



June 10, 2019

“Prosperous farmers make for a prosperous nation, and when farmers are in trouble, the nation is in trouble.” - President Harry Truman.

It is after much discussion with Farm Bureau members across the country that we find the need to write this letter. Whether you have one dairy farm in your state or thousands you know the issues facing our nation’s dairy farmers as we enter into the 5th consecutive year of depressed milk prices. Our current system is failing our farmers and if we continue to stand idle we will continue to watch our dairy industry and rural communities disappear.

The intent of this letter is to inform you on efforts to establish a national growth management program to align supply and demand within the US dairy industry and to bring this topic to farmers at a national level. Our farmers are the backbone of this industry and need to be heard.

Northeast dairy cooperative Agri-Mark hosted a regional meeting on August 13, 2018 in Albany New York which discussed supply management proposals by varying groups and organizations from across the country. This meeting was attended by dairy farmers, industry leaders, state legislators, and congressional staff. With over 400 in attendance this meeting united the efforts for a growth management program on a national level to align supply with demand within our dairy industry.

Vermont’s Milk Commission attended the AgriMark meeting and has since reviewed all proposals presented to determine major consensus parameters for such a national growth management program. The results were published in the *Report and Recommendations of the Vermont Milk Commission January 2019*. The Vermont Farm Bureau supports the exploration of a national growth management program and supports the report of the Vermont Milk Commission. Other organizations continue this conversation as well and many of you are having similar conversations within your state Farm Bureau.

This is a call to action for our state Farm Bureau’s to unite. We strongly believe the Farm Bureau is the vessel to bring this discussion to our farm members at a national level. We all need to work together to bring stability to the future of our farms and our rural communities across this country.

This letter is to be circulated to every state Farm Bureau office. Attached to this letter you will find a survey to be distributed to your dairy farm members, FAQ’s on supply management, an outline program parameters of the Vermont Milk Commission Report, and a letter from Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Please join our efforts and reply to this letter by mail or email with your indication of your farmers support for the implementation of a national growth management program and results of your farm member surveys.

Best Regards,

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Mary White Vermont Farm Bureau Secretary