



KEEPING THE COWS IN WISCONSIN™

To: All DBA Members

From: Laurie Fischer – Executive Director

The “Real ID Bill” we need to pay attention to the details

If your dairy or business uses migrant or seasonal laborers in your operation you need to become familiar with changes that will take place when they need to renew or obtain a drivers license in any state in the union.

The original Real ID bill was introduced by Wisconsin Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner and quickly passed the House. The bill initially, was a homeland security issue as Congressman Sensenbrenner noted in his comments to the house during debate that 18 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers obtained fraudulent identification, including driver's licenses.

In May of 2005 The U.S. Congress passed the federal REAL ID Act which in part, mandates federal standards for all state drivers' licensing by May 2008. To comply with this federal mandate the Wisconsin State Legislature approved Assembly Bill 69 last session, which Governor Doyle signed as Act 126 in March 2006. Act 126 is slated to take effect April 1, 2007. But, on March 2, 2007 it was announced that enforcement of the Federal Real ID Act of 2005 has been [postponed for two years](#). This means that the provisions of the bill will be delayed from going into effect until the end of 2009. But Wisconsin's law which has a **April 1, 2007 implementation date** has not changed.

A host of other states are now weighing legislation to oppose Real ID, but regardless, as it stands now in 2009 the provisions of Real ID are suppose to be in place nationwide. Dairy Business Association is closely monitoring this legislation to be certain that our members are given timely and accurate information related to what forms of identification your employees will be required to have to obtain a Wisconsin Driver's license or identification card.

The 2005 law requires new tamper-proof security features on licenses issued only to people who can prove citizenship or legal status. Their personal information would be kept in a database network that would be accessible by motor vehicle departments nationwide. All Americans would be required to renew their licenses by 2013. Those without one would be barred from federal buildings or airplanes unless they could show a passport or some other form of federally approved photo identification. Licenses from non-complying states will not be accepted as identification for purposes of airline travel or entering federal buildings.

After April 1st, 2007, Wisconsin's Act 126 will require all applicants for a driver license or identification card to prove they are in the country legally. As of April 1, 2007 persons applying for an original Wisconsin driver license or ID card will need to prove they are in the country legally. Additionally, persons applying for renewal, re-issuance, reinstatement or a duplicate Wisconsin driver license or ID card will also need to prove they are in the country legally. Act 126 also requires the Wisconsin Department of transportation to cancel the Wisconsin driver license or ID card of a person upon notification by a local, state or federal government agency that the person does not have legal presence in the country.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation lists 10 different documents which they can accept as satisfactory proof of a person's citizenship, legal permanent resident status, conditional resident status or legal presence in the United States. They can be viewed at; <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/doc/proof-legal.htm#documentation>. If you need additional information or have questions on how this change in the law might affect your individual operation don't hesitate contacting the Dairy Business Association office at 920-788-7588.