

2013 Policies

Product Quality & Promotion

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. recognizes milk and dairy products to be one of the finest foods available for human consumption and therefore supports quality production of our dairy products.

State and local governments have established standards of composition for milk and milk products in the U.S. Federal Standards of Identity. Those standards define the composition, the kind and quantity of optional ingredients permitted in dairy products and the labeling requirements for those products.

The dairy industry administers a program of identification of real dairy foods by utilizing the "REAL" Seal. The "Seal" placed on a carton or package identifies milk, cheese, or other qualified dairy foods made from U.S. produced milk that meets federal and/or state standards. This seal assures consumers that the food is not an imitation or a substitute.

We support increased consumer awareness and education of the nutritional value of our products, including the following policies:

A. Idaho Dairy Products Commission (IDPC)

We support the Idaho Dairy Products Commission; Idaho Dairy Products Commission (IDPC), an Idaho State government agency, which is the promotion and nutrition education organization that works to drive demand for increase sales and consumption of U.S. dairy products on behalf of the Idaho dairy farmers. IDPC accomplishes its objectives by: (78) (09)

- Partnering with dairy and food industry leaders and innovators on nutrition, research and marketing.
- Driving programs to reach children to reverse the long-term downward trend of fluid milk consumption with this age group including innovative solutions, such as the adoption of single-serve plastic milk bottles in the nation's schools and national restaurant chains.
- Protecting and promoting dairy's place in the school arena through programs that encourage fitness and good nutrition, including lifelong dairy consumption, among children in Idaho schools.
- Protecting the image of dairy products and dairy farmers through a comprehensive image and crisis plan to ensure that consumers have confidence in the dairy products they buy for their families.

B. Use of Check-off Funds

We are opposed to check-off funds being utilized to pay for 3rd party verification for animal care, environment or other verification practices.

C. Real Dairy Products

We aggressively encourage the use and promotion of real dairy products in new consumptive usages and through nontraditional usage.

D. Milk Quality

We support compliance with all state and federal regulations concerning the production and processing of milk.

E. Sanitation, Quality Control & Inspection

To ensure the safety of dairy products, we support continuous testing of all milk products from production through processing, distribution and retailing to promote and provide high quality dairy products to consumers. We believe today's science has provided for a strict testing regiment for dairy products from the farm to the retailer. We support the de-emphasizing and elimination of on-site dairy farm premise inspections unless product testing shows there is a need. (78) (04)

F. Milk Standards

We support increasing minimum standards of solids in fluid milk.

G. Somatic Cell Count

We support decreasing the national and state SCC count to 400,000.

IDA worked with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Dairy Division to put into place the proper rules to allow the lowering of the Idaho State levels for SCC to 400,000. In addition IDA will lobby those organizations and regulatory agencies that participate at the National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers to amend the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance to set the national standard at 400,000 SCC from the current national standard of 750,000 SCC. (12)

H. Sanitation & Quality Standards for Imports

We support the policy that no dairy products be allowed to enter the United States that do not meet the same sanitation and quality standards as our domestic products. (78)

I. Truth in Menu

We expect enforcement of “Accuracy in Menu” legislation that assures customers food items offered are REAL dairy products and not milk substitutes. (78) (83) (04)

J. Truth in Labeling Laws

We support Federal Truth in Labeling Laws

K. Milking at Fairs

We request that all dairy exhibitions in Idaho maintain a sanitary appearance, facilities and milking procedures. (78) (04)

L. National Dairy Promotion

We support a single national dairy promotion organization.

M. Goat and Sheep Milk

We support the sale of goat and sheep milk under the same laws and regulations of raw milk regulations in Idaho. (77)

N. Promotion of Idaho Milk Products

We support our promotion expenditures to reflect the end use of Idaho milk. (03)

O. Sale of Dairy Products at High School Activities

Through the check-off program, Idaho dairymen have contributed millions of dollars to support Idaho high school activities. We support the health and welfare of our children and believe they should be given healthy food choices away from home. We therefore request that dairy products be offered on the concession stand menus at all high school extra-curricular events. We also request that checkoff dollars be used to help schools obtain equipment that will maintain proper cooling. (03) (04)

STATE AFFAIRS

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen’s Association, Inc. recognizes the contribution of state government to the efficient growth of Idaho. We therefore encourage a continued effort on the part of Idaho lawmakers and elected officials to protect and direct the state, including the following policies:

A. Dairy Unity

We support solidarity amongst all dairy producers and oppose regulations that would cause disunity amongst producers.

B. Air Quality Standards

We believe that air quality is a valid concern and is essential for everyone’s quality of life. We believe that any established State or Federal air quality standards be based on scientific studies that can be replicated and were conducted regionally in the United States taking climate conditions into consideration. Those studies need to include all production agriculture. When the proper information is available, we support utilization of the negotiated rule process and implementation of the rule only after support of the Idaho Legislature has been acquired. Any regulations need to be applied to all of production agriculture equally. (04)

C. Odor

We support the management of odor through the utilization of established best management practices. We support all efforts in determining what constitutes a nuisance odor and what best management practices need to be utilized. We support technologies that are properly engineered and designed to manage odor. (04) (06)

D. Equal Standards for Nutrient Management

We support that all nutrient management usage in the state of Idaho, shall be regulated equally. All parties that utilize commercial fertilizer, plant waste material, and manure shall meet the same nutrient management standards equally. (03) (04)

E. Phosphorus Regulation

Before the governing agency develops threshold standards of phosphorus, consideration must be given to naturally occurring phosphorus in the soil in the area adjacent to the dairy operation. We support a positive testing regime that includes more than one regulatory test. IDA supports the involvement of the USDA Agriculture Research Service, the University of Idaho, the National Research and Conservation Service and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture along with IDA to develop reasonable phosphorus testing and management protocols. (05)

F. Agriculture Nuisance Laws

We support legislation to protect the rights and property of Idaho agriculturists who employ current best management practices.

G. Agricultural Notification Disclosure

We support and encourage county governments to require the disclosure of all permitted activities, i.e. dairy operations, feedlots, mint stills, stables, kennels, gravel pits, and/or other commercial operations within a one (1) mile radius of any new developments, change of use or refinance activity on current properties located within any area in any county in Idaho that has been designated for agriculture use. (05)

H. Annexation of Agriculture Lands

We support amending Section 50-222 of the Idaho Code to read: “When any parcel of land, ten (10) contiguous acres or more in size that is used primarily for agriculture, and the owner is a single person or entity whose main source of income is derived from agriculture production, that land shall not be annexed by any city without the consent of the owner.” (04)

I. Idaho Department of Agricultural Board

We are opposed to the creation of an Agricultural Board for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. (03)

J. Review of State Agencies

We support all state agencies be required to provide a cost benefit analysis for new regulations and that follow-up studies be made in five years. (78)

K. Regulatory and Economic Impact Analysis

We support legislation that would require each agency to conduct an adequate “Regulatory and Economic Impact Analysis” prior to publishing any proposed rules or regulations. The affected public should have the opportunity to comment on the possible impact of the proposed rules. A “Regulatory and Economic Impact Analysis” would ensure that agencies have examined the selected regulatory alternatives, which would minimize the economic burdens of proposed rules on business and agriculture. (88) (04)

L. Legislative Overview of Federal Funds

We support legislative overview of all federal funds available to Idaho and a preview of their requirements before entering into such funding programs. (78)

M. Idaho Agriculture Commodity Commissions

We support the election of board members to state commodity commissions by a referendum of the growers or grower organizations of that commodity. (78)

N. Initiative Petitions

We support a formula equalizing the number of signatures that can be gathered in any geographical area thus broadening the scope of the initiative process.

O. Tort Reform

We oppose any effort to repeal or erode the current law dealing with liability and tort claims action and are in support of further legislation that will be beneficial to solving the liability problem in Idaho. (89)

P. Roads in Idaho

We encourage the Idaho Department of Transportation to provide long-range transportation plan addressing projects and funding for communities throughout the state. (89) (04)

Q. Property Trespass Law

We support a law that would make it a misdemeanor to trespass on property where any animal is housed, raised, bred, fed or held for the purpose of food for human consumption. (03)

R. Disclosure of Permitted Activities

We support encouraging counties to require developers to inform buyers of any and all businesses within minimally a one (1) mile radius to any potential buyer. (04)

INDUSTRY RELATIONS

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen’s Association, Inc. recognizes the various concerns and support groups who offer assistance and aid to our industry. We therefore support these allied groups and their programs, which are working to benefit our membership and their enterprises.

A. UDI Board Seats

Director representation for the IDPC and IDA districts shall be reviewed no more than every three (3) years nor less than every five (5) years by the membership to ensure fair and equitable representation. (04) (06)

B. Industry Legal Fund

We support the formation of a Legal Fund and Environmental Research to be utilized by the industry on issues that pertain to the dairy industry as a whole. (03) (04)

C. Funding of Industry Legal Fund

We support funding of the industry legal fund from contributions made by allied industries, associated industries, dairy associations and private individuals. The United Dairymen of Idaho board of directors is authorized to increase the Idaho Dairymen Association’s assessment from \$0.05/cwt up to \$0.01/cwt. We support an increase in the IDA assessment if necessary, with additional funds to be dedicated to the Independent Dairy Environmental Action League (IDEAL). (04)

D. Support of Idaho Beef Council

We support the functions, goals and purpose of the Idaho Beef Council. We support the current structure of the Idaho Beef Council with two (2) representatives from the dairy industry, two (2) from the cow-calf operations, two (2) from the feeder group, one (1) auction representative and one (1) from the Cattle Women, with each member of the council having one vote. . (78) (04)

IDAHO ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE POLICY

We recognize that an integral part of good animal husbandry practices includes comfort and sanitation, which will benefit both producers and consumers. These practices improve efficiency and profitability for the producer and provide a healthy wholesome product to the consumer at a reasonable price.

We firmly believe animals are a vital part of human existence and deserve our protection and compassion. Humanity is answerable to laws and concepts that are uniquely products of human society. Animals cannot be subject to those laws and concepts, and therefore, do not have the rights of humans.

We support management practices on our dairy operations that promote health, reduce stress and protect the animal from unnecessary injury and pain. We support good husbandry practices that improve production efficiency.

We support prudent and humane use of animals for food, clothing, enjoyment and biomedical research. Carefully controlled use of such animals contributes greatly to improving the health and welfare of both humans and animals.

We support humane transportation and handling of animals. We support permanent animal identification to establish rightful ownership, avoid theft, and to trace and recognize diseased and/or contaminated animals.

No element of society has more compassion for or a greater stake in the proper husbandry of poultry, livestock, fur-bearers, game animals and aquaculture than the producer.

To assist producers and processors in providing assurances of proper animal care practices the membership of the Idaho Dairymen's Association endorses the National Milk Producers Federation Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Animal Care Manual. (04) (12)

HERD HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. recognizes the importance of proper herd health and dairy management on dairy farms, and therefore supports programs that provide dairymen with information, research and technology to advance the dairy industry in Idaho, including the following policies:

A. Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA)

We support the Dairy Herd Improvement Association's program as a method for dairymen to improve dairy herd management.

B. Brucellosis Vaccination

We support mandatory calfhooed vaccination and believe it must be enforced regardless of the intended destination and use of the heifer. (87)

C. Brucellosis Indemnity

We support an indemnity for animals lost as a result of brucellosis as close as possible to the invested value of the animal. (78)

D. National Brucellosis Program

We oppose any cuts in the national brucellosis program, but would support efforts to reduce expenditures through economizing and greater efficiency in the program. (83)

E. Feed Additives

We support the use of feed additives unless proven to be unsafe to the animal and/or the consumer of our products. (78)

F. Use of Antibiotics

We support testing for antibiotics or pesticide residue in milk and the Idaho Department of Agriculture's enforcement steps to see that it is kept out of the milk supply. (89)

G. Tuberculosis Testing

We support regulation by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture that prevents the importation of breeding female or male cattle over three months of age in the state of Idaho, unless they are free of TB and accompanied by a health certificate. (78)

We further support that all animals imported into the United States must be certified TB free. All processing plants that are federally inspected should follow the reporting guidelines that are already in place. (04)

H. P & S Bonding Requirements

We support strengthening the legislation requiring licensing and bonding of livestock dealers. Bonding should be equivalent to P & S bonding requirements and dealers must produce evidence of a license or the Brand Department will not issue such person a brand inspection to prevent him from taking possession of purchased livestock. (84)

I. Port Inspections of Livestock

We support legislation requiring imported livestock to stop at Idaho ports of entry and present their import papers for review and, for filling out a transit inspection report that goes to the Division of Animal Industries, Idaho State Department of Agriculture. (88)

J. Johne's Disease Education and Research

We support the education of all Idaho dairymen about Johne's disease and the voluntary testing and management practices for prevention, and the elimination of the disease from herds. We will continue to work with the state advisory committee to develop the voluntary program and support the efforts of the National Johne's Working Group (NJWG) for more research and compiling relevant and accurate information. We will actively pursue national legislation for funding of continued research on testing and public health and any voluntary control program. (00)

K. Animal Health Emergency Management

In order to address animal health emergency diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), we support policies which enable the government to release vaccines and conduct preventive slaughter. The State of Idaho should exercise its authority to restrict entry of animals, people, vehicles, or other possible carriers of disease into the state. The state should also regulate movement into or out of the quarantine area. We believe Idaho should declare a state of emergency and restrict movement into the state if such a disease is present in North America. (01)

AGRI-CHEMICALS

Policy Statement

The dairymen of Idaho feel that agri-chemicals are an important tool in their integrated pest management systems and that the loss of many of these chemicals through the EPA re-registration process will limit the options available for pest control. We believe the importance of both the safe use of agri-chemicals and the healthy wholesome quality of Idaho grown products must be presented to the public via an education and information distribution system.

The Idaho Dairymen's Association supports the efforts by private, government agencies and educational institutions in compiling factual information related to chemical use in agriculture. We support efforts to delay further implementation of restrictions on use of chemicals by EPA until actual chemical use data has been obtained. We further support that USDA become more involved in the FQPA review and implementation on behalf of agriculture producers in the U.S. We encourage full support of Idaho agricultural chemical dealers in providing use data to the minor crop alliance committee to aid in compiling actual chemical use data.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc., recognizes the need to preserve and protect our states and countries natural beauty and resources. We also recognize the importance of an adequate energy supply to our industry. We therefore encourage programs to protect our natural resources, while still meeting the needs of our society. We further encourage the development of alternate energy sources for our future. Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. supports the following policies:

A. Water Right Protection

We support legislation that provides for the protection of groundwater rights of livestock operations. (98) (06)

B. Upstream Storage

We support a reasonable, balanced, practical approach that would provide for adequate upstream storage for the benefit of irrigation, hydroelectric energy, recreation and minimum stream flows to maintain adequate fish populations. (77)

C. Idaho Water

We oppose any attempt to take or interfere in any way with any water of the state of Idaho by regional agencies of the federal government. We oppose any move by the federal government, or anyone else, to take our private property or water. (78) (99)

D. Dam Breaching

We oppose any move to breach the lower Snake River dams or to remove more water from Idaho. (98) (04)

E. State Water Resources

We support promoting the efficient use of our state water resources including the management and accountability of domestic usage. (04)

F. Radioactive Waste Disposal Site

We oppose any proposal for disposal or storage of radioactive wastes, which create a risk of contamination of the waters of the Snake River Plain Aquifer, or any other waters in the state. (79) (06)

G. Dissolved Oxygen

We support maintaining our present standards of dissolved oxygen.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) analysis measures the amount of gaseous oxygen (O₂) dissolved in an aqueous solution. Oxygen gets into water by diffusion from the surrounding air, by aeration (rapid movement), and as a waste product of photosynthesis.

Adequate dissolved oxygen is necessary for good water quality. Natural stream purification processes require adequate oxygen levels in order to provide for aerobic life forms. As dissolved oxygen levels in water drop below 5.0 mg/l, aquatic life is put under stress. Oxygen levels that remain below 1-2 mg/l for a few hours can result in large fish kills.

Idaho Dissolved Oxygen Standards are directly tied to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and those standards can be found in IDAPA 58.01.02

H. Pollution Control

We support pollution control measures for non-point sources that are science-based.

I. Energy Sources

We support maximum use of hydroelectric power including low head turbines. We also support development of economically viable alternate energy sources. (78)

J. Renewable Energy

Renewable energy technologies could aid Idaho dairy farms with nutrient management issues, therefore IDA shall seek to have the state of Idaho establish renewable energy portfolios for utilities operating within the state. (05) (06)

K. Federal Tie-up of Idaho Land

We feel the federal government should not have the right to control any more than 49% of the land in any given state. (78)

L. Land Use Planning

We support land use planning that protects agriculture land and its usage. We also support land use planning that protects agriculture lands from inadequate policies that fail to provide for the best use of those lands. (78)

M. Wilderness

We do not support additional wilderness in Idaho. (87) (04)

N. Noxious Weeds

We support a concentrated and total weed reduction program for the entire state, thus benefiting farmers, recreationists, wildlife and the whole state economy. We support the legislative effort to increase funding to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to a sufficient level for effective noxious weed control, so long as the legislature equitably proportions the cost burden to all citizens of the state. (88) (97)

O. Wildlife Control

We support the requirement that Department of Fish and Game be responsible for controlling the numbers of wildlife on both public and private lands to a level that will prevent depredation problems. We also support legislation that will use Department of Fish and Game funds for emergency winter feeding, habitat improvement and depredation relief. (88)

P. Endangered Species Legislation

We oppose any revision of the Endangered Species Act that will be harmful to the state of Idaho. (98)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen’s Association, Inc., in support of the dairy industry and the effect it has on the economy of the nation, and in an effort to keep a healthy and stable economic basis, supports the following policies:

LABOR POLICY - Idaho Dairymen’s Association, Inc. recognizes the need for a competent and stable supply of labor on the dairy farms of Idaho and therefore supports programs to meet these needs including the following policies:

A. Immigration

We support immigration legislation that improves the stability of agricultural labor. Any immigration reform legislation must include the following provisions: (06)

- An affordable and efficient guest worker program that ensures the continued availability of immigrant labor for all agriculture, including dairy.
- A provision that allows immigrants currently employed or with recent employment history in the U.S. to earn the right to work legally, without having to go back to their country of origin.
- A provision that specifies that the responsibility for ultimate verification of the legal status of a worker lies with the government, not the employers.

B. Labor Compensation

We support fair and equitable compensation for dairy laborers. (06)

C. Right to Work

We support the right to work law in Idaho.

In general, the Right to Work Act provides that no one may be required, as a condition of employment, to be or become a member of a union, or to refrain from or withdraw from membership in a union, or to pay dues or fees to unions, or to be referred or recommended for employment by a union. The Act is intended to protect the right of individuals to determine whether or not to join a union and to prohibit agreements between employers and unions to require union membership as a condition of any employment. It also prohibits employers from preventing its employees from being union members if they choose.

D. Little Davis/Bacon

We support repeal of the Little/Davis Bacon Act.

Davis-Bacon wages are the minimum wages that can be paid to people working on federal public works projects. The original Davis-Bacon Act was passed in 1931 in order to prevent federal public works projects from having the effect of driving down wages on private construction projects going on in the same area.

Davis-Bacon wages apply to those federal public works projects in the 50 states and the District of Columbia that exceed \$2,000 in cost. The Davis-Bacon wage rates are determined by the Secretary of Labor who is directed by law to calculate the prevailing wages for different classes of contractors in every county of the United States.

E. Regulations on Business

We support the free enterprise system with fewer reports and regulations for the independent operator. (78)

TRADE POLICY

A. National Food Policy

We encourage Congress to develop a national food policy that will keep the United States self-sufficient in the supply of food from domestic agriculture. (00)

B. Trade Policies

We support national trade policies that level the playing field for agricultural commodities produced in the United States in order to compete with foreign imports. Equitable treatment must consider such factors as the exchange rate of the dollar and the subsidy levels of our trading partners.

C. Fast-Track Authority

We oppose fast-track authority.

D. Trade Negotiations

We support working with National Milk Producers Federation, (NMPF), Western States Dairy Trade Producers Federation (WSDTPF), processors organizations, our local processing plants and the rest of the U.S. dairy industry to develop information that can be used by trade negotiators. We will diligently monitor the progress of collecting this information and the board of directors will work to be actively involved in the process. (98)

GENERAL POLICY

A. Elected Officials

We oppose term limits for elected and appointed officials. (04)

B. Truck Sizes and Weight

We support uniform weight and length trucking standards across the United States on all federal-aid highways and that these limits be set at the greatest possible length and weight to ensure the movement of agricultural commodities at the most efficient use of energy.

C. Bio-Terrorism

We support legislation, which would make it a felony for any person to purposefully spread any type of contagious, communicable or infectious disease or toxin among livestock or other animals. (04)

D. Animal Identification

We support the implementation of USDA's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) with the inclusion of the following points:

- The need for mandatory premise and animal ID is to safeguard the national dairy herd. USAIP shall be utilized as the program of choice.
- A phase-in system of premise and animal ID as developed by the USAIP plan.
- Confidentiality of data to ensure appropriate information access for the purpose of animal traceback in the U.S. animal herd.
- Animal and premise identification will be utilized ONLY for health (ownership) tracking purposes. (04)

E. Downer Cows

We support the current regulation that prohibits the utilization of downer cows in the human food chain. (04)

TAX POLICY

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. recognizes that taxes serve as the main source of revenue for local, state and national government services. We encourage citizen input on government services and their effectiveness and usefulness to the public. This includes the following policies:

A. Tax on Cooperative Certificates

We support legislation that would require cooperatives to return 35% of their equity certificates in cash in the year the certificate is allocated.

B. State School Funding

We support a combination of state and local funding for the purpose of financing primary and secondary education. (78)

C. Taxes According to Use

We believe that the change in taxation of land should occur at the time of change in usage. (78)

D. Bond, Override and Supplemental Levy Election Requirement

We support a 2/3 majority of property owners voting be the requirement for passage of a bond, override or supplemental levy elections. (78)

E. Federal Inheritance Tax

We support allowing a family farm to be passed to immediate family members without encumbering transfer and inheritance tax. (82)

F. Property Tax

We oppose any increase of the property tax on agricultural lands. (84)

G. Sales Tax on Service

We oppose any sales tax levied on service. (84)

H. Production Exemption

We oppose the removal of any agricultural production exemptions from the sales tax law. (84)

I. Sales Tax Exemption

We support sales tax exemption from fund raising of non-profit organizations. (84)

J. Investment Tax Credit Reauthorization

We support restoration of the investment tax credit in Idaho and furthermore recommend an increase. (89)

K. Local Option Tax

We oppose local option taxes (sales or income) unless accompanied by a substantial reduction of real property taxes so that rural and urban Idaho taxpayers would bear similar burdens in supporting schools and local government and unless very definite limits be imposed on later increases and be included in the proposal. (88)

L. Gift Tax

We support indexing gift tax exemptions. (01)

M. Tax Relief

We support tax relief at all levels of government to maintain economic growth. (78)

N. Capital Gains

We support the reduction of capital gains taxes.

MARKETING

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. believes in and encourages its members to participate in milk marketing efforts that serve the best interests of all Idaho dairymen.

Any position taken by Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. or its officers shall not jeopardize or interfere with the ability of any individual dairyman to better himself through separate action unless such action is determined to be detrimental to the Idaho dairy industry, including the following policies.

Even though our policies listed below reflect that we believe it is in the best interest of all agricultural commodities for the government to withdraw price support mechanisms that create price floors, caps supplies or creates artificial demand for agricultural commodities; the Idaho Dairymen's Association believes that it is in the best interest and essential for the profitability of dairy producers to provide leadership that develops and maintains unity within the national dairy industry. Recognizing, eliminating government programs from agriculture is a long term process the IDA will work with state, regional and national organizations to facilitate unity within the dairy industry while working within the existing and proposed government programs put forward to insure the long-term financial health and stability of the Idaho dairy industry. (09)

A. Pricing Enhancement

We support working with dairy organizations to enhance the price received by dairy producers.

B. National Milk Policy

IDA will evaluate, on a case-by-case basis any existing or proposed national policy that differentiates between producers (i.e. Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program, Federal Orders etc.). (06)

C. Foundation for the Future. – Dairy Security Act

We support the implementation of National Milk Producers Federation program Foundations for the Future (FFTF). (Adopted at a special meeting of the membership March 18, 2011)

Key components of the proposal must include:

- Elimination of the Dairy Price Support Program and the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC)
- Development of a Margin Insurance Program to be available to producers without production caps.
- A simple market stabilization mechanism that would assist in controlling production that would be in place on a limited basis.

NOTE: IDA worked with Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson in 2011 to encapsulate those concepts into H.R. 3062, the Dairy Security Act.

D. Federal Milk Marketing Orders

We will support the continuation of Federal and State Milk Marketing Orders. (06) (12)

E. Dairy Price Support

We support the elimination of the Dairy Price Support Program. (06)

F. MILC Program

We opposed the renewal of the MILC program and the establishment of programs similar to MILC. (06)

G. Supply Management

Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. supports industry controlled and voluntary industry funded supply-demand management programs. The IDA will evaluate each government mandated supply management programs on their individual merit. We will promote and serve as the vehicle for input, discussion, consideration, direction and formulation of ideas. (00) (09) (12)

H. Block Voting on Government Referendums.

IDA will work towards the elimination of and stand in opposition to the practice of block voting by cooperatives on government referendums. (09)

I. Self Help Programs

We will be a strong advocate for discussions that will facilitate marketing and transportation alliances among producer groups and support producer-controlled programs to enhance producer income. (06)

J. Processor Make Allowance

We will support Processor Make Allowances if and when an equal pricing mechanism is adopted to assist in helping producers recoup their increases in variable costs (i.e. fuel, utilities, interest, etc.). (06)

K. Advertising and Marketing; all Milk labeled products including Organic, rBST-Free and non-dairy beverages.

We support such action deemed necessary to correct misleading advertising and marketing efforts. (06)

L. Restriction of Imports

We state clearly that Congress should not, by treaty or international agreement, give up its right to restrict imports of foreign dairy products. (89)

M. Alternate Beverage

We are opposed to the continued labeling of non dairy beverages as "Milk" and are supportive of efforts to lobby the Food and Drug Administration to take the appropriate actions. Present regulations clearly prohibit non dairy beverages manufactures from labeling their product as milk. (05) (06) (12)

N. Bonding of Dairy Processors/Handlers or Producer Indemnity Fund

We support the concept that would require the bonding of dairy processors/handlers purchasing milk from producers in the state of Idaho or the establishment of a producer indemnity fund. Producer protection should be the equivalent

of 45 days worth of raw milk utilized in the plant. The value should be assessed at the average price of the previous five (5) years Class III announced price. (03)

O. NASS Milk Production Information

We support the elimination of NASS releasing the estimated milk production numbers. We support NASS utilization of the promotion collections to provide the industry with accurate production numbers. (03)

EDUCATION/RESEARCH

General Statement

Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. recognizes that both education and research are vital to progress in our industry. We therefore support programs of public, vocational and adult education. We encourage related research for a progressive dairy and agriculture industry.

Education Policy

A. State Dairy Extension Program

We support dairy extension programs that add value to all Idaho dairy producers. We believe those programs should be visionary in their scope to meet the future needs of the Idaho dairy producer. We believe funding for those programs should be the responsibility of the state, the industry and allied industries. We believe continued support of dairy extension and their related programs is dependent on the value they provide the industry and should be reviewed by the Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. on an annual basis.

B. Nutrition Education

We support nutrition education programs conducted by the Idaho Dairy Products Commission. (78)

C. Dairy Products in Schools

We support the increased availability of dairy products in schools. (78)

D. School Lunch Program

We support efforts to assure continuous refrigeration and careful handling of school milk at all points to assure students of fresh, cold, high quality milk. We support the use of high quality real dairy products in the school lunch program. We also support the utilization of new innovative packaging to provide high quality milk in a variety of flavors.

E. Equalization of Idaho School Tax Formula

We support changes in the Idaho school tax formula that will bring about a more equitable distribution of state support for public schools.

F. Vocational Education

We support increased emphasis on vocational education in our public schools that would teach marketable and life sustaining skills to more students. (78)

Research Policy

A. Programs

We support human nutrition, dairy product and animal production research programs funded by United Dairymen of Idaho and Dairy Marketing Inc.

B. Agricultural Biotechnology Research

We support current and future research in agricultural biotechnology and responsible applications and products derived from this technology. (99)

C. Dairy Research Programs

We support dairy research that adds value to all Idaho dairy producers and believe that research should be visionary in its scope to meet the future needs of the Idaho dairy industry with funding of those programs to be the responsibility of the state, the industry and allied industries. (04)

D. Dairy Research Facility

We support a dairy research facility between private industry, public and education entities. The facility would be dedicated to both education and research with adequate animal numbers to reflect the dairy industry today and in the future. The facility should be located where the dairy industry is prominent. (05)