

*For Immediate Release
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Loss in Immigrant Labor Force Means Loss for Wisconsin's Economy

Wisconsin's economy could lose \$7 billion and 40,000 jobs if federal immigration policy is not reformed, according to an estimate from the National Milk Producers Federation.

A drop in milk output due to a partial loss of the labor force, combined with the potential decline in dairy processing, could be the result if the need for farm workers is not considered in immigration policy reform. Approximately 30 percent of Wisconsin's dairy work force is hired, and NMPF gauges that half of those workers are immigrants.

"A 15 percent loss of workers would translate into a loss of 3.6 billion pounds of milk or \$690 million. More disturbing, this economic impact loss multiplied across the state would be as much as \$2.5 billion and 15,000 jobs, said Laurie Fischer, the Dairy Business Association's Executive Director.

On the dairy processing side, 2,500 Wisconsinites would be out of work due to a reduction in the amount of milk being produced in the state and entering the milk, cheese and other dairy product plants.

"The need to address this issue is urgent in order to address the labor concerns of dairy producers and prevent significant upheaval in our industry. Many Wisconsin jobs, not only at the farm level but also in upstream and downstream industries, rely on the profitability of these farms" said Fischer.

The Dairy Business Association is an industry organization comprised of dairy producers, corporate and allied industry supporters. DBA promotes the growth and success of all dairy farms in Wisconsin by fostering a positive business and political environment. For more information about DBA, please visit our website at www.widba.com.