

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Heinrich, Chair Harris, Chair Stabenow, and Chair Thompson:

The [Dairy Business Innovation Initiative](#) (DBII) is a necessary federal program that spurs regional strategies to enhance the capacity, vitality, and innovation of the American dairy industry. With a track record of success and staggering demand, we urge lawmakers to expand DBII investments in the annual appropriations process and the upcoming farm bill to \$36 million each year.

These initiatives convene farmers, industry partners, and academia to tackle production, processing, and marketing needs of the dairy industry specific to each initiative's coverage area. Administered by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the Initiative provides resources to four regional initiatives that are headquartered in the states of Vermont, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and California. The regional initiatives then offer tailored grant opportunities, across dozens of states, to dairy businesses and other stakeholders.

DBII centers have offered, to date, \$165 million in grants to dairy farmers, processors, brands, cooperatives, non-profits, and academic partners. From small farmstead grants to processing equipment support for regional/national dairy processors, the DBIIs offer a range of awards for hundreds of projects. Project examples include new processing endeavors, new product and packaging developments, sustainability initiatives, and export exploration. All are fundamentally matching private resources with public funding to grow and modernize the dairy industry.

Additionally, we are encouraged that U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Marsha Blackburn, as well as U.S. House Representative Derrick Van Orden, introduced the [Dairy Business Innovation Act of 2023](#) and stand in support of this of this bipartisan, bicameral legislation.

The dairy industry is critical to our nation's food security and provides nutritious and accessible products to millions of families across the country. The dairy industry remains an economic engine

for rural communities and the broader American economy, providing 3.2 million jobs and \$794 billion in overall economic impact.<sup>1</sup>

An investment in the DBII is an investment in the future of U.S. dairy and the more than 200 dairy industry leaders and partners listed below ask congressional leaders to prioritize DBII funding at \$36 million annually in both the yearly appropriations cycle and within reauthorization of the farm bill.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Sweeney  
Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association

Adam Warthesen  
Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative

### **Dairy Businesses**

Achadinha Cheese Company, California  
 Agri Bridge, California  
 Agri-Mark, Inc., Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont  
 AJ's Dairy, Iowa  
 Alliance Dairies, Florida  
 Alpinage Cheese LLC, Wisconsin  
 Andersen Dairy Inc., Washington  
 Arena Cheese, Wisconsin  
 Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Minnesota, Wisconsin  
 Augment LLC (product SuperWhitePowder), Wisconsin  
 Ayers Brook Goat Dairy, Vermont  
 Balfour Farm, New York  
 Barstow's Longview Farm, Massachusetts  
 Beauty View Dairy Products, Nebraska  
 Bedrock Farm, Vermont  
 Berning Acres, Illinois  
 Berrybrook Organics, South Dakota  
 Bertram Dairy Farm, Wisconsin  
 Big Picture Farm, Vermont  
 Black Radish Creamery, Ohio  
 Blue Ice Creamery, Illinois  
 Blue Ribbon Dairy, Florida  
 Blue Silo Creamery, Oregon  
 Boss Dairy Farms, Inc, Michigan  
 Bouchard Family Dairy LLC, Vermont  
 Boxcarr Handmade Cheese, North Carolina  
 Brookfield Farm, New Hampshire  
 Brush Creek Swiss Farms, North Carolina

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.idfa.org/dairydelivers>

Buffalo Creek Farm and Creamery, North Carolina  
Carmichael Dairy LLC, Tennessee  
Carr Valley Cheese Co., Wisconsin  
Cedar Grove Cheese, Wisconsin  
Central Coast Creamery LLC, California  
Chapel Hill Creamery, North Carolina  
Cheese Merchants, Illinois  
Cheese Trail, California  
Chimacum Valley Dairy, Washington  
Cinnamon Ridge Farms, Iowa  
Clover Mountain Dairy, Washington  
Columbia Community Creamery, Washington  
Conant Acres, Maine  
Contoocook Creamery, New Hampshire  
Copper Crow Distillery, LLC, Wisconsin  
Cosmic Goat Farm and Creamery, Maine  
Country Food, Pennsylvania  
Country View Dairy, Iowa  
Creamline Farms, Oregon  
Dairy Distillery, Michigan  
Dairy State Cheese LLC, Wisconsin  
Deerland Dairy, Illinois  
Diamond Farms, Pennsylvania  
Don-Sim Farm Partnership LLP, Vermont  
Dreamies Creamery, Oregon  
Easton Dairy, New York  
Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC, Wisconsin  
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, Wisconsin  
Fantello Farmstead Creamery, Washington  
Farm Life Creamery, South Dakota  
First Mid Bank & Trust, Wisconsin  
Foggy Bottoms Boys LLC, California  
Fraga Farmstead Creamery LLC, Oregon  
Fredrikson Farm, Michigan  
French Broad Creamery, North Carolina  
Frozen Innovations, LLC, Illinois  
Gardner's Wisconsin Cheese, LLC, Wisconsin  
GoodSport Nutrition, Illinois  
Grace Pond Farm, Maine  
Grassland Dairy Products Inc, Wisconsin  
Graywall Farm, Connecticut  
Great Lakes Cheese, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin  
Green Dirt Farm, LLC, Missouri  
Grison Creamery LLC, Missouri  
Guggisberg Cheese, Ohio  
Gurn-Z Meadow Farm, Wisconsin

Hansens's Sugar Shack, LLC, Wisconsin  
Harrison's Homegrown Dairy Farm, Vermont  
Hawthorne Valley Farm, New York  
Hidden Springs Creamery, Wisconsin  
Highfield Farm Creamery, Wisconsin  
Hightail Delivery, Iowa  
Hildebrand Farms Dairy, Kansas  
Hill Valley Dairy, Wisconsin  
Hinterland Dairy, Iowa  
Homestead Farm, New York  
Honorone Farm, New York  
Howe Family Farm, Pennsylvania  
Huffard Dairy Farms, Virginia  
Ingredient Resource, Inc, Oregon  
Irvey's Ice Cream Co., Tennessee  
Jamestowne Dairy Farm, West Virginia  
Kings-Ransom Farm, LLC, New York  
Lady-Lane Farm, Oregon  
Landmark Creamery, Wisconsin  
Larson Farm and Creamery, Vermont  
Leeco Dairy, Georgia  
Leo Leo Gelato Inc, California  
Little Lou's Creamery, Tennessee  
Looking Glass Creamery, North Carolina  
Lost Peacock Creamery, Washington  
Maid-N-Meadows LLC, Kentucky  
Mapleline Farm, Massachusetts  
Marieke Gouda, Wisconsin  
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Maryland,  
Virginia  
Masters Gallery Foods, Wisconsin  
Mayday Farm, Maine  
Meadow Ridge Farm LLC, Connecticut  
Milky Way Farm, Pennsylvania  
Millers Organic Dairy LLC, Wisconsin  
MK Dairy, LLC, New York  
Moore Local, Iowa  
Mount Rainier Creamery, Washington  
Mountain Dairy, Connecticut  
Mountain Fresh Creamery, Georgia  
Moxie Ridge Farm, New York  
Murraydale Farms LLC, New York  
Myerwood Farms LLC, New Jersey  
Nash Family Creamery, Tennessee  
Nasonville Dairy, Wisconsin  
Nicasio Valley Cheese Co., California

Nichols Farm LLC, New York  
Nico's Ice Cream, Oregon  
Nol-Chem Corp, Oregon  
North Country Creamery, New York  
Novonesis, Wisconsin  
Oake Knoll Farms, LLC, Massachusetts  
Oliver Family Creamery, LLC, Alabama  
Oregon Ice Cream Company, Oregon  
Painterland Sisters, Pennsylvania  
Paulson Family Farm LLC, Virginia  
Perk Family Organic Dairy, West Virginia  
Petit Pot, California  
Pine River Pre-Pack, Inc., Wisconsin  
Pleasant Lane Farms Creamery LLC, Pennsylvania  
Prairie Homestead Creamery , Minnesota  
Ran-Lew Dairy Milk Co. , North Carolina  
Redhead Creamery LLC, Minnesota  
Reverence Farms, North Carolina  
Rivergate Dairy, Virginia  
Robert Giacomini Dairy, Inc., California  
Rocky Oaks Goat Creamery, California  
Roc-Star Ice Cream Products, New York  
Roelli Cheese Co., Inc., Wisconsin  
Rokeyroad Holsteins dba, Kansas  
Rosa Brothers Milk Company Inc., California  
Rowlett's Milkhouse Creamery, Kentucky  
Royal Guernsey Creamery, Wisconsin  
Ruby Jewel, Oregon  
Saltless Sea Creamery, LLC, Michigan  
Sargento, Wisconsin  
Sartori Cheese, Wisconsin  
SCREAM, LLC, Iowa  
Semifreddo LLC, Michigan  
Shatto Milk, Missouri  
Shooting Star Creamery, California  
Shop Springs Creamery, Tennessee  
Sidehill Farm, Vermont  
Snowville Creamery, Ohio  
Southeast Milk, Inc., Florida  
Steensma Creamery, Washington  
Stein Family Farms LLC, California  
Stepladder Farmstead Creamery, California  
Stil Dreamn Dairy, Missouri  
Stonyfield, New Hampshire  
Straus Home Ranch, California

Sugar and Snow Gelato, North Carolina  
 SweetLand Farm, Maine  
 Tester Dairy Farm, North Carolina  
 The Mullen Dairy & Creamery , Ohio  
 The Salty Goat, Oregon  
 Thistle Dew Dairy & Creamery, Michigan  
 Thomas E Stanley & Sons, Florida  
 Three Creeks LLC, Georgia  
 TMK Creamery LLC, Oregon  
 Troyer Specialty Foods Inc., Ohio  
 Tulip Tree Creamery LLC, Indiana  
 TUNaWERTH LLC, Washington  
 Tup's Crossing Farm, Vermont  
 Two Cows Creamery, South Dakota  
 Two Guernsey Girls Creamery LLC, Wisconsin  
 Uplands Cheese, Wisconsin  
 Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc., New York  
 Venture Milk-Atlanta Dairies, Georgia  
 Vintage Cheese Company, California  
 von Trapp Farmstead , Vermont  
 W & R Farms, LLC, Georgia  
 Watauga Valley Farms, Tennessee  
 Westby Creamery Cooperative, Wisconsin  
 Widmer's Cheese Cellars, Inc., Wisconsin  
 Winter Hill Farm LLC, Maine  
 WonderCow, California  
 Yellow Birch Farm, Maine  
 Yummy Industries, LLC, California

### **Industry Partners**

International Dairy Foods Association  
 National Milk Producers Federation  
 California Dairy Innovation Center  
 Cooperative Network  
 Midwest Dairy Coalition  
 Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York  
 Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont  
 Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
 Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin  
 Washington State University  
 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Cc: Committee members and staff