition, the bio economy, and conservation improvements such as the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports additional funding and resources to the National Animal Disease Center, Iowa Agriculture Experiment Station and Iowa Extension and Outreach for forage production and utilization to reduce soil erosion and improve profitability.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the Grow Iowa Agriculture efforts to increase legislative funding for animal agriculture to Iowa Agriculture Experiment Station.

## **AHW-15 Nonambulatory Dairy Cattle Slaughter**

**2020**

**WHEREAS**, the USDA has policy in place for denying the processing of nonambulatory (downer) animals for food, and

**WHEREAS**, injured animals and diseased animals that are nonambulatory have the same regulations

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the USDA revising this policy and allowing nonambulatory animals for a producer's own use at a local locker slaughter facility

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports allowing a producer to have an injured animal slaughtered for the producer's own personal use if the animal is euthanized and harvested on the producer's own farm, much the same as deer and other processed animals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the processor unloading ambulatory animals on a load that contains nonambulatory animals and assisting in the humane treatment and movement of the nonambulatory animals.

## **AHW-16 Animal Health & Well-Being**

**2017**

**WHEREAS**, social issues affecting dairy producers have the ability to be very costly, and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for producers to control their destiny and protect their freedom to farm

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA supports the use of technology that is proven by research and sound science to help the dairy farmers be sustainable and environment friendly.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports telling the public the positive message about animal care, sustainability and animal well-being in the dairy industry.

## **AHW-17 Veterinary Diagnostics**

**2018**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. animal agriculture is increasingly vulnerable to the introduction of emerging diseases, and

**WHEREAS**, the Iowa State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab is critical in early detection and effective response to disease outbreak

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports increased government funding that the Iowa State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab receives

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the Iowa State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab's and is imperative to seek full funding to complete a new stand-alone Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

## **EDUCATION**

### **ED-1 Public Education**

**2016**

**WHEREAS**, the general public is not adequately informed about the operation of a dairy farm, and

**WHEREAS**, dairy producers' income is dependent on being good stewards of the land, managers of the livestock, and producing a safe and wholesome product, and

**WHEREAS**, the dairy producer has a very substantial return for the whole community with a total economic impact of \$25,495 per cow and provides 14 jobs in the community for every 100 cows

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA should utilize existing materials and develop new materials as necessary to increase public awareness of the dairy industry's concern for economic impact, food safety, and environmental stewardship.

### **ED-2 Producer Education**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, many dairy producers do not have a clear understanding of the milk pricing system and environmental regulations

**WHEREAS** we as a dairy industry need to be more aggressive in developing policies which improve profit margins

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA provide and develop materials to help dairy producers understand milk pricing and risk management tools, including the Margin Protection Program, Dairy Revenue Protection Program, Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy, and other programs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA assists with informing producers of environmental regulations (enforcement by Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages producers to contact and work with the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers.

### **ED-3 June Dairy Month 2009**

**WHEREAS**, it is important to support and promote the dairy industry during June Dairy Month

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA work in a cooperative effort with other dairy associations to support June Dairy Month and increase promotion efforts during this time.

### **ED-4 Iowa Dairy Story 2022**

**WHEREAS**, it is important to educate the youth of today on the dairy industry and dairy operations

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA and Western Iowa Dairy Alliance help to promote the Iowa Dairy Story developed by the Northeast Iowa Dairy and Agriculture Foundation and ISU Extension

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the associations work to promote [www.MidwestDairy.com](http://www.MidwestDairy.com) and other educational materials.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the association supports the dairy breakfasts sponsored by the ISU Dairy Farm, Northeast Iowa Dairy and Agriculture Foundation, Western Iowa Dairy Alliance, and others that help educate the public.

### **ED-5 Post-Secondary Dairy Education 2006**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA understands the importance of quality entrepreneurial post-secondary education for dairy science

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports broad-based dairy curriculum programs in the state, private and community colleges of Iowa

### **ED-6 Animal Well-Being 2022**

**WHEREAS**, social issues affecting dairy farmers have the potential to have a detrimental impact to dairy

**WHEREAS**, it is important for producers to control their destiny and protect their social license to operate

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA supports the use of technology that is proven by research and sound science to help the dairy farmers be sustainable and environmentally friendly.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports programs, activities and organizations that promote telling the public the positive message about animal care, sustainability and well-being in the dairy industry through promoting and recognizing existing voluntary auditing programs for producers

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports quality training and education for farm employees

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) program.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

### ENVR-1 Environmental Issues

2018

**WHEREAS**, producing wholesome dairy products requires a high quality, safe milk supply, and

**WHEREAS**, milk quality, in part, depends upon an abundant safe water supply, and

**WHEREAS**, dairy farmers constantly seek to minimize any adverse impact their farms may have on the environment, and

**WHEREAS**, dairy producers are good stewards of the land and resources, including water, air and nutrients and follow regulations set by the State of Iowa

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the following:

- 1) realistic standards based on sound scientific data to address air and water quality issues;
- 2) programs for specific watersheds oversight;
- 3) make available, incentive and assistance-based programs for dairy producers affected by federal environmental mandates - laws & acts;
- 4) voluntary programs implemented by producers using appropriate best management practices rather than mandatory programs;
- 5) adequate funding to provide education and technical assistance to help dairy producers develop effective cost-efficient conservation plans;
- 6) federal financial and technical support for state and local environmental programs;
- 7) that reliable and research based information be presented before implementing water quality programs; and

- 8) ISDA supports and encourages continued research and adoption of energy efficient and sustainable production methods
- 9) the dollars mandated for the Iowa Clean Water Initiative
- 10) ISDA supports the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy along with the Iowa Turkey Federation, Iowa Corn, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Cattlemen's, Iowa Pork Producers, and Iowa Egg Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA opposes the following:

- 1) costly, prescriptive programs which do not provide the flexibility dairy producers need to manage nutrients and address concerns specific to their farms; and
- 2) federal legislation which will hamper state and local efforts of environmental contamination control.

## **ENVR-2 Manure Application**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission and Iowa Department of Natural Resources have the ability to ban manure application in various situations (soybean fields, frozen/snow covered ground, etc.)

**WHEREAS**, it is important that any regulations on manure application be based on research and sound science showing the benefits of to the environment

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA requests all regulations regarding manure application be based on replicated, peer reviewed scientific research

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Iowa dairy farmers should have input on final regulations.

## **ENVR-3 Iowa Environmental Protection Commission**

**2011**

**WHEREAS**, the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission is a government appointed board that continues to have increased power over environmental regulations affecting livestock, and

**WHEREAS**, a commission with this much regulatory power should be held accountable by the voting public of Iowa

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA recommends regulations put forth by the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission cannot be enacted without legislative approval

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports that all Environmental Protection Commissioners labeled as "farmers" must actually be engaged in modern production agriculture.

## **FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION**

### **FSN-1 Milk Vending**

**2004**

**WHEREAS**, it is important to have healthy alternatives to soda and junk food available to all school students

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA builds support for and encourages Iowa schools to offer milk, cheese, and yogurt through vending machines on the school premises.

### **FSN-2 School Milk and Dairy Program**



**2022**

**WHEREAS**, there are proven and immediate health benefits to children with increased milk consumption and there is a definite need for increased dairy products in their diets, and

**WHEREAS**, milk fat is sometimes negatively perceived but research has shown that milk fat does have health benefits, and

**WHEREAS**, a large percentage of adolescents fail to meet calcium recommendations

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports federally funded school breakfast, lunch and special milk programs for all K-12 children

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, these programs be required to offer milk, flavored milk, yogurt, and cheese products regardless of the fat content

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the use of chocolate milk as an effective sports recovery beverage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports additional funding for schools to purchase refrigeration equipment to properly store perishable food items.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports Midwest Dairy's efforts to educate schools in the proper handling and storage of dairy products.

### **FSN-3 Nutrition Education**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, programs exist to educate children and teachers on the nutritional health benefits of dairy products, and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Iowa mandates all schools to have nutrition policy to improve Iowa's school children's health, and

**WHEREAS**, dairy is a good value for the nutrition which it supplies and can improve public health, and

**WHEREAS**, flavored milk has been proven to be an effective sports recovery beverage, and

**WHEREAS**, some public officials, particularly school officials, have been making decisions based on budgetary concerns rather than nutritional concerns

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA works with and encourages the National Dairy Council and local promotion and dairy council groups to participate more actively in teaching the health benefits of dairy products through school programs

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, dairy organizations increase efforts and research pertaining to the nutritional and health benefits of dairy products.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages continued research on the health benefits of milk fat in dairy products and its positive effect on consumers and to communicate these efforts to the consumer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports Midwest Dairy and the work they do with schools.

### **FSN-4 Pathogens**

**2010**

**WHEREAS**, product safety is of utmost importance to dairy producers, and  
**WHEREAS**, pathogen and toxin contamination in feedstuffs harms the safety of the dairy products the animals produce  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA encourages all dairy producers to take the needed steps to insure that their dairy cattle feed does not contain feedstuffs with harmful levels of pathogen and toxin contamination  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports pathogen and toxin testing before feedstuff shipments arrive in Iowa  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as co-products become increasingly available for dairy feedstock, the ISDA encourages the development of science-based screening to ensure the safety of newly developed byproducts.

## **FSN-5 Imported Product Safety Standards**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, U.S. dairy products are required to meet the strictest inspection standards for food safety, and  
**WHEREAS**, we as dairy producers must protect the integrity of U.S. standards with respect to product consumption  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages that all imported dairy products are required to meet the same safety standards as U.S. dairy standards.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports dairy products being labeled with country of origin.

## **FSN-6 Biosecurity**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the measures taken to avoid entry of a disease-causing pathogen into a cattle herd are of utmost importance to producers, and  
**WHEREAS**, there is an increasing risk of intentional sabotage to U.S. animal agriculture  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages dairy producers and dairy processors to develop and carry out an aggressive biosecurity plan, which could involve local law enforcement on their farms and plants.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the Center for Food Safety and Public Health at Iowa State University, the IDALS, and the National FARM program in their efforts to educate dairy producers and dairy processors to increase biosecurity on dairy farms.

## **FSN-7 Dairy Inspection**

**2019**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa dairy producers understand the importance of maintaining product safety and integrity, and  
**WHEREAS**, IDALS Dairy Products Control Bureau funding has continued to decrease while responsibilities and time commitments of the inspectors continue to increase due to new technology, new inspection systems and growing farm sizes  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports IDALS' continuing grading and inspection programs with no decrease in the number of inspectors or level of services currently provided.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports IDALS receiving funding and training in order to be adequately prepared to inspect robotic dairy operations.

## **FSN-8 Unpasteurized Milk Marketing**

**2013**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA supports the inspection of all milk sold in Iowa according to the PMO and the USDA's "Milk for Manufacturing Purposes and its Production and Processing" Recommended Requirements

**WHEREAS**, the sale of unpasteurized (raw) milk is illegal in Iowa, and

**WHEREAS**, consuming unpasteurized milk has many potential health risks such as E. coli, Listeria, Salmonella and Campylobacter, among others

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports Iowa's current law on unpasteurized milk and federal legislation that prevents the sale and distribution of unpasteurized milk directly or indirectly to consumers.

### **FSN-9 Genetically Modified Foods**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, many people and companies are asking for labeling for foods containing Genetically Modified Organisms

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA is opposed to any type of GMO or GMO Free labeling and believes all decisions should be based on research and sound science.

### **FSN-10 Food Banks and Pantries**

**2022**

**Whereas** Food insecurity is a problem in communities across the country

**Whereas** many local food banks need additional refrigeration to meet the high demand for dairy products for families in need

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports additional funding for local food banks to purchase refrigeration equipment to properly store perishable food items.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports local dairy purchases, including a wider variety of dairy product availability in food banks and pantries.

## **MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND STABILIZATION**

### **MDS-1 Beef Check-Off Program**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the Beef Check-Off program is state-based, is accountable and is producer controlled

**WHEREAS**, dairy genetics supply nearly 20% of the US beef produced

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA considers the operation of the Beef Check-Off Program as vital to the beef and dairy industries and supports the Beef Check-Off program.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA encourages research to improve the value and quality of dairy and dairy-beef carcasses in the market place

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports dairy farmers being included in Beef Check-Off conversations.

### **MDS-2 Dairy Check-Off Program**

**2018**

**WHEREAS**, dairy products are increasingly important and effective marketing of dairy products enhances the value of our dairy products

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the National Dairy Check-Off program

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports efforts requiring National Dairy Check-Off dollars from all imported dairy products at the same rate as domestic dairy products.

### **MDS-3 New Market Development**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, developing new dairy-based products and value-added dairy products expands the markets for dairy goods

**WHEREAS**, with rapid growth in production and some plants closing, supplies have generally outpaced demand, lowering price levels, increasing hauling cost, and in some cases causing the dumping of milk

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages research and development of new and value-added dairy products.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages economic development programs to further expand both current and new processors, including on-farm processing so that Iowa dairy farmers' milk can be more effectively marketed and adding the processed value to Iowa's economy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports expansion of dairy products, research, and creation of new market places.

### **MDS-4 9-H Law**

**2005**

**WHEREAS**, laws have been set in place to safe-guard the Iowa farm economy from corporate entity control

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the 9-H law as it reads today.

### **MDS-5 Farm Programs**

**2018**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA feels that the federal government's involvement in agriculture through feed grain programs, may be detrimental to the dairy and cattle industry, and

**WHEREAS**, government programs will have an impact on the dairy industry

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA work with Legislators, USDA, Farm Bureau and other agricultural commodity groups in formulating and administering future farm policy

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports a USDA loan assistance program for silage, high moisture corn and roasted soybeans.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports a USDA loan assistance program for equitable loans for hay and cover crops.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports higher crop insurance for hay in order to promote marginal land production.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the use of cover crop to improve soil health and water quality. Further Alfalfa and grass hay acres should be recognized as helping to achieve these goals and should be encouraged through government programs and incentives.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports Federal Crop Insurance programs.

### **MDS-6 Dairy Growth and Relocation**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA understands the importance of Iowa being a viable dairy industry in the nation, and

**WHEREAS**, ISU, Northeast Iowa Community College and Dordt University are educating young people to enter the dairy industry as a viable business, and **WHEREAS**, these young people are investing as entrepreneurs in this industry **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the growth of the Iowa dairy industry, and we support the use of tax dollars to increase strategically placed processing capacity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISU Extension, Northeast Iowa Community College, interested communities and beginning farmer programs work in a coordinated effort to link young producers with opportunities to enter the industry.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports USDA and government programs that provide opportunities for farmers to join the dairy industry.

## **MDS-7 Renewable Energy**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA understands the importance of the use of ethanol and other renewable energy sources, and

**WHEREAS**, the use of ethanol and other renewable energy sources benefits rural economic development

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the use of ethanol, biodiesel, methane fuel and other renewable energy sources throughout Iowa

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA work with legislators, Farm Bureau, USDA and other agricultural commodity groups in formulating renewable fuel and energy policies in Iowa.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports that dairy farmers be fairly compensated for their sustainable efforts.

## **MDS-8 Supply Management Program**

**2012**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA understands the importance of the balance between the supply and demand of raw milk in determining the price received at the farm

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports voluntary producer-based supply management programs.

## **MDS-9 Risk Management**

**2020**

**WHEREAS**, due to the growth in the global dairy industry, the commodity markets have become more volatile

**WHEREAS**, it is important that dairy producers have strong risk management programs available to them

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA supports a national insurance program that would reduce price risk and discourage undisciplined growth

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, premiums should be subsidized to benefit farms. These subsidies would be capped at 12 million pounds of milk per year

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and encourages members to evaluate the following risk management tools:

- 1.) Dairy Margin Coverage Program.
- 2.) The Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy Program
- 3.) Commodity futures trading done by a licensed commodity broker.
- 4.) Dairy Revenue Protection Program

## **MDS-10 Producer Modernization Incentives**

**2019**

**WHEREAS**, dairy producers in Iowa want to be competitive in the industry, and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa dairy producers are an asset to Iowa agriculture, and

**WHEREAS**, building and expansion are costly,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA propose to Iowa legislators an investment tax credit and grants for producers modernizing and expanding their dairy operations.

## **MDS-11 Beginning Farmer Programs**

**2017**

**WHEREAS**, it can be challenging for new and beginning dairy farmers to compete in the dairy industry, and

**WHEREAS**, current beginning farmer programs within the State of Iowa are low profile, and

**WHEREAS**, the number of farming operations in Iowa are decreasing, and

**WHEREAS**, there is an Agricultural Asset Transfer Tax Credit to assist beginning and retiring farmers, and

**WHEREAS**, current beginning farm programs target income tax credits as opposed to property tax credits, and

**WHEREAS**, high property taxes on livestock buildings are faced by retiring farmers, making it more appealing to remove those facilities rather than using them for another farmer's start-up

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports encouraging state lawmakers to offer property tax credits to entice landlords to rent facilities to beginning farmers,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports and educates others about tax credit programs designed to assist new and retiring farmers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports allowing tax credits to offset any taxable income including capital gains at both state and federal levels for retiring farmers that assist new farmers

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA is committed to work with extension and other organizations to promote the beginning farmer programs.

## **MILK PRICING**

### **MP-1 Vertical Integration**

**2004**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa dairy producers are concerned about pending and future mergers, acquisitions, and consolidations of agri-businesses, and

**WHEREAS**, often these mergers, acquisitions and consolidations lead to a reduction in competition

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports closer monitoring of mergers and acquisitions in the processing, packing and retailing industries and the vigorous enforcement of anti-trust and monopoly laws.

### **MP-2 Foreign Competition**

**2010**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa dairy producers understand the importance of competition within the dairy industry, and

**WHEREAS**, all producers understand the importance of trade and should be treated equally

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA opposes unfair foreign competition in the U.S. dairy market

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the limiting of importations of foreign dairy products, i.e., MPC and other reformulated products

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, there should be no import of animals from countries where subsidies directly or indirectly give such cattle imports an unfair advantage over domestically-produced cattle.

### **MP-3 Federal Orders**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Milk Marketing Order system was put in place to assure producers would receive a price for their milk that corresponds with the value of sales of manufactured products, and

**WHEREAS**, the intent and purpose was to restrict processors from paying producers minimum prices while incurring maximum return and ensuring equity among producers, and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Milk Marketing Order must be voted in or out by producers

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the Federal Milk Marketing Order system remaining as a viable program for producers that links the price paid to producers with sales of milk products used by processors.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports updates to the Federal Milk Marketing Orders to ensure dairy farmers are receiving fair compensation for their raw milk.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **MISC-1 Agricultural Technology**

**2009**

**WHEREAS**, agricultural technology enhances the efficiency of livestock production and increases sustainable production practices, and

**WHEREAS**, some of these technologies have been discouraged after previous acceptance

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports developments of new technologies and the ability for our industry to use approved technology.

### **MISC-2 Rural Iowa Initiative**

**2019**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the revitalization and enhancement of the quality of life in rural Iowa

## **PRODUCT STANDARDS**

### **PS-1 Somatic Cell Count**

**2013**

**WHEREAS**, milk quality at the farm directly affects dairy products quality and shelf life, and

**WHEREAS**, the health of the dairy cow determines the quality of the product produced

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA encourages producers to lower SCC and to produce higher quality milk

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA encourages research directed at improving the health of our dairy animals.

### **PS-2 Minimum Standards**

**2009**

**WHEREAS**, it would benefit each dairy producer to increase the solids content in consumer milk as it would improve the nutrient value, while improving the taste of the product for the consumer

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA encourages the raising of minimum solid standards for consumer milk.

### **PS-3 Dairy Products Identity**

**2020**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA supports the use of 100% domestic real dairy products, and



**WHEREAS**, beverages made from vegetable or plant base are NOT qualifying dairy products

**WHEREAS**, product identity is of utmost importance to the dairy industry and the products we produce

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the use of the terms “milk”, “cheese”, “yogurt”, and “butter” only in reference to products produced from lactating mammals, like dairy animals.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA supports Dairy PRIDE Act.

## **PS-4 MPC- Dairy Product Standards**

**2016**

**WHEREAS**, unfair importations of Milk Protein Concentrates and other reformulated dairy products displaces our dairy products

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports foreign dairy products, including Milk Protein Concentrate, to be identified as dairy products produced from mammals, like dairy animals, and tariffs accordingly.

## **PS-5 Meat Product Identity**

**2018**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA supports the use of 100% real meat products, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the use of the word meat only in reference to products produced from animals.

## **PS-6 Truth in Advertising**

**2018**

**WHEREAS**, some dairy product marketing and advertising negatively portrays milk products

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA promotes a dialog with all producers, processors and marketers to minimize negative marketing claims (absent claims).

## **PS-7 Labeling**

**2008**

**WHEREAS**, misleading marketing is harmful to all dairy products, and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to convey a positive image for dairy products

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the enforcement of current labeling laws in the state of Iowa.

# REGULATION

## REG-1 Eminent Domain Exemption

2007

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Kelo decision that allowed broadened private takings of private property, and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to the Iowa dairy industry that private property rights be preserved from private takings to expand private industry

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA encourage legislators to make definitions in Iowa law consistent and to disallow condemnation for private economic development.

## REG-2 Labor Reform

2020

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. welfare system, while well-intended, has gone awry, giving a sometimes free safety net to millions of people (providing food, shelter and now medical assistance) which gives able-bodied recipients no incentive to take employment.

**WHEREAS** Ag employers and dairy farmers in particular face a shortage of available U.S. workers and require a dependable source to obtain immigration workers, as losing labor would result in a negative impact to animal well-being.

**WHEREAS** the current labor system is broken and must be addressed in a bi partisan effort, and

**WHEREAS**, labor policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries, and

**WHEREAS**, dairy farmers encourage the use of a guest worker program so good workers are available at all times.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, we demand our government leaders be more vigilant in thinking through the unintended consequences of policies they develop.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we encourage the Iowa congressional delegation to work to enact labor policy at the federal level that improves our immigration system, keeps communities safe, and protect our borders.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA does not support the use of government support for non-US citizens.

## REG-3 Uniform Regulations

2022

**WHEREAS**, there are numerous statewide livestock regulations already in place in Iowa, and

**WHEREAS**, regulations should be based on sound scientific data

**WHEREAS**, ISDA does not support local control of livestock regulation

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports uniform regulation of the livestock industry across the state based on research and sound science.

## REG-4 Separation Distances

2022

**WHEREAS**, existing family dairy farms that need or want to expand will find it difficult to grow where increased separation distances are required

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA does not support increasing separation distances because there is no research and sound science.

## **REG-5 Right to Work**

**2009**

**WHEREAS**, the Right to Work Law is challenged each year

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the current Right to Work Law in the State of Iowa.

## **REG-6 Youth in Agriculture**

**2012**

**WHEREAS**, youth safety is of the utmost importance to Iowa's dairy farmers, and

**WHEREAS**, early exposure to hands-on agricultural training is a positive experience for our youth, and

**WHEREAS**, limiting exposure to hands-on agricultural experiences will be detrimental to FFA and similar programs

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA supports agricultural programs that allow youth to work in an agricultural environment to gain knowledge and experience in production agriculture

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA does not support the creation of any mandatory permitting or licensing of youth for farm labor.

## **REG-7 Iowa Fencing Laws**

**2012**

**WHEREAS**, the livestock industry should not be forced to bear the total cost of perimeter fencing unless specified in a supplemental agreement with neighboring landowners

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports Iowa's current fencing laws and encourages each bordering landowner to reach a written agreement regarding their border fences at the time of sale or transfer of land, and file it with the county recorder.

## **REG-8 Agricultural Structure Inspections**

**2012**

**WHEREAS**, Iowa Code section 103.23 only requires electrical inspections for new electrical installations in residential, commercial and industrial properties without mentioning a similar requirement for farms, and

**WHEREAS**, Iowa Code section 103.22 says that the electrical inspection and licensing law cannot prohibit farmers from doing electrical work on their own farm property, and

**WHEREAS**, farmers have experience to know their own capabilities to do electrical and plumbing work and when it is prudent to hire a qualified licensed professional to do electrical or plumbing work on their farm, and

**WHEREAS**, farmers would prefer to make their own decisions about the electrical and plumbing services on their farm without government interference, and

**WHEREAS**, requiring inspections can be extremely costly and time-consuming

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA supports the exemption of agricultural structures from mandatory state inspections.

## **REG-9 Infrastructure of Roads and Bridges**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Iowa has many roads and bridges that do not support the current weight restrictions to transport commodity goods to market

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports building future infrastructure that will support higher gross weight and height for vehicles that are used to transport commodity goods to farm or market.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports the funding of repairs and building of roads and bridges in order to deliver product to processing facilities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports expansion of weight limits for fall harvest.

## **REG-10 Waters of the United States**

**2019**

**WHEREAS**, The ISDA supports the dollars mandated for the Iowa Clean Water Initiatives.

## **REG-11 Property Boundaries**

**2019**

**WHEREAS**, ISDA supports farmer's property rights

## **TAXES**

### **TAX-1 Taxation**

**2008**

**WHEREAS**, the ISDA recognizes the need for taxation to provide essential public services, we also recognize the means, segments and rates being taxed influences areas of growth or exit of farms and small businesses

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA be diligent in opposing the state legislature from implementing taxes that would be detrimental to the vitality of rural Iowa.

### **TAX-2 Property Taxes**

**2008**

**WHEREAS**, property taxes have been a means by which local government have used to produce revenue when the state cuts reduce funding, and

**WHEREAS**, property taxes place a huge burden of expense, regardless of profit or loss, on farms and small businesses

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISDA strive to reduce property taxes for farms and small businesses to promote growth in rural communities and maintain and enhance credits for farmers and small businesspersons.

## **TAX-3 Trade**

**2018**

**WHEREAS**, Mexico and Canada are our top two trading partners

**WHEREAS**, continued trade with these two critical countries is important to the profitability of the dairy industry

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA strongly supports the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and encourages negotiations to improve our dairy agreements

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the ISDA supports seeking more trade agreements to increase dairy exports.

## **TAX-4 Stepped-Up Basis**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, ISDA understands the importance of the adjustment of value on assets when passed on from owner to heir

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA supports maintaining the current stepped-up basis laws.

## **TAX-5 Inheritance**

**2022**

**WHEREAS**, ISDA understands the importance of passing assets from owner to heir

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, ISDA supports maintaining the current inheritance tax laws.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ISDA does not support taxation on appreciation.

## **POSITION STATEMENT LABOR AND IMMIGRATION**

Dairy farmers face a critical shortage of workers every year, as citizens are largely unwilling to engage in these rigorous activities and guest worker programs are unable to respond to the marketplace. This situation makes our farms less competitive with foreign farmers and less reliable for the American consumer. Securing a reliable and competent workforce for our nation's farms is essential to agriculture and the U.S. economy.

We believe the following points are fundamental in any discussion about labor and immigration policy:

- **Federal Responsibility:** Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. Government and other countries. We urge the Iowa congressional delegation to work to enact immigration policy at the federal level that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, and protects our borders.
- **Strengthening Our Economy:** Iowa is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a guest worker system that is both responsive and effective at meeting the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial

economic contributions immigrants make as workers, taxpayers, and consumers.

- **Ensuring Our National Security:** We believe that maintaining the safety and security of the United States is an utmost priority. Our immigration system must ensure the protection of our communities and national borders.
- **Supporting Immigrant Families and Individual Rights:** Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and cohesive communities. Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping close families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environments for all children across our state. We also recognize that the current lack of consistent and comprehensive legislation or guest worker program opens the doors for immigrants to be targets of costly schemes or individuals that can take advantage of the immigrant's situation and desire to become a citizen.
- **Effective Enforcement:** We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, and safeguards witnesses and victims. We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interest of, and unintended consequences to businesses, workers, and consumers. Furthermore, the broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably, and affordably determine who is permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy.
- **A Common Sense Approach:** Immigrants are part of our communities across Iowa. We must adopt a commonsense approach to this reality that reflects our values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in our nation's history and economy. Our immigration policies must provide a sensible path forward for immigrants who are here without legal status, are of good character, pay taxes, and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture.
- **Animal Well-Being:** Providing the best possible care for animals is the top priority for dairy farmers. Without a stable labor force, the well-being of these animals could be compromised due to fewer workers to feed and monitor animals, as well as decreased farm income to provide adequate feed and other care.

ISDA supports efforts that bring together leaders and community members of diverse backgrounds and politics who are committed to fostering a more rational and collaborative approach to immigration policy than exists today; and will seek our member's input in the development of any legislation directed at addressing Immigration reform.

As a member of National Milk Producers Federation we will work through those existing organizations to provide input on and provide support for specific immigration policies or programs that we believe will be beneficial to Iowa dairy farmers and the dairy community.



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