



Idaho Dairy

THE IDAHO DAIRY FOCUS IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
IDAHO DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

focus

The Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA) was established to continue to develop and sustain an economically viable Idaho Dairy Industry that works together to achieve success in the domestic and global marketplace in

May 2009

Idaho Legislative Update

The first regular session of the 60th Idaho Legislature was the second longest on record. The session commenced on January 12th and adjourned on May 8th. As in any given year there were multiple bills that have a direct or indirect impact on the Idaho dairy industry some were approved such as; a \$0.50/head increase Beef Check-off with a refund provision, increase penalties on scrap dealers for receiving metals and wire from undocumented sources and Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan. Some never made it out of committee such as anti immigration legislation aimed at punishing employers of immigrant labor. For a breakdown of other bills pertaining to agriculture go to our website and review the 2009 Food Producers Legislative Summary.

I've asked Representative Steve Hartgen a first year legislator from District 23 in the Magic Valley to provide his perspective on this year's legislative session. Representative Hartgen is a Business Consultant. Steve is the former editor of the Twin Falls Times News.

(Continued on page 2 for his perspective)

Dairy Industry Updates

Milk Marketing

Milk Marketing Symposium

(see page 7 for agenda and registration) The UDI board has assembled an impressive list of national, international, legislative leaders and risk management specialists to assist dairy producers in navigating through this turbulent times. The meeting will be held in Boise on July 9th and 10th there is no – charge for Idaho dairy producers and a nominal fee for other attendees. Please make sure to register so we can prepare for meals and services.

Dump Milk Proposal

E-mails have been circulating with a suggestion that

the industry should consider dumping milk on May 31 and June 1. Here is a quick comparison comparing dumping two days milk to CWT. The calculation uses the assumption of 100% participation in dumping milk (unrealistic land) with 67% participation in CWT (reality).

Two days milk being dumped by all the dairymen in the US would amount to 1,076,944,000 lbs, about 0.0055% of the US annual production. This is roughly half of what CWT is going to remove in the current herd retirement program by removing 103,000 cows. The CWT supply removal is permanent, the milk dump is temporary, and those cows will still be producing come June 2nd. Looking at cost, CWT is \$0.10/cwt. Dumping one day's milk

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By Rep. Stephen Hartgen

Boise – Your executive director, Bob Nae-rebout, has asked me for a few words on the recent legislative session and my impressions of it as a first-time legislator. In doing so, I'll borrow from a joint column written this past month by myself, Rep. Jim Patrick and Sen. Bert Brackett.

If you read the occasional media complaints, you would think the session was a failure. Why? Well, the reasons cited are several, but they boil down to failure to pass some media-favored legislation, which is mostly liberal and mostly costly. That we didn't do so is seen as failure.

Well, nothing could be further from the truth. Out in the Magic Valley, and specifically in District 23, we think voters are more skeptical of government expansion and regulation, and more protective of genuine rights. They appreciate us passing what is necessary and saying no to what is not. Here is just six items taken up by your Legislature. Most of these have received zero to minimal coverage in the local press:

Election consolidation. This proposal, nearly 100 pages, would consolidate elections onto just a few dates and thereby increase voter scrutiny and attention.

Open meetings reform. Even the media likes this reform of unworkable public meetings laws to make for easier compliance and clear notice of agendas.

Midwifery reform. This legislation, in the works for several years, gives needed clarity to the practice of midwifery in Idaho.

Zebra and quagga mussel prevention. These invasive clam species, if carried into Idaho lakes and rivers, would be devastating to irrigation canals and other waterways. A new program should help delay and maybe prevent that invasion.

Off-road vehicles. This legislation, clarifies where ATVs can be used and helps county law enforcement with some rescue costs when accidents occur. The law specifically outlines how farm ATVs can be used (they can legally cross other roads at right angles), a point not clear in the previous law.

Catastrophic Health Care funding. This requires hospitals to notify counties when they receive a probable indecency case, thereby allowing for managed care, better utilization of medical services and reduced funding.

We also dealt with memorials to Congress on topics like state sovereignty, introduction of non-native species and the right to bear arms. Some critics think these are meaningless gestures, but we think they serve the important function of letting Washington, D.C. know when we feel strongly about our cherished rights. A right undefended is a right soon denied. Even today, any reader of the Declara-

tion of Independence can see the passion of the colonists in the lengthy list of particulars and grievances they lodged against George III and Parliament.

Additionally, sometimes a "no" vote is the correct one. We often see proposals which sound good, but which on further reflection, would result in higher costs and unforeseen consequences, or which are just confused or unclear. We said "no" this year to regulations on home drain fields, a plan to hold state jobs open for employees for up to three years and a proposal to provide attorneys fees in workers' compensation cases even when medical costs have been reasonably denied. In all these cases, the "no" vote was the prudent way to go.

And oh yes, we dealt with a state budget that, in the end, is nearly 14 percent below a year ago, the effects of a persistent recession. In mid-winter, we dealt carefully with an infusion of federal stimulus funds. We did not make everyone happy to be sure, but we approved a budget while being compassionate and even-handed to health and welfare recipients, school teachers and state workers. When we came home, we did so with a balanced state budget, as required by the Idaho Constitution. That's not so in many states where a different agenda prevails.

Carping about this or that item from the media towers is a long-time press tradition, but it doesn't reflect the reality of how laws are passed and people's interests are defended in Idaho. We trust most Southern Idaho constituents know how to separate the complaining from the work being done in Boise.

Now a couple of personal observations. Southern Idaho is served with a hard-working group of legislators, who have specialty areas of their own. Sen. Brackett and Rep. Patrick both serve on the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee where their expertise in farming and ranching has been brought a needed perspective to a committee with more urban members.

In the House, I was surprised, and pleasantly so, to see how 70 individuals from Dover to Grace, Payette to Rexburg, came to the session as good listeners, respectful of their colleagues, and consistently interested in doing what is best for the state. We are blessed in Idaho to have such public servants.

I was also pleased at the legislative process and how bills become law. I had a pretty good working knowledge of this previously, but seeing the committee process in action, the give and take, and how bills are amended and then considered on the floor was a special lesson in how well American republican government really works. I can't imagine another form of government with this much give and take, good will and common interest.

I look forward to continuing to serve in the House from District 23. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at 733-5790 or email me at shartgen@house.idaho.gov. *Rep. Stephen Hartgen, R-Twin Falls, represents District 23, Twin Falls and Owyhee Counties, in the Idaho House of Representatives.*

(Dumping Milk Proposal Continued from page 1)

represents 0.0333% of your monthly milk check. At \$10.00/cwt milk this is \$0.33/cwt for one days dump. It would take four days dump to get to the equivalent of the current herd retirement program so that would be a cost of \$1.33. CWT, over one year, costs \$1.20. The dairy producers who have oversight of the CWT program are committed to remove additional animals in 2009 and 2010. For more information on dumping milk proposals go to: <http://cowsandcrops.com/forum/viewtopic>.

CWT Update

Auditors Begin Removing Cows as Farms are Audited Milk Removal Equivalent To 200 Million Pounds Of Cheese.

ARLINGTON, VA – CWT’s field auditors have begun visiting the 388 farms that have been tentatively accepted in the program’s seventh herd retirement, as they initiate the process this week of removing nearly 103,000 cows that produced two billion pounds of milk last year.

Today, CWT officials released more detailed information about the size and scope of the self-help program’s largest-ever herd retirement program. 60 percent of the farms selected are located east of the Mississippi River, while 79 percent of the 103,000 cows to be removed come from the Western and Southwest regions of the U.S. 81 percent of the milk removed will come from those two regions, a portion slightly higher than in the six previous CWT rounds [see chart below].

“All dairy farmers are stressed economically right now. However, the number of cows bid in this round by producers in the West and Southwest is an indication that their financial stress is particularly acute given where their milk prices and input costs are,” Tillison said.

Farmers had submitted a total of 535 herd retirement bids last month to CWT, and CWT was able to accept the nearly three-quarters of them. CWT is also removing approximately 1,000 bred heifers, which is an option under the program. For more on CWT’s activities, visit www.cwt.coop.

Region	Northeast	Southeast	Midwest	Southwest	West	Total
Total Bids Received	69	72	178	89	127	535
Total Bids Accepted	42	56	134	68	88	388
Total Cows Offered	7,287	8,954	11,754	62,221	71,591	161,807
Total Cows Accepted	5,156	7,042	8,595	43,607	38,498	102,898
Total Milk Offered	139.5 million pounds	145.7 million pounds	208.0 million pounds	1.13 billion pounds	1.34 billion pounds	2.96 billion pounds
Total Milk Accepted	104.7 million pounds	117.3 million pounds	154.1 million pounds	862.8 million pounds	761.1 million pounds	2.0 billion pounds

US Senate Bill 889 - Federal Milk Marketing Improvement Act of 2009

This bill introduced on April 23, 2009 by Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania has received very little media attention and if co-sponsorship is any indication has little support in Washington DC. The bill amends the Agricultural Adjustment Act, reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to direct the Sec-

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For all your Dairy Updates and Information
Visit www.idahodairymen.org

(US Senate Bill 889 Continued from page 3)

retary of Agriculture to base the minimum Class II milk price on the average production cost of producing all milk in the 48 contiguous states.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) announce the minimum price for Class II milk (all manufactured milk) by November 1st of each year, with specified price adjustment dates; (2) use the Class II milk price as the basic formula price for all federal and state milk marketing orders and all unregulated milk production areas; (this would draw Idaho into a regulated arena) and (3) estimate annual milk production and domestic consumption.

Authorizes the Secretary, upon a determination of a positive dairy trade balance and excess production, to provide for a producer price reduction of not more than 5% of all milk produced in the 48 contiguous states and marketed by producers for commercial use.

Prohibits imposition of producer charges for the cost of hauling milk or the conversion of raw milk to manufactured products.

Sets forth provisions respecting: (1) milk inventory management; and (2) milk handler responsibilities.

Imports to Pay

USDA published a proposed rule today that amends the National Dairy Promotion and Research Order, extending the dairy check off program to imported dairy products. The industry has 30 days to comment on the proposed rule that would tax imports at a rate of 7.5 cents per hundredweight of milk equivalent which potentially, according to Eric Meyer, broker with Downes-O'Neill, LLC, could restrict imports.

Washington State University Extension The Ag in uncertain times webinar series.

Ag in uncertain times has a impressive list of presenters. . . . is an interactive Extension webinar series designed to assist ag professionals, including producers, to better understand the changing conditions in today's economy.

The series is targeted towards providing information that helps producers make informed decisions and improves ag professional's ability to work with their farm and ranch customers/clients. Each session is scheduled for 60 to 90 minutes with plenty of opportunity for the participants to interact with the presenters. All webinar start times are at 9AM Pacific. (10AM Mountain, 11 AM Central, and

12 noon Eastern)

Operating in the face of uncertain credit, June 9, 10, 17, and 24

Operating in the face of uncertain markets, September 9, 16, and 23

Families facing uncertainty in agriculture, October 7, 14, and 21

Operating in risky environments, November 4, 11, and 18
Pulling it all together: Managing Ag Enterprises in Uncertain times, December 2, 9, and 16

June 9 - David Kohl, a leading national economist, kicks off the *Operating in the face of uncertain credit* webinar series on June 9. Dr. Kohl will identify the mega trends for agriculture that are emerging from the new economic reality.

June 10 - The second of the *Operating in the face of uncertain credit* webinar features Jay Penick, CEO of the Northwest Farm Credit Association, Curt Covington, Senior VP, Agribusiness Banking, Bank of the West, and Chris Beverhelm, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Loans, USDA Farm Service Agency. This panel will focus on how the larger credit environment is impacting ag credit.

June 17 & 24 - Three individuals with extensive loan officer experience will address how producers can manage the evolving credit situation in their businesses. On June 24, participants will be introduced to several of the excellent financial analysis tools that are available for ag enterprise managers to use.

For additional information about topics and speakers for this webinar series, please visit <http://www.farmmanagement.org/aginuncertaintimes/>

To Participate: (no pre-registration is required – first come – 500 seats available)

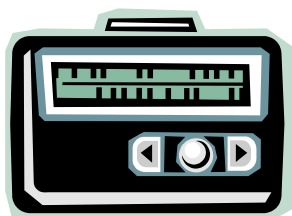
Equipment you will need: A computer that has a set of speakers and a high speed internet connection (LAN,DSL/ Cable Modem, High speed wireless).

Web link used for the entire series:

<http://www.msuextensionconnect.org/aginuncertaintimes/>

This web link opens a screen that has the "Enter as a Guest" option selected. Use this option and enter your name and then click on the "Enter Room" button.

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For Weekly Industry Updates:

Tune in to AM 1270 & 1240— Monday Mornings at 6:30

With Rick Haines & Bob Naerebout, Executive Director of IDA

Idaho Dairymen's Association Milk Price and Dairy Market Symposium July 9th & 10th Boise Centre

July 9th

9:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. National Perspective Panel

John Wilson

Sr. Vice President of Marketing
Industry Affairs
Dairy Farmers of America.



Peter Vitaliano

Vice President Economic Policy
and Market Research
National Milk Producers
Federation



Bill Curley

Vice President Research
and Consulting
Blimling and Associates



1:15 p.m. View on Dairy Policy live feed from
Washington DC
US Senator Mike Crapo
US Senator Jim Risch

2:15 - 4:30 p.m. International Perspective Panel

Dermot Carey

International Sales
Northwest Dairy Association



Matt McKnight

Vice President Ingredients,
Marketing and
Industry Relations
US Dairy Export Council



Dalyn Dye

President & CEO
Hoogwegt US Inc.



6:00 Reception

7:00 Dinner

July 10th

8:00 Your Check off dollars at work

Deana Sessions

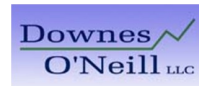
Administrator
Idaho Dairy Products
Commission
"Your Check-off dollars at work"



9:00 a.m. Making Risk Management tools Work for You.

Dave Kurzawski

Broker
Downes O'Neill



Jon Spainhour

Broker/Partner
Rice Dairy



Perry Iverson

Managing Director
Commodity & Ingredients Hedg-



11:00 Break out session with Risk Management Presenters.

12:30 Adjourn

Hotel Accommodations – Boise Grove Hotel

Room Cost Single/double \$104.00

Call 1-888-961-5000, ask for the Idaho Dairymen's Association, group code 67086

Deadline June 19th, 2009

Registration Deadline Friday July 3rd

Meeting Location

The Boise Center – Downtown Boise adjacent to the Grove Hotel

- o No Charge – Idaho Dairy Producers
- o No Charge– Legislative Staff
- o No Charge - Symposium Sponsors
- o \$95.00 - Dairy Producers Outside Idaho
- o \$95.00 – Allied industry

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Registration Options:

Submit Registration and fee if applicable to:
Idaho Dairymen's Association
1182 Eastland North Suite A
Twin Falls, ID 83301

OR

Go online to:
www.idahodairymen.org
to reserve your spot and pay with a credit card.

EUROPEAN STARLINGS and FERAL PIGEONS around DAIRY OPERATIONS PART 3: Damage Management

George Graves, Assistant State Director, USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services, Boise, Idaho and Chuck Carpenter, District Supervisor, USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services, Gooding, Idaho

Feral pigeons and wintering flocks of starlings will sometimes seek warmth and shelter in dairy barns and other structures...and droppings from these birds can accumulate on pen/corral railings, floors, roof rafters and on the backs of cattle. These birds can also have significant economic impacts on dairy operations such as consumption and contamination of livestock ration, as well as their role as reservoirs and vectors of diseases that may be transmissible to livestock and humans.

Legal Status

Starlings and feral pigeons are non-indigenous to North American and in Idaho they are not regulated or protected by Federal or State laws. No special authorization is required to legally kill these birds. However, according to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, if shooting is used, then a valid Idaho hunting license or a permit exempting the shooter from possessing a hunting license may be required. If you're considering using a restricted-use pesticide, then the applicator must have an appropriate pesticide applicator's license from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

Damage Management Methods

Non-lethal: The first step in discouraging starlings and pigeons is to try and determine what is attracting them to your dairy. If food is the reason, then attempt to reduce available food sources by cleaning-up waste/spilled grain or ration or by covering exposed grain piles. Granted, removing all available food is probably not practical or realistic, but removing just some of the grain can sometimes provide very positive results. Habitat modification, such as eliminating nesting, roosting, loafing and feeding sites may also help. New barns or structures that are constructed should be designed to preclude nesting and roosting sites by these birds. Existing buildings can be retrofitted, where feasible, with exclusionary netting or other types of barriers to block access to eaves or beams. Installation of wire slinky coils, porcupine wire or tactile repellents (e.g. Tanglefoot®, 4-the-Birds Repellent®, Hot Foot Repellent Gel®) can be applied to their favorite roost sites. The use of propane cannons and other pyrotechnics can help scare starlings and pigeons, however, most scare tactics are effective for only a short period of time because most birds become accustomed and learn to ignore them. Starlings and pigeons can be live-trapped by applying various traps such as a starling decoy trap (sometimes referred to as the modified Australian crow trap), and clover-leaf, funnel or common pigeon traps.

Lethal: Lethal removal with an air rifle or shotgun can be effective in removing individual birds. However, this type of control should only be used by responsible persons exercising extreme caution and safety to avoid endangering people or damaging property. Nest-box traps can be applied during the spring and early summer when starlings are nesting. This type of trap incorporates a rat trap which strikes and kills the bird when investigating the box as a potential nest or roost site. Good judgment and awareness should be exercised when employing this trap because other birds of similar or smaller size can enter the box and become captured and killed. A restricted-use chemical repellent, named Avitrol®, is registered in Idaho for starling and pigeon control. Birds that consume Avitrol® treated bait exhibit distress behaviors that frightens the remaining birds, causing them to leave the area...although this effect is normally only temporary. The birds that ingest the bait will normally die. There's only one avicide (DRC-1339) registered in Idaho for use on starlings and pigeons, but the product's label restricts its use to USDA, Wildlife Services employees only. This product is primarily used by WS during the winter when the objective is removing large populations of starlings and/or pigeons.

To request more detailed information about any of the starling and pigeon damage management methods discussed above, please contact our Central District Office in Gooding (208) 934-4354, Eastern District Office in Pocatello (208) 236-6921, or State Office in Boise at (208) 378-5077 or 1-866-487-3297 (toll free).

Part 4, the final part of this series, will be published in the June issue of the Idaho Dairy *Focus* and titled "European Starlings and Feral Pigeons around Dairy Operations: A 3-Year Overview of DRC-1339 Starling Control Activities by USDA, Wildlife Services in Idaho" and will provide information and statistics on starling control projects on dairies conducted from WS' use of DRC-1339 avicide



www.downesoneill.com - www.dairy.nu

Market so very Bearish it's actually Bullish
By Dave Kurzawski

Someone once told me that when someone cries "fire" in a crowded theater, a [contrarian](#) is the person who first checks to see if there really is a fire before rushing to the door. I'm the one looking for the fire.

Today there is not much in the way of bullish news for dairy market prices. Such is the nature of the bear cycle. We are all keenly aware that all the fundamental dairy news right now is – unfortunately – bearish for milk prices. Milk production was revised up 47 million pounds in March and remained flat in April. Cheese production and inventories are up and on the rise. Even the bullish news is skeptical - our CWT announcements have become a selling point for milk futures lately. Everywhere you look news is bearish, bearish, and bearish.

I don't need a crystal ball to tell you what happens when a market – any market - becomes so egregiously one-sided it removes hope. Just remember the last time the Class III market was so sternly convinced of its own direction it removed hope for cheese buyers being able to buy cheese at less-than \$1.90 per pound. Neither markets nor people change – they just change direction.

The way a futures market trades can shed some light to the overall direction of the market. When a market trades in "Contango" it is simply a market condition in which distant futures prices are carrying a premium to the spot month. In corn this is largely due to the costs of carrying the commodity. In milk, it is a tell-tale sign of a bear market trend. Milk has been in Contango for months.

Contango in milk is the end result of the present situation being so bearish that the trade expects the situation can turn bullish and quite rapidly so. Futures prices remain at a premium until the trade decides that in fact things are still bearish and it is safe to take the premium out. In other words, keep premium in the deferred months and take it out only when we're closer and more certain we're not going to be fools for having kept it there in the first place.

Backwardation is the opposite of Contango. The spot month prices are higher than the deferred contracts. Soy Meal futures are in Backwardation right now. Markets move to backwardation for a reason and that reason is generally that the demand for a certain commodity is greater than its supply, which is typical of a bull market. Milk futures prices were in backwardation – last year. Milk prices once again will trade in backwardation – no one knows exactly when – but it will happen.

For now dairy market bears have beat the bulls about their head and shoulders since the beginning of April stopping only for a few short days to catch their breath. We expect, however, that those days are numbered. Class III futures will begin to make an advance toward profitable levels before there is good news to print in this quality publication. And it will begin to make that move once everyone has given up hope for higher dairy product prices. [Heed this advice: we're just about there.](#)



IDAHO DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1182 Eastland Drive North

Suite A

Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Upcoming Meetings

- June 17 IDWR Director Dave Tuthill at the ARS Kimberly Research Station
– Update of the ARS dairy water study
Meeting begins at 10:00
- June 18 Industry Relations Committee and IDEAL Board of Mangers,
meeting is held at Farmers National Bank Pole Line branch office
Meeting begins at 10:00
- July 9-10 Milk Marketing Symposium, Boise Idaho

The *Idaho Dairy Focus* is Brought to You by the ***Idaho Dairymen's Association***

1182 Eastland Drive North, Suite A, Twin Falls, ID 83301

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Brian Esplin
Julie Lund
Lou Murgoitio

Jeff Hyde
Sherman Toone
Lon Tueller

Frank Teunissen
Tony VanderHulst

(Continued from page 4 WSU extension)

The start time for all webinars in this series is 10:00 am Mountain Daylight time. Please log on a few minutes early to view information about how to ask presenters questions and to make sure your audio is working.

This webinar series is the result of the collaborative efforts of the following members of the Western Extension Committee: Trent Teegerstrom, University of Arizona; Ramiro Lobo, University of California – ANR; Jeffrey Tranel, Colorado State University; Duane Griffith, Montana State University; John Hewlett, University of Wyoming; along with Jon Newkirk and John Nelson, Washington State University Extension Western Center for Risk Management Education; and Bob Craven, University of Minnesota Center for Farm Financial Management. The Western Extension Committee is an organization of Extension Economists from the 13 western states, Guam and other Pacific Islands supported by Extension Directors in the western region and the WSU Extension Western Center for Risk Management Education.

For additional information email, westrme@wsu.edu or call John Nelson, 509-477-2176.

Immigration

IDA Joins ACIR

The United Dairymen of Idaho (UDI) board approved that IDA join and participates at the Executive Committee level in the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform (ACIR).

As a result of ACIR's years of grassroots and advocacy work many in congress recognize the vulnerability of the agriculture sector. The UDI board members recognize the political; landscape is changing and the urgency of reform is rising. In making this decision the UDI board is working on assisting those with like interest to get the job done.

AgJOBS re-introduced

On May 14th, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) re-introduced the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act (AgJOBS), S. 1038 with 16 co-sponsors. This legislation, a product of compromise between farm workers and growers and introduced in the last several Congresses, contains a path to citizenship for undocumented farm workers who have performed agricultural work and will continue to do so. It also will reform the H-2A seasonal agricultural guest worker program. In the House, this bipartisan bill was introduced as H.R. 2414 by Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), Adam Putnam (R-FL), and 25 other co-sponsors.

The Idaho Dairymen's Association has always maintained that we need to drastically reform our current immigration policies but those reforms should not lead to new avenues for citizenship and that if proposed policies include those avenues it will be difficult to secure the

support of many of agriculture's allies.

In discussions with Senator Crapo's staff they shared the Senators current views on Ag Jobs legislation which follows the guidelines held by IDA. "Senator Crapo continues to agree with the need for immigration reform and is committed to the enactment of immigration reform that addresses the needs of the agriculture community. In reviewing the summary of the recently reintroduced Ag Jobs bill, it appears that the Ag Jobs bill continues to include a provision providing for a path to permanent residency or citizenship. Senator Crapo continues to have concerns with such a provision. Senator Crapo recognizes that a need exists among employers for a feasible guest worker program through which foreign workers can be employed. Senator Crapo will continue to press for an immigration policy that commits the resources necessary to have the strongest border enforcement realistically possible, does not grant amnesty to those who enter our country illegally, assures that American citizens have the first right to access available jobs, and enables an efficient and workable guest worker program. As such, he supports creating a temporary worker program that is focused on employment, and does not create an expedited path to citizenship. Those who are here illegally should be allowed to participate in a guest work program and should be granted legal status for employment purposes only. This would allow previously-illegal immigrants to be able to legally travel back to their home countries, and also would establish a mechanism in which they would pay taxes and contribute to Social Security. If guest workers wish to apply for citizenship under our existing immigration laws, they would be required to get in line with everyone else who has followed the law."

Little New in Obama's Immigration Policy (Washington Post, DC)

Although President Obama has spent much of his time in office moving away from the policies of his predecessor, on immigration enforcement, he has embraced several Bush administration initiatives, and the changes he has promised to make are couched in nuance.

In recent days, for example, the administration has announced it will expand a \$1.1 billion program begun under President George W. Bush to check the immigration status of virtually all people booked into local jails over the next four years. Obama will continue a "zero-tolerance" program that charges and jails any illegal immigrant caught crossing parts of the U.S.-Mexico border. And the administration will resume construction of a \$8 billion "virtual" fence of tower-mounted sensors and cameras along the border.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has announced only one formal change from Bush administration policy: limiting controversial raids at workplaces. Under the new policy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigators must give priority to prosecuting employers and can arrest workers only when officials have

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(Obama's Immigration Policy Continued from page 9)

secured indictments, warrants or a commitment by prosecutors to target managers first.

Family immigration bill to be re-introduced

On May 20th, Senators Menendez (D-NJ), Kennedy (D-MA), and Gillibrand (D-NY) will introduce the Reuniting Families Act, a bill to fix the family immigration system, which is now plagued with extremely long waits for immigrant visas for close family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Please let your Senators know that you support immigration reform. Urge your Senators to co-sponsor this legislation. The Asian American Justice Center has an action alert suggesting how you can help advance this cause. You can find the Action Alert on their Web site.

Environmental Watch

Washington Dairy Producers Victorious over Environmental Activist.

(Yakima Herald-Republic, WA)

A Yakima Valley environmental group has agreed to dismiss a pollution case it filed against a Lower Valley dairy. Community Association for Restoration of the Environment, a Granger-based group, said Wednesday the dismissal results from concern about the accuracy of some of the evidence the lawsuit was based on.

CARE cannot refile the case against DeRuyter Brothers Dairy of Outlook under an agreement to end the case, said Helen Reddout, president of the group. A motion to dismiss was filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Yakima. An attorney for the dairy, which has 6,000 cows on about 100 acres, said the dismissal is vindication for the dairy. John Nelson said his client is a committed steward of its land.

"DeRuyter Brothers is widely regarded as one of the most environmentally responsible dairies in the state. They have made very expensive upgrades and changed from an open lot to free stalls because it is so much better for managing waste and preventing pollution," he said.

CARE filed suit in April 2008, alleging the dairy is polluting the air with methanol, a potentially hazardous airborne emission from decomposing manure and silage. DeRuyter contended no scientific basis exists to support the group's claims. Reddout said equipment used to collect air samples around the dairy was not properly calibrated.

Without funds to pursue the case further, Reddout said the group opted to seek a dismissal. With one condition to the dairy not seeking recovery of legal costs and fees from CARE.

Reddout said the group wants to obtain additional financial support and intends to pursue its pollution claims against other dairies in the Yakima Valley.

Understanding www.idahodairymen.org

By Shawna Getty

The new IDA website is up, and although there may be numerous changes within the next year, it is in use and is giving up-to-date information. So how can you use the website to the fullest capabilities? Well, the website is designed very simple. There are eight bars across the top front called HOME, IMMIGRATION REFORMS, EVENTS, IDEAL, REGULATORY INFO, NEWSLETTER, ABOUT US, and CONTACT US. In these sections you can click on any one of these tabs for different information in all of them.

Say you clicked on Immigration Reforms; it will bring you to that categories page and will have the most recent articles regarding the matter. To read more or the entire topic selected, click on the "more" down below the written context to read the whole article or on the PDF files below the articles which will be a document referenced in the section you are reading.

If you want to know dates of meetings and events, click on events and it will show you all dates of events that are going on, and if you want more information regarding that event click on the "more" (if there is more) and continuing context will appear on the matter. If in the matter of an events registration payment, there will be a red button that allows you to register and pay on a safe and secure PayPal system.

You also can view past Idaho Dairymen's Focus and also sign up for the current IDA Focus newsletter to be emailed to you directly. To sign up for the email newsletter go to the top left hand corner of the page, fill in a few spaces like name, email etc.... and you will be up and going for the email newsletter.

You can always find out more about us on this website or feel free to contact us from the website at anytime, we hope this gives a better understand of how the website can be used to the fullest capabilities.