

# Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. Policies

## PRODUCT QUALITY & PROMOTION

### General Statement

The 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. (17)

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 (IDPC), an Idaho State government agency, which is the promotion and nutrition education organization that works to earn the trust of consumers for dairy farming and dairy products, and 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) (17)

- Partnering with dairy and food industry leaders and innovators on nutrition, research, and marketing.
- Driving programs to reach children to promote fluid milk consumption with this age group including innovative solutions including: thought leader education, school grants and programs, and providing science-based dairy facts to wellness and education experts.
- 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 support 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification for animal care and environmental concerns, and the expense of those verifications should be covered by those requesting the verification, as opposed to use of check-off funds. (17)

### C. Dairy Product Innovation

We aggressively encourage the use and promotion of real dairy products in new consumptive usages and through new product innovation. (17)

### 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 regimen for dairy products from the farm to the retailer. We support the de-emphasizing and reduction in the number of on-site dairy farm premise inspections unless product testing or inspection history shows there is a need. (78) (04) (17)

### F. Milk Standards

We support increasing minimum standards of solids in fluid milk.

### **G. Somatic Cell Count**

We support decreasing the national SCC count to 400,000. IDA will lobby the 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) (17)

### **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. National Dairy Promotion**

We support a single national dairy promotion organization.

### **L. Goat and Sheep Milk**

We support the regulation of goat and sheep milk sales under the same laws and regulations of raw milk sales in Idaho (IDAPA 02.04.13). (77) (17)

### **M. Promotion of Idaho Milk Products**

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

## **STATE AFFAIRS**

### **General Statement**

The 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 byproduct material, and dairy byproducts shall meet the same nutrient management standards equally. (03) (04) (17)

#### **E. Phosphorus Regulation**

Before the governing agency develops threshold or indexing 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) (21)

#### **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. 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)

#### **I. 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)

#### **J. Idaho Department of Agricultural Board**

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

#### **K. Review of State Agencies**

We support all state agencies being required to provide a cost benefit analysis for new regulations and that follow-up studies be made in five (5) years. (78)

#### **L. Regulatory & 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)

#### **M. 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)

#### **N. 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)

#### **O. 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.

#### **P. 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)

#### **Q. 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)

#### **R. 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)

#### **S. Driving Authorization**

We support the adoption of a system for the authorization of driving privileges that would be available to all residents of Idaho, and as to the manner, method and means for implementation of the same. (21)

## **INDUSTRY RELATIONS**

#### **General Statement**

The 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. IDA Board Seats**

Director representation for the 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) (17)

#### **B. Industry Legal Fund**

We support the continuation 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) (17)

#### **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's Association, Inc. assessment from \$0.005/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 (1) vote. (78) (04)

# **IDAHO ANIMAL CARE & WELFARE POLICY**

## **General Statement**

The Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. recognizes 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.

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.

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.

## **A. Animal Husbandry**

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 low-stress handling of animals. We support permanent animal identification to establish rightful ownership, avoid theft, and to trace and recognize diseased and/or contaminated animals. (17)

# **FARM PROGRAM & NET ZERO INITIATIVE**

## **A. FARM Animal Care**

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

Revisions to the FARM Plan need to be supported by scientific evidence and have producer input as part of the revision process. (04) (12) (17)

## **B. FARM Environmental Stewardship**

We endorse FARM Environmental Stewardship and oppose any buyer of milk utilizing on-farm environmental metrics and verification other than FARM Environmental Stewardship. (22)

## **C. FARM Workforce Development**

We endorse FARM Workforce Development and oppose any buyer of milk utilizing on-farm labor standards other than FARM Workforce Development. (22)

## **D. Innovation Center for US Dairy 2050 Net Zero Initiative**

We support the Innovation Center for US Dairy's 2050 Net Zero Initiative. (22)

## **E. Carbon Reductions and Accounting Metrics for US Dairy 2050 Net Zero Initiative**

We support dairymen pursuing the marketing of any carbon reduction from their operations to the greatest economic opportunity, regardless if said marketing is considered an offset or an inset. Furthermore, we support any carbon reduction marketed as an offset be counted towards reductions used to achieve the US dairy industry 2050 NZI goals and encourage the Innovation Center for US Dairy to pursue the use of accounting metrics which will promote this policy. (23)

# HERD HEALTH & MANAGEMENT

## **General Statement**

The 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. 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)

### **F. Use of FDA/USDA Approved Animal Health Technologies**

We oppose any effort, by a local, state, or other government entity, to disallow the use of FDA or USDA approved animal health products. We also oppose these same prohibitions from participants within the dairy supply chain. (23)

### **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 (3) 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. Packers & Stockyards Bonding Requirements**

We support strengthening the legislation requiring licensing and bonding of livestock dealers. Bonding should be equivalent to Packers & Stockyards 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 actively pursue national legislation for funding of continued research on testing and public health and any voluntary control program. (00) (17)

### **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)

### **L. Idaho Brand Department**

We support adequate funding for the Brand Board to fulfill its required brand inspections, and requirement of being a brand fee payer is necessary to qualify to serve on the Idaho Brand Board. The following Brand Board director requirements included in Idaho statute adequately reflect the needs of the dairy industry: (18)

- Three (3) members shall be experienced in, and while serving as a member for such board, continuously and principally engaged in the feeding or the production of beef cattle in Idaho,
- No two (2) of whom shall be from the same county;
- One (1) shall be experienced in and be engaged in while serving on the board the operation of a licensed public livestock auction market;
- One (1) shall be experienced in and be engaged in while serving on the board dairy milk production.
- A member of the board is ineligible to hold any other state or federal office providing full-time employment, or any county or elective office.

## **AGRI-CHEMICALS**

### **General 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, Inc. 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 the EPA until actual chemical use data has been obtained. We further support that USDA become more involved in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 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**

The Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc., recognizes the need to preserve and protect our states' and country's 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. The Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. supports the following policies:

### **A. Water Rights Protection**

We support the protection of groundwater and surface water rights of agricultural operations, employing the Prior Appropriations Doctrine as the basis for that protection. (98) (06) (17)

### **B. Upstream Storage**

We support a reasonable, balanced, practical approach that would provide for adequate upstream storage for the benefit of irrigation, flood control, hydroelectric energy, recreation, and minimum stream flows to maintain adequate fish populations. Releases for flood control that occur outside the irrigation season should not account against storage rights. (77) (17)

### **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. Water Management**

We support the State of Idaho conjunctively managing her water resources utilizing the Prior Appropriations Doctrine, and the use general funds to implement basin-wide aquifer recharge. (22)

### **G. 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)

### **H. Dissolved Oxygen**

We support maintaining our present standards of dissolved oxygen.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) analysis measures the amount of gaseous oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) 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

### **I. Pollution Control**

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

### **J. Energy Sources**

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



### **K. 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)

### **L. Land Use Planning**

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

### **M. Foreign Ownership of Lands/Resources**

As a matter of state and national security, and for the protection of the integrity of a domestic food supply, we support legislation that prohibits foreign states, foreign governments, and enterprises controlled by foreign states and governments (such as sovereign investment funds) from owning, leasing, managing or controlling agricultural lands, grazing lands, and water rights within the state of Idaho. (23)

### **N. Wilderness**

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

### **O. 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)

### **P. 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)

### **Q. 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**

The 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**

The 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) (18)

- 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 exit the United States of America.
- A provision that grants the immigrant worker's immediate family legal status to be with them in the United States of America.
- 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. Expansion of H2A Agricultural Visas**

We support amending the H2A visa to encompass year-round employment. (22)

## **C. Worker Training & Safety**

We support the Idaho Dairy Worker Training and Safety Program, a dairy laborer training and safety education effort initiated by IDA Consulting Services, Inc. containing the following criteria: (18)

- The effort is jointly developed and funded by both the Idaho Dairymen's Association, Inc. and the Idaho Milk Processors Association members.
- All first handlers of milk who choose to have worker safety expectations for dairies supplying them milk, use the standards and expectations developed within the program so the effort remains pre-competitive and does not become a divisive marketing tool used to differentiate between suppliers of milk.
- The program goals focus on continuous improvement of the safety and training of the dairy workforce.
- Development and future revisions to the Idaho Dairy Worker Training and Safety Program needs to be supported by scientific evidence and have producer input as part of the development and revision process.

## **D. Labor Compensation**

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

## **E. 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.

## **F. Regulations on Business**

We support the free enterprise system with fewer government required reports and regulations for agriculture operations. (78) (21)

# **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. Trade Negotiations**

We support working with National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), Western States Dairy Producers Association (WSDPA), 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 & 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 safe 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 USDA's National Uniform Eartagging System. (04) (17)

### **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**

The 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 & 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. Personal Property Tax**

We support the elimination of Idaho's personal property taxes. (22)

#### **H. Sales Tax on Service**

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

#### **I. Production Exemption**

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

#### **J. Sales Tax Exemption**

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

#### **K. Local Option Tax**

We support the creation of a broader local option tax if it can be demonstrated that there would be benefit to the Idaho dairy industry. (88) (23)

#### **L. Tax Relief**

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

#### **M. Capital Gains**

We support the reduction of capital gains taxes.

#### **N. Equalization of Idaho School Tax Formula**

We support equitable distribution of state support for public schools. (17)

#### **O. Renewable Energy Incentives**

We support the development of tax incentives and grant funding programs to enhance the economic viability of renewable energy projects on dairy farms. (22)

## **MARKETING**

#### **General Statement**

The 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.

We have an underlying belief that government intervention programs, though well intended, have a negative impact on the long-term financial wellbeing of agricultural producers. We will work to be leaders in seeking unity within the dairy industry while striving towards the elimination of government intervention programs. (09) (17)

#### **A. Pricing Enhancement**

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

#### **B. National Milk Policy**

We 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. Supply Management**

We support industry controlled, voluntary, industry funded supply-demand management programs. 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)

#### **D. Block Voting on Government Referendums.**

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

#### **E. 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)

#### **F. 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)

#### **G. Advertising & Marketing; All Milk Labeled Products Including Organic, rBST-Free & Non-Dairy Beverages.**

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

#### **H. 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)

#### **I. 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 beverage manufacturers from labeling their product as milk. (05) (06) (12)

#### **J. 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)

#### **K. 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**

The 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. 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, including GMOs, and responsible application and production derived from this technology. The industry-wide application of a biotechnology should only be allowed after the technology has been researched by an independent, unbiased institution, and approval is granted by the appropriate government agency(s) with oversight. It is proven that the application of approved biotechnology within our dairy industry will reduce the air emissions and overall carbon footprint of our dairy facilities while increasing our members' competitiveness in the national and world markets. (99) (13) (17)

### **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)