



SD DAIRY PRODUCERS NEWS

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SDDP Board Take Up Concerns with Upcoming Proposed Sioux Falls Ballot Initiative:

During the recent SDDP Board Meeting on August 9th, SDDP leadership addressed the situation facing the Wholestone Farm project in Sioux Falls. The board had previously agreed to support an ag coalition with principles established by many key South Dakota agriculture groups regarding ag development like the Wholestone project. These principles can be summarized as supportive of public input in developing zoning ordinances, valuing and supporting business climates and policies allowing South Dakota to develop successful projects in the state, and opposing efforts to place harmful precedence against businesses that follow guidelines set forth by federal, state, and local entities. Essentially supporting a process where once established zoning and permitting requirements are met, those approved projects should be able to move forward without interruption.

In order to have documentation for supporting value-added agriculture development, the SDDP Board is in the process of drafting a proposed resolution of this support. Once approved by the SDDP Board it would then be brought forward at the SDDP Annual Meeting for formal adoption, but could also be referenced to prior if the need arises.

The proposed resolution would be in alignment with existing resolutions where SDDP supports rural infrastructure for processing, embracing new and existing technologies, and providing future opportunities for agriculture's youth. Board leadership feels that while the Sioux Falls issue is specific to a hog processing facility and a single municipality, the precedent could dangerously impact any value-added agriculture project anywhere in the state in the future.



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Senator Thune Takes Up SDDP Invitation to Visit Dairy Farm:

Early into this fall recess, Senator John Thune accepted an invitation coordinated by SDDP to visit a South Dakota dairy farm along with staff from the Senators office. The Senator heard directly from the team at Garfield Dairy along with SDDP representatives on the growth South Dakota has recognized with the dairy industry. Along with the exciting growth come challenges too and the group expressed that securing labor remains SDDP's and South Dakota dairy farmers number one issue. The group urged support for a Senate version of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act and to work with the Ag Workforce Coalition group which recently delivered a letter to all Senators pressing for an ag workforce bill to come out of the Senate. While it is difficult to gain any commitment from visits like this, the consensus of the group is we must keep delivering the message. Senator Thune and the entourage also made a stop at Agropur in Lake Norden.



During the recess, Senator Thune and staff will also be making appearances at upcoming events like the Brown County Fair, Turner County Fair, DakotaFest and the South Dakota State Fair. SDDP urges membership present at any of these events to take any opportunity to express support of the need for legislature to provide for a secure ag workforce.



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SDDP Represented at NMPF State Association Summit:

SDDP Board Chair Marv Post and ED Peterson, along with dairy state trade association leaders from across the nation, were hosted by NMPF at the 3rd annual State Association Summit. A key topic of the summit included NMPF's draft recommendations on updating the FMMO. An overview of NMPF's FMMO taskforce work included a deep dive into the formulas and assessment of what changes could be in dairy farmers interests. The proposed recommendations are posted on NMPF's website www.nmpf.org. SDDP has stayed course regarding the FMMO reform process with the primary objective to have a seat at the table for better understanding and to educate members. SDDP also remains a coalition member of a regional group consisting of Edge, DBA of Wisconsin, MN Milk, Iowa State Dairy and Nebraska State Dairy Assoc.



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