



# Legislative Watch

Issues important to today's dairy farmers

## NMPF Opposes EPA Plan to Tax Cattle in Order to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

NMPF recently joined a coalition of agricultural groups in opposing a tentative plan to tax livestock in order to mitigate the greenhouse gases they emit. In comments submitted in response to an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR), NMPF pointed out the negative consequences that could occur if EPA proceeds to rulemaking with this ANPR.

The ANPR was issued last July to invite public reaction on how EPA would regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the Clean Air Act in response to a Supreme Court decision giving it the power to do so.

NMPF expressed concern that the negative consequences for animal agriculture are potentially large, and could result in a substantial fee being paid by producers if the EPA proceeds with its plan. In fact, NMPF pointed out that the imposition of GHG standards will have the perverse effect of stifling further innovation by dairy producers, hindering work with the research and extension community, and reducing the risk taking involved in the industry's continual efforts to reduce costs and increase profitability.

NMPF offered statistical examples of how well animal agriculture and the farming sector has reduced or held GHG emissions constant relative to the amount of food produced to satisfy the needs of consumers in the U.S. and worldwide. These include:

- Animal agriculture's GHG emissions from 1990 to 2005 have remained nearly constant, increasing by only about 3.5 percent since 1990, while over the same period total U.S. meat production has increased 50 percent, milk production has increased almost 20 percent, and egg production has increased about 32 percent.

- While animal agriculture has been reported by the United Nations as responsible for 18 percent of GHG emissions worldwide, animal feeding operation systems more similar to U.S.-style operations are reported by the U.N. as accounting for only 5 percent of GHG emissions worldwide.

- Animal agriculture in the U.S. does even better than its counterpart systems worldwide, as it was directly responsible for about 2.5 percent of total U.S. emissions in 2007 as reported by the EPA.

- Between 1948 to the present, while the manure generated by U.S. meat-producing animals has been reduced in total by 25 percent, the production of meat from the animal herd has been increased 700 percent.

- These considerations and statistics are further corroborated by the more in-depth work that has been done recently on the GHG footprint of the U.S. dairy sector and summarized in the table below.

Year	1944	2007
# Dairy Cows	25.6 Million	9.2 Million
Pounds of Milk	120 Billion	190 Billion
US Population	130 Million	302 Million
GHG Units Per Cow	30 kg	60 kg
GHG Units	768 Million	552 Million
GHG for "System" per Pound Milk	3.5 kg	1.3 kg

- The U.S. dairy system is today supplying consumers' needs for dairy products with about one-third of the GHG emissions generated by the system in 1944 per pound of milk produced.

EPA will review these comments, along with others that they receive as they decide whether to proceed to publish a proposed rule in the future.

## CWT to Continue in 2009

Cooperatives Working Together has received commitments from its members that they will continue to fund the program in 2009, CWT officials confirmed December 17.

“Now more than ever, CWT is the only answer to the question of what can farmers do to positively impact their milk price,” said Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of NMPF, which manages CWT. “Both world and U.S. dairy markets are sagging and things look tough for 2009. Our members recognize that this program is the best way to help balance supply and demand and positively impact producers’ bottom line.”

“With the continued investment individual producers and cooperatives are making, CWT will have the financial resources to remove more cows, and export more products, that will help battle the decline in dairy prices in 2009,” Kozak said.

An independent economic analysis of CWT, conducted this fall by Dr. Scott Brown of the University of Missouri’s College of Agriculture, demonstrated that farmers’ return of investment in CWT has been 76 cents per hundredweight. Moreover, Brown’s analysis showed that the return farmers enjoy grows as the program develops over time.



From planting through feedout, your Pioneer sales professional can help you monitor all the variables of corn silage production with informative inputs for your growing decisions — from hybrid selection and agronomic management in the field to harvest and storage management at the silo or bunker. Your Pioneer sales professional will provide a combination of experience, agronomic and nutritional knowledge and support to help you achieve nutritious feed for maximum milk production with your corn silage program. For more information, visit [www.pioneer.com/forage](http://www.pioneer.com/forage)



Pioneer® brand corn silage hybrids and inoculants, including 11CFT corn fiber technology...  
Leading the way to more nutritious feed



**PIONEER**  
A DUPONT COMPANY

*Science with Service  
Delivering Success™*

®, ™, SM Trademarks and service marks of Pioneer Hi-Bred. All purchases are subject to the terms of labeling and purchase documents. © 2008 PHIL FORAGO10868P360MVBR1