

September 23, 2009

Few things in Wisconsin are more important than protecting our environment and assuring the long-term success of the dairy industry, a cornerstone of our state's economy. These goals are **not** mutually exclusive. Today's dairy farmers are committed to farming in a way that protects our natural resources while producing safe, nutritious and affordable dairy products for consumers in Wisconsin and around the world, while protecting our environment and contributing to the quality rural way of life we enjoy in our great state.

Today's dairy farms are different than they were 20 years ago. Just like every other sector of our economy, dairy farmers have had to change with the times to remain competitive with other states and other countries. So while our farms may be larger and more technologically advanced than two decades ago, our commitment to do what's right has never been stronger.

We take our obligation to the environment seriously, as do state regulators. Farmers are the original recyclers. We take the grain grown on Wisconsin farms, add value to it by producing dairy products to feed our nation and apply the organic nutrients in manure back to the soil to grow the next years' crops and to maintain healthy farm ground. Using this renewable resource of organic fertilizer lessens our dependence on petroleum-based fertilizers, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process.

Larger dairy operations must comply with environmental regulations that are more stringent than those applied to our municipal sewage treatment plants. Permitted dairies in Wisconsin are held to a "zero discharge" standard. By law, large dairies must apply the valuable nutrients found in manure in a way that assures there is no discharge of that manure to any body of water. By contrast, our municipalities are allowed to discharge in some instances untreated wastewater directly to rivers and lakes across the state and to land apply municipal biosolids with phosphorus many times the level that farmers are allowed.

Research conducted at the University of Minnesota and published by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers indicates that larger farms do a better job protecting the environment because they have the resources to hire environmental specialists dedicated to managing environmental issues.

But size is not the issue. What counts is our commitment to produce safe, nutritious and affordable dairy products for you and your family, to create jobs and support local economies, to provide a future for the next generation of family farmers, all while protecting our environment and contributing to a quality rural way of life in Wisconsin. That's a commitment you can count on from all of Wisconsin's dairy farmers, regardless of size.

Submitted by the following proud Wisconsin dairy farmers:

Quantum Dairy, LLC
Richard Wagner

Sugar Creek Farm, LLC
Jeff Handschke

Mystic Valley Dairy, LLC
Mitch Breunig

Jon-De Farm, Inc.
Dean, Todd and Liz Doornink

Soaring Eagle Dairy
Julie Maurer & Jim Fitzgerald

Brandvale Dairy
Steve & Mary Brand

Pagels Ponderosa Dairy LLC
John Pagel

Badger Pride Dairy LLC

Son-Bow Farms, Inc.
Jay & Kristi Richardson

Omro Dairy LLC
Jim Ostrom, John Vosters
and Todd Willer

Da-Ran Dairy, LLC
Gerald, Randy & Dave Stahl

Heartwood Farm
Laura Daniels

Burnside Dairy, Inc.
Jason Weisenbeck

SunRay Dairy, LLP
Paul & Julie Larson

Chapman Farms
Gail, Duane, David
and John Chapman

Majestic View Dairy, LLC
John Haskins
Ron & Terri Abing and Family

Sunburst Dairy Inc.
Brian & Yvonne Brown

Hallet Dairy Farm LLC
Randy Hallet

Mar-Bec Farms
Marty Hallock

Lake Breeze Dairy LLC
Mark and Laurie Diederichs
Brian and Lynn Gerrits
Lynn and Catherine Davis
Ron and Chris Schwenck
Rick Schwenck
Doug and Janice Thiel
Roger and Gail Thiel
Roman and Joan Thiel

Doerfer Bros Inc.
Richard, John and Gary Doerfer

Fetzer Farms Inc.
Betsy, Paul, Steve & Joe Fetzer

Hillsprairie Dairy LLC
Steve & Kelli Mitchell
Jeff & Bobbi Mitchell

B & D Dairy
Brian Lepianka
Danette Ossmann

Rosy-Lane Holsteins LLC
Lloyd & Daphne Holterman

Betley Farms LLC
Jack & Gloria Betley
Jeff & Jena Betley

Tidy View Dairy, Inc.
Jim Ostrom, John Vosters
and Todd Willer

Four Cubs Farm
Gary, Chris & Ben Peterson

Misty Morning Dairy LLC
Randy & Rose Mouw

Ripp's Dairy Valley
Chuck, Gary & Troy Ripp

Fietzer Dairy Farms, Inc
Craig & Melissa Fietzer

Brandner Dairy, LLC
Mike, Linda and Damon Brandner

Miltrim Farms Inc
Tom & Lorene Mueller
Scott & Kathy Trimner

Knut Sons, Inc.

Hiemstra Dairy LLC
Josh & Roberta Hiemstra
Robert Hiemstra

Emerald Dairy, LLC
John Vrieze

J.M. Schmidt & Sons, Inc.

J-Springs Dairy
Judy Springstroh, Amber Springstroh
Tami Ziegler

Larson Acres, Inc.
Ed & Mike Larson

Norm-E-Lane, Inc.
Jerry Meissner

Baudhuin's Grandview Dairy LLC
Bob & Rob Baudhuin

Condon's Dairy Farm
Robert & Lisa Condon

Banker's Scenic-View Farm
Jack Banker

S&S Ag Enterprises LLC
Randy & Dena Schmidt

Ocooch Dairy
Dr. Jim Mlsna

Cottonwood Dairy LLC
Jim Winn

Rolling Hills Dairy Farm, LLC
Wanda, Kevin & Scott Gaedtke
Kim Kroll

Beck Dairy Farms, LLC
David & Mary Beck
Michael & Tammy Beck

Five Star Dairy, LLC
Lee Jensen

Merry Water Farms
Keith ,Ken, Walter, Mary York
and John Tueting

Four Mile Creek Dairy
Jim and Audrey Kusilek

Clover Hill Dairy LLC
Joe & Chris Bonlender
w/Sara & Brett (children)

Country Aire Farms LLC

Baldwin Dairy
John Vrieze

Micke Dairy LLC
Brian Micke

Central Sands Dairy

Dairy Dreams LLC
Don Niles

Wild Rose Dairy, LLC
Art Thelen

Roecker's Rolling Acres LLC
Gerald & Margaret Roecker
Randy & Ruth Roecker

Van De Walle Farms LLC
Leland & Ann Van De Walle
and Family

Pond Hill Dairy
Keith Moritz

Kutz Dairy
Ron, Aaron and Allan Kutz

Mueller Dairy Farm LLC
Mark & Nancy Mueller

Kinnamon Ridge Dairy, LLC

Rosendale Dairy
Jim Ostrom, John Vosters
and Todd Willer

Virhada Holsteins

Duescher's Legendairy Farms
Keith Duescher

D&D Hawkins Farms Inc.
Dennis Hawkins

Rowekamp Farms
Bill Rowekamp

Dietsche's Dairy
Marv & Kathy Dietsche