



SD DAIRY PRODUCERS NEWS

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Mid-Year Member Update

With June Dairy Month Open Houses and a flurry of activity relative to spring and summer challenges, it is past time to provide a member update on SDDP action for 2019. While some of the activities do not provide immediate solutions, SDDP continues to be a main point of contact, along with it's individual farmers for state and federal government agencies...and they do hear our voice. Below summarized some of the opportunities SDDP has taken advantage of to communicate our dairy industry needs.

- Washington DC fly in: 23 meetings in 2 days with Marv Post and Tom Peterson
 - ~Face-to-Face meetings with South Dakota Congressional members Senator's Thune and Rounds, and House Representative Dusty Johnson. In addition, in person meetings with congressional members from Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and USDA, NMPF, Senate Ag Committee staff members and Farm Bureau staff and offices.



- Inclusion of SDDP solid in part due to relationships from DC Fly In: Dusty Johnson and staff, John Thune and staff, Mike Rounds and staff as evidenced by following in-state meetings through spring and early summer:
 - ~Rep. Johnson requested commodity meeting hosted at SDSU
 - ~Crop insurance meeting at Walt Bones with Rep Johnson with SDDP board member Allen Merrill providing direct input on dairy farmer needs.
 - ~Crop insurance meeting with John Thune with SDDP board member Greg Moes
 - ~Dedicated time at DakotaFest with Representative Johnson and chief ag affairs staff John Webber
 - ~On farm visit with Senator Rounds lead on immigration and assistant staff member Taylor Reaves.





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- Multiple communications on April storm impact and disaster issues along with trade concerns
- Relationship with new Secretary of Ag Kim Vanneman off to strong beginning.
- ~Dedicated meeting at Central Plains Dairy Expo with Marv Post and Tom Peterson
- ~Secretary Vanneman attended dairy farm tour at Global Dairy with board member Michael Crinion and Tom
- ~Attended Dairy Fest Gala hosted at SDDP table with Marv Post and Allen Merrill



Department of Ag Secretary Kim Vanneman addresses crowd at the Gala preceding Dairy Fest held in Brookings



Secretary Kim Vanneman joined Chief Matt Lohr of NRSC and SDDP board member Michael Crinion during the Chief's June visit

- Dedicated meeting of SDDP and GOED Commissioner Steve Westra and staff
- ~SDDP team of Marv Post, Walt Bones, Dr. Vikram Mistry, and Tom Peterson met with Commissioner Westra to gain clarity on State position on dairy and priority.
- ~Received assurance that dairy is still a significant focus for Governor Noem, GOED, and the Department of Agriculture along with commitments on partnering in growth efforts and support for existing dairies and industry.

SDDP is committed to 4 pillars: Policy, Growth, Education, and Consumer Confidence and delivering value for your membership dollars!

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