



FINAL 2016 RESOLUTIONS

The following Final 2016 Resolutions were presented and voted upon at Minnesota Milk's Annual Business Meeting held Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN. Final Resolutions are posted at www.mnmilk.org.

Resolutions 1 – 6	2016 TOP DAIRY INITIATIVES
Resolutions 7 – 16	ADDITIONAL STATE LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS
Resolutions 17 – 23	ADDITIONAL STATE REGULATORY CONCERNS
Resolutions 24 – 34	FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS
Resolutions 35 – 38	ANIMAL HEALTH AND CARE CONCERNS
Resolutions 39 – 43	GENERAL AND/OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

RESOLUTION #1: SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION DAIRY FARMERS

WHEREAS, the average age of Minnesota dairy farmers continues to increase, with 22% of the state's dairy farmers under the age of 45 years old; and,

WHEREAS, trans-generational and beginning farmers rejuvenate and reinvest into Minnesota's dairy farms and its infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, trans-generational and beginning farmers face many financial challenges, including limited access to capital needed to generate sustainable revenue for the incoming generation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association support programs, partnerships and collaborations that increase the success of trans-generational and beginning farmers entering dairy farming as a career.

RESOLUTION #2: STRENGTHENING MINNESOTA'S PROCESSING SECTOR

WHEREAS, growth and prosperity of the dairy industry is important to the state of Minnesota economically, socially and environmentally; and

WHEREAS, processing and innovation is critical to a prosperous dairy industry in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers and processing partners work together to further success of the dairy industry; and

WHEREAS, continued growth and advancement of Minnesota's processing sector provides for strategic growth for making Minnesota a more profitable state for dairy; and

WHEREAS, insufficient processing innovation and capacity inhibits growth in Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports direct incentives to encourage further innovation and increased milk processing capacity to add value to Minnesota produced milk.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLUTION #3: INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES AND MILK PROCESSORS

WHEREAS, a vibrant, diverse and growing dairy processing sector is vital to dairy producer sustainability; and

WHEREAS, local infrastructure needs such as roads, bridges, utilities, water supply and wastewater facilities affect the ability of milk processors to remain competitive; and

WHEREAS, ongoing operations and any planned expansion by milk processors located in communities whose infrastructure is inadequate to meet their operational needs will jeopardize jobs and economic impact in Greater Minnesota and dairy farmer sustainability; and

WHEREAS, state financial assistance is needed to ensure that municipalities can make timely improvements to public infrastructure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports funding and incentives to maintain or improve essential local infrastructure.

RESOLUTION #4: DAIRY RESEARCH, TEACHING AND CONSUMER EDUCATION CENTER

WHEREAS, University of Minnesota research has been a building block for production agriculture in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Colleges and University system, especially the dairy program at Ridgewater College does an outstanding job of preparing students for a career in dairy production in spite of inadequate teaching facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Authority will foster cooperation between the University of Minnesota and the dairy industry to enhance research capabilities and improve productivity and profitability for Minnesota dairies; and

WHEREAS, the Authority and the Center it establishes will prepare the next generation of dairy operators for business success using environmentally sound practices, improved animal care and enhanced product quality and use; and

WHEREAS, the Center will provide a means to inform consumers of the health benefits of current and newly developed dairy products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports development of a sustainable, long-term business model, with permanent operating funding in place and reliance on grants for research and facilities up-grades.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports pre-design, design, land acquisition, and construction funding for the Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Center through an allocation of state general obligation bond proceeds.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports legislative approval of general fund appropriations to support operation of a Dairy Research Training and Consumer Education Center within the state of Minnesota.

RESOLUTION #5: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE, PERMITTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

WHEREAS, well managed dairy operations provide significant natural resource benefits to Minnesota due to the substantial acreage committed to alfalfa and hay production which reduces soil erosion and the application of manure as a soil amendment and natural crop fertilizer; and

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General
&/or Non-Governmental Concerns

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers are committed to protecting our natural resources for the benefit of all citizens as well as the dairy farmer's well-being; and

WHEREAS, the viability of Minnesota's dairy industry depends on reasonable and rational environmental regulatory processes for permitting, environmental review and compliance that do not reduce existing environmental protection standards; and

WHEREAS, the existing processes for permitting, environmental review and compliance in Minnesota present significant challenges for livestock farmers, supporting industry, state and local officials, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the development of a permitting, environmental review and compliance framework which would provide greater certainty with respect to permit and compliance requirements and timelines; and

WHEREAS, activist attorneys and/or special interest groups are misleading and influencing townships to adopt arbitrary and onerous zoning ordinances that conflict with federal, state and county permits, ordinances and other regulations which ultimately threatens Minnesota animal agriculture;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the establishment of a permitting and environmental review process that provides farmers, supporting industry, and state and local officials with clarity, consistency and timeliness.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports existing environmental compliance standards – MinnFARM standards for non-CAFOs and zero discharge standards for CAFOs.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports ordinances and regulations based on sound science and current technology and an environmental review process which ensures that Minnesota dairy farmers are not put at a disadvantage compared to farmers in other states.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges State, County and Township officials to join the Association in developing proposals to improve the current process.

RESOLUTION #6: SAFER ROADS

WHEREAS, employment opportunities in rural agricultural communities often attract a high population of undocumented Minnesota residents;

WHEREAS, undocumented Minnesota residents cannot currently receive a driver's license from the State of Minnesota,

WHEREAS, completing proper driver training and successful passage of driver exams will allow undocumented Minnesota residents to be safer drivers in our communities;

WHEREAS, the privilege of a license to drive legally in the State of Minnesota would allow undocumented Minnesota residents to have a safe and legal means of transportation for emergency and other purposes, making safer communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports legislation requiring the State of Minnesota to offer a provisional driver's license to undocumented Minnesota residents when those applicants demonstrate they have automotive and personal injury liability insurance and meet minimum safety or driver training standards.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

STATE LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

RESOLUTION #7: HEALTH INSURANCE AND AFFORDABILITY

WHEREAS, the cost of health insurance premiums are rising dramatically each year; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of Minnesota farm families cannot afford health insurance coverage and are not eligible for MnSURE; and

WHEREAS, health care reform measures may also provide a framework for developing affordable health care coverage for Minnesota farm families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges both State and Federal officials to implement policies to provide broader and more equitable access to affordable health insurance coverage.

RESOLUTION #8: TAX POLICY – STATE AND FEDERAL

WHEREAS, the dairy industry is a major employer and economic engine for the United States and Greater Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers need to remain competitive in a national market; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers are incurring significant costs relative to their counterparts in neighboring states as they pay state sales tax on equipment and building materials to expand or improve operations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports tax policies that do not discriminate against the unique nature of dairy farms.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports sales tax exemption for materials purchased for new construction or renovation of barns, storage facilities and milking parlors in order to improve Minnesota milk producers' competitive position in the national dairy marketplace.

RESOLUTION #9: COMPETITIVE OVERTIME PAY POLICY

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers are operating in an increasingly competitive national market; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's neighboring states of Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota all recognize and implement the federal farm exemption for overtime payment; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota farm operations currently pay a stepped-up minimum salary established in state law for agricultural operations; and

WHEREAS, employers and workers have developed mutually beneficial work schedules using Minnesota's relatively higher hourly wage rates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports legislation which would place Minnesota on par with neighboring states by ensuring that the federal agriculture exemption for overtime pay is the legal standard established in the state and by rescinding the stepped up minimum salary for agricultural workers.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLUTION #10: LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM AND ACCESS TO CAPITAL

WHEREAS, private sector investment in dairy farm modernization in Minnesota has not kept pace with investments made by dairy operations in other parts of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the capitalization of the Livestock Investment Grant Program will encourage investment by family farmers in Minnesota's dairy industry; and

WHEREAS, the number of dairy farms in Minnesota continues to decline; and

WHEREAS, modernization and expansion of the industry is necessary for Minnesota dairy farmers to compete economically with dairy farmers in other states; and

WHEREAS, many Minnesota dairy farmers lack access to sufficient capital to make the kinds of investments needed to modernize or expand their dairy operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports state funding of the Livestock Investment Grant Program in the amount of at least 40% of total AGRI funding (per year) in order to facilitate modernization of our dairy industry.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports Livestock Investment Grants awarded in amounts not less than 10% of total proposed project costs, not to exceed the current cap of \$50,000, or more for beginning dairy farmers.

RESOLUTION #11: WATER STEWARDSHIP

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers and other agriculture farmers are one of the primary stewards of the waters of our state; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports having all waters of the state designated as to their use and a determination made with respect to natural, background, and/or legacy levels of impairments which contribute to TMDLs; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers propose to actively participate in the TMDL process and the establishment of an equitable fee structure to implement TMDL remedies; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the Minnesota Agriculture Water Resources Center, a formal coalition of farm organizations whose focus is to bring farmers input to the Impaired Waters and TMDL discussion and to help non farmers gain a better understanding of existing practices utilized to protect the waters of our state.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports reasonable, science-based assessments of water quality which take into account modern agricultural practices which limit agriculture's contribution to groundwater and surface water quality concerns.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association encourages State Leaders to target sensitive lands and not take fertile cropland out of production, and urge that any programs be voluntary and not permanent.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges that no additional regulation be imposed.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLUTION #12: HEALTHY CHOICES IN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association believes that the State of Minnesota should support a healthy school environment which improves access to foods which contribute to a healthy diet, such as high quality whole milk, and limits access to those which do not; and

WHEREAS, the availability of high quality milk through various venues in our schools is key to supporting healthy dietary choices; and

WHEREAS, flavored milk is the healthy option for students to choose as a snack or with their lunch, and

WHEREAS, dairy options, including flavored milk, provide students with important nutrients including calcium and Vitamins A and D.

WHEREAS, recently implemented federal school lunch guidelines establish lower limits on caloric intake for students from school lunch programs; and

WHEREAS, the new guidelines are generating complaints from active students and their parents about the adequacy of the modified guidelines in meeting the nutritional needs of at least some children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the State of Minnesota encourage the presentation of healthy beverages including high quality milk and flavored milk, at competitive prices, in the school lunch line, alongside other healthy beverages sold in school vending machines or school stores throughout the state.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that every effort be made to present milk products in the most desirable packaging and at the most desirable temperature in school settings.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association will work with other dairy industry interests to reach out to school nutritionists and food service professionals to encourage the expanded availability of dairy products, including flavored milk, in a healthy meals program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the adjustment to federal school lunch guidelines to allow for additional offerings of milk and other dairy products to meet the caloric/nutritional needs of active students.

RESOLUTION #13: RAW MILK SALES PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

WHEREAS, milk is an important part of a healthy diet for most Americans; and

WHEREAS, milk is made safe by virtue of certain long established processes including dairy inspections and pasteurization; and

WHEREAS, current state law limits the sale of unpasteurized (raw) milk to on-farm sales; and

WHEREAS, consumers will face increased health risks due to greater availability of raw milk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports strong dairy inspection programs and continuation of the current limitations on the sale of raw milk.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota dairy interests, including the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and cooperative organizations strongly oppose the method of marketing raw milk.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association will work with other dairy industry interests to strengthen and clarify state law to limit the availability of raw milk to on-farm sales.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General
&/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLUTION #14: BOARD OF WATER SOIL RESOURCES COST SHARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, all Minnesota dairy farmers over 1,000 animal units are already in compliance with state feedlot rules and all producers under 300 animal units must have sought to come into compliance with the state's feedlot rules, and

WHEREAS, the expense of coming into compliance should not be borne by dairy producers alone since improving our natural resources is a benefit to all citizens and the cost of compliance adds uncompetitive production costs to the smaller-scale dairy farmer; and

WHEREAS, the state established the cost share program to assist farmers in making investments in facilities and practices to bring dairy operations into compliance with the feedlot rules, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's Feedlot Water Quality Grant cost share program is administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); and

WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriated \$260,000, per year for Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 for Feedlot Water Quality Grants which provides competitive grant opportunities for feedlots under 300 animal units, in watersheds where there are impaired waters; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges the state to maintain, at a minimum, current levels of funding to allow feedlot operators to come into compliance with state feedlot rules.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state determine the number and location of dairy operators who are yet to come into compliance with the feedlot rules.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association and State officials work together to facilitate compliance of dairy producers on a realistic timeframe.

RESOLUTION #15: DAIRY DEVELOPMENT AND PROFITABILITY ENHANCEMENT (DDPEP)

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Dairy Initiative (MDI) has been the primary focus of the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement programs (DDPEP); and

WHEREAS, MDI has focused on the delivery of technical and financial services to Minnesota dairy farms; and

WHEREAS, the public investment in MDI helps to retain existing farms and support their ability to modernize and expand; and

WHEREAS, DDPEP has consistently provided at least a 5 to 1 (or more) return on the state's investment thereby adding significant value to the state's three billion dollar dairy industry while serving the farmers of the state; and

WHEREAS, greater flexibility with respect to the administration of state Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement Program would authorize the use of state funds for dairy training and research programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the continuation of funding for the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association also supports maintaining funding for the on-farm component of the program (dairy profitability teams) to continue to serve the individual needs of program participants by addressing management issues which prevent participants from achieving their individual business goals.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the program be modified to provide greater flexibility to allow funds to be used to continue MDI activities and/or fund dairy training and research activities.

RESOLUTION #16: REMEDY FOR STRAY VOLTAGE

WHEREAS, a number of dairy herds continue to experience problems with milk production and animal health associated with stray voltage on Minnesota dairy farms; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive solution to this problem must be found through a commitment of Minnesota utilities to address stray voltage where it exists on their high-voltage transmission or local distribution systems; and

WHEREAS, other dairy states are working to develop mechanisms to address stray voltage concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association work with state utility companies – including rural electric cooperatives – to identify and address stray voltage conditions.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association opposes legislation that would limit the rights of dairy producers pursuing damages in a court of law for alleged electricity pollution and reduced milk production related to stray voltage.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association proposes the use of expert testimonies of veterinarians and researchers to support the case in representing the negative and harmful impact produced by stray voltage.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges further research avenues targeted at identifying solid measurements to accurately represent Minnesota's diverse dairy industry, for the health and protection of the cattle.

STATE REGULATORY CONCERNS

RESOLUTION #17: AGRICULTURE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, landowners currently experience frustration from the need to interact with numerous state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands and drainage activities; and

WHEREAS, landowners experience lack of certainty with regard to wetland definitions and delineations, and a complicated mix of wetland protection laws and wetland restoration programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the development of working agreements between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) that simplify the installation and maintenance of agricultural drainage systems.

RESOLUTION #18: RENEWABLE ENERGY – FEDERAL AND STATE POLICIES AND INCENTIVES

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairies can become significant contributors to our energy supply and to energy self-sufficiency through the continued development and implementation of methane digester technologies that produce bio-gas, electricity and heat from livestock manure, and other clean, renewable energy technologies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the expansion of the state alternative energy production incentive for methane digesters, solar, and small scale wind developments.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General
&/or Non-Governmental Concerns

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports policies and programs that encourage the development and utilization of all sources of ag-based renewable energy resources, including ethanol and biodiesel, that help free us from dependence on fossil fuels.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges the State to establish minimum standards for utility renewable energy production and pricing for net-metering of power which more accurately reflects the cost of generation of power from renewable sources such as on-farm digesters.

RESOLUTION #19: WIND AND SOLAR DEVELOPMENT LEASE AND SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the orderly and safe development of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, some developers are presenting lease documents to landowners which are open-ended as to the wind and solar project development timeframe and contain language which would provide interests in the leased property which are more extensive than what is needed to construct a wind project; and

WHEREAS, some developers are not adhering to manufacturer recommended setbacks for wind turbines and solar panels; and

WHEREAS, stray voltage can be a problem for dairy farms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports a time limit on wind and solar project lease terms of seven years, by which time a project must have commenced construction or the lease is void, requiring that a new lease be negotiated and executed.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that wind and solar project leases must be limited to real estate interests which are necessary to develop a wind project.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that state site permit standards for wind turbine and solar setbacks be reviewed and modified to reflect at least current manufacturer setback distances.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that wind developers conduct independent pre and post-development testing for stray voltage for dairy farms located with a wind and solar project footprint.

RESOLUTION #20: OPPOSITION TO BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is developing a draft program design for a recycling refund program for beverage containers in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota currently rates second in per capita recycling among all states without having a recycling refund/deposit program in place; and

WHEREAS, a recycling refund/deposit program would impose significant costs for both consumers and businesses using beverage containers in Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association opposes the establishment of a recycling refund/deposit program for beverage containers in Minnesota.

RESOLUTION #21: CORPORATE OWNERSHIP OF FARMLAND

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association believes that local, private ownership of farmland is necessary for building and maintaining healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, absentee ownership by corporations does not contribute to maintaining healthy communities; and

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns • **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

WHEREAS, certain business structures such as limited liability companies, farm producer corporations or other networking structures for producers to work together attract outside capital and spread risk to afford the opportunity for locally owned, farmer managed, dairies to succeed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the current corporate farm law provisions.

RESOLUTION #22: STATE SUPPORT FOR DAIRY RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, research and market development improves processor efficiencies and increases consumption of dairy products; and

WHEREAS, state assistance for research and market development for Minnesota's dairy processing sector will provide job growth and dairy producer sustainability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges support for research and market development from the state through the University of Minnesota, the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute and other entities, including check-off organizations, to grow a vibrant and diverse Minnesota dairy industry.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association will work with these existing dairy research and market development institutions to ensure coordination and cooperation with research undertaken by the emerging Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Center.

RESOLUTION #23: OPTIONS FOR ANIMAL DISPOSAL

WHEREAS, the food and drug administration has developed rules which prevent the rendering of animals over 30 months of age; and

WHEREAS, some County regulations do not allow composting or burial of animals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports having the Board of Animal Health be the leading state agency to set, implement or enforce policies relating to animal disposal practices.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that additional options for disposal of animals must be uniformly available to producers across the state including continuation of financial support through programs such as EQIP.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

RESOLUTION #24: FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill supports programs which impact Minnesota dairy farmers, including Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP), LGM-Livestock, Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP), and other conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the existing MPP rule does not address the establishment of additional production history for a participating dairy in instances of an inter-generational transfer or when a family member joins a participating dairy operation; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Farm Bill contains nutrition assistance programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and School Breakfast Program (SBP); and

WHEREAS, dairy products should continue to be a primary food source in all USDA food assistance programs: and

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns • **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

WHEREAS, alfalfa and other grass-based forages have a positive impact on the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges USDA to educate producers about the programs in the 2014 Farm Bill, specifically, MPP and EQIP.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association will work with United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Services to ensure proper implementation of federal programs on dairy farms.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the MPP should allow for additional production history for a participating dairy when a family member joins or when an inter-generational transfers occurs.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association continue discussions with Minnesota's Congressional Delegation to advance the principles established in the 2014 Farm Bill.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the inclusion and federal funding of nutrition assistance programs contained in the 2014 Farm Bill.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports permanent and full funding of LGM-Livestock program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that national dairy policy should encourage domestic and export market growth and consumption of dairy products.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that future farm policy should eliminate the penalty which farmers experience in moving cropland to alfalfa or other grass-based forages.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association work to identify resources to offset any negative repercussions for transitioning to a higher grass based production.

RESOLUTION #25: RISK MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR MILK PRODUCERS

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers require access to improved tools to help them manage the risks inherent in modern agriculture, including adverse weather and severe market fluctuations; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers who do not have access to adequate risk management tools will struggle to obtain financing for their dairy operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the development and implementation of strong risk management tools to protect the financial viability of dairy operations.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports efforts to educate farmers regarding the availability and efficacy of utilizing federal risk management programs.

RESOLUTION #26: FAIR MILK PRICE

WHEREAS, profitability continues to be a significant problem facing dairy farmers; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant spread between the retail price of milk and the farm gate price for milk.

WHEREAS, certain processors are capturing significant margins in the market by means of labeling practices which imply that safe and approved animal treatment technologies are not perfectly safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that state and federal policymakers and dairy operators' milk processing partners work to secure a greater proportion of the milk price for milk producers.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General
&/or Non-Governmental Concerns

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state prohibit unfair or inaccurate labeling practices which increase cost to consumers without providing price benefit to producers.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports establishment of a national system to verify cold storage reports.

RESOLUTION #27: TRUTH IN LABELING FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, liquid extracted from grains, seeds, beans or leaves of various plants are being processed and marketed as “milk”; and

WHEREAS, these imitation dairy products are not nutritionally the same as real milk; and

WHEREAS, the labeling and placement of these products in the marketplace serve to confuse consumers regarding the relative benefits of these products; and

WHEREAS, it is a longstanding public policy to ensure that consumers receive accurate information regarding products they are purchasing for consumption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the term “milk” be reserved for foods that come from mammals.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that non-dairy products be labeled with information to ensure that consumers understand that imitation dairy products do not contain the same nutrient value as real milk.

RESOLUTION #28: FLUID MILK SOLID STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the current fluid milk solid standards are not uniform nationally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports raising the solids standards for fluid milk at least equal to the level of fresh milk from the farm and consider adopting California standards nationwide.

RESOLUTION #29: IMPORT QUALITY AND SAFETY AND EXPORT STANDARDS

WHEREAS, imported dairy products may not be inspected as stringently as are U.S. dairy products; and

WHEREAS, an inadequate inspection system may constitute a bio-security risk; and

WHEREAS, the movement of dairy products in international commerce calls for efforts to ensure that U.S. milk complies with certain minimal production standards; and

WHEREAS, international trade in dairy products should be governed by fair, reciprocal product standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports federal legislation to increase inspection of imports, enhance tracking, and to ensure that imported products adhere to the same regulations as U.S. products.

RESOLUTION #30: TRADE POLICIES

WHEREAS, international trade policies have a significant impact on Minnesota dairy farmers.

WHEREAS, many well-known cheeses trace their origins to Europe, and decades of trade and emigration have increased the familiarity and production of these cheeses beyond that of the historically European geographic region. To the extent that many of these cheeses are known by common food names regardless of the geographic area it is produced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns • **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the development of trade policies and regional trade agreements that safeguard U.S. dairy production and economics.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we specifically oppose including dairy in the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement. Such action would result in superseding existing bilateral agreements, such as the U.S./Australia FTA, and open the U.S. market for increased imports of dairy products without gaining any increased market access for U.S. exports.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the goal of U.S. trade policy and future trade agreements should be to expand access to profitable markets for exports of U.S. dairy and other agricultural products.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S. trade policy should limit the efforts of the European Union to gain exclusive geographical indication coverage of many common names of cheeses, many of which, the generic names have been used and recognized throughout the world.

RESOLUTION #31: NEW AND EXISTING TECHNOLOGIES AND PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, new and existing technologies and products continue to be researched by Universities and private institutions to improve the safe production of foods including milk; and

WHEREAS, the consumers are assured of the safety and quality of the food supply by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other responsible governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have all confirmed the safety of food and animal feed that contain genetically modified organisms which are made through biotechnology; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers are committed to the production of quality, safe milk, excellent care of their animals and the sustainable use of our natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the use of new and existing technologies and products by dairy farmers when approved by the responsible governmental agencies.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges processors and marketers of milk to refrain from misleading claims about the safety and quality of milk.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association does not support food labels which would mislead consumers about the safety of biotechnology, erode the credibility of FDA and discourage consumer confidence of new, beneficial technologies; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any attempt to disseminate misleading consumer messages denies dairy farmers the freedom to produce and market a quality product.

RESOLUTION #32: IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association understands the importance of reforming federal immigration policy for the dairy industry; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Milk Producers Association has been working with Minnesota's Congressional delegation on a reform package that protects Minnesota's dairy families, their employees and their animals; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Workforce Coalition has undertaken efforts to develop solutions for dairy operations that employ immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, the changing demographics across the U.S. clearly show a shortage of qualified workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that immigration reform should be handled at the Federal level and not by individual states.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General
&/or Non-Governmental Concerns

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports a comprehensive immigration reform plan and establishment of a guest worker program to address immediate worker needs.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports implementation of the "AG Card" and Temporary Worker Visa proposals developed by the Agriculture Workforce Coalition.

RESOLUTION #33: CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLEAN AIR ACT

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association recognizes the climate is changing; and

WHEREAS, factors impacting climate change are worldwide in scope; and

WHEREAS, the dairy industry's carbon footprint per pound of milk produced has been shrinking since 1944; and

WHEREAS, there is little or no conclusive scientific evidence indicating that particulate matter from farm operations adversely affects public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges policy aimed at impacting climate change be resolved on a national and international level.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association calls for the adoption of environmental regulations based on sound science and by means of a transparent process, and that regulations be administered in a practical manner so as to prevent undue hardship for dairy farmers.

RESOLUTION #34: ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION AND TAX RATE

WHEREAS, estate tax law has significant impact on succession planning for dairy operations; and

WHEREAS, the current federal estate tax exemption and tax rate provide a reasonable framework for the tax treatment of a descendant's assets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the continuation of the current federal estate tax exemption and tax rate.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports indexing the level of exemption for inflation and continuation of stepped-up bases and provisions for spousal portability in order to provide long-term certainty for estate planning work.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND CARE CONCERNS

RESOLUTION #35: VETERINARY EDUCATION AND VETERINARIAN LOAN FORGIVENESS

WHEREAS, the long-term sustainability of Minnesota's dairy industry depends upon having a sufficient number of veterinarians trained in the care of animals in production agriculture; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with existing dairy operations which provide opportunities for veterinary students to receive hands-on experience are a practical way to provide training opportunities for veterinarians; and

WHEREAS, the cost of pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine is placing pressure on veterinary students to pursue alternatives to work in animal agriculture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General
&/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLVED, the College of Veterinary Medicine should work closely with large scale dairy operations to maintain facilities and programs which allow practical, hands-on experience for veterinary students to work with animals in production agriculture.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that funds be appropriated to provide loan forgiveness for graduates of the School of Veterinarian Medicine who practice in Minnesota in the area of food animal agriculture for a period of at least five years following their graduation from the School of Veterinary Medicine.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports federal funding for the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine National Center for Dairy Veterinary Education as a National Center of Excellence in Dairy Veterinary Medical Education as authorized by the Federal Farm Bill.

RESOLUTION #36: CARE OF ANIMALS

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports a vibrant livestock sector and believes in maintaining consumer confidence in the Nation's food supply; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers provide quality care of their animals; and

WHEREAS, the foundation for the care of dairy animals is based on the values and integrity of the dairy farmers whose way of life is dependent upon the health and well-being of their animals; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association will participate in initiatives which seek to establish livestock care standards that are based on sound science, economic feasibility and which are broadly accepted in the marketplace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges its members to provide quality housing, nutrition, husbandry and Veterinary care to all animals.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association work with other entities to ensure animal care standards are being met and to educate the broader community, including elected officials, about current animal care practices.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association opposes initiatives to impose arbitrary animal care standards through statute.

RESOLUTION #37: EMPLOYMENT UNDER FALSE PRETENSES

WHEREAS, a central concern of Minnesota dairy farmers is the health and comfort of their livestock; and

WHEREAS, individual farmers and the dairy industry as a whole can suffer significant economic consequences from findings or even allegations of animal abuse; and

WHEREAS, opponents of animal agriculture may seek to gain access to farm operations under false pretenses in order to record real or staged instances of substandard animal care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association remains vigilant in their commitment to proper animal care.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the enactment of penalties for individuals who would gain access to animal agriculture operations under false pretenses in order to stage and record the mistreatment of animals.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLUTION #38: JOHNE'S DISEASE

WHEREAS, Johne's Disease is a threat and can be detected through testing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association requests that the state and federal governments provide cost-share funding for the cost of a voluntary testing program with the goal of establishing Minnesota as a Johne's-free state.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state of Minnesota continue the Johne's testing program.

GENERAL AND/OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

RESOLUTION #39: SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND MNSCU PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota Land Grant College provides Minnesota Citizens an opportunity for continuing education through the University of Minnesota Extension; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association has partnered with Extension in the development and hosting of this convention and other educational events; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Farm Business Management program within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) system provides crucial business management support to dairy producers and the Ridgewater College program provides youth with education for dairy production careers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges the Extension to increase animal production agriculture staffing in the University of Minnesota.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges counties to support the satellite offices of the Extension.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association urges continued support for the Ridgewater College and urges MNSCU to improve and strengthen the Adult Farm Business Management program.

RESOLUTION #40: US DAIRY SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

WHEREAS, the dairy industry is working to provide consumers with the nutritious and responsibly produced products they want, while developing a more sustainable food system for the 21st century and beyond; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers are committed to socially responsible, economically viable and environmentally sound practices that promote the current and future health and wellbeing of our consumers, our communities, our employees, our cows, our planet, and our business through leadership in innovation and research; and

WHEREAS the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy is a collaboration effort of experts from academia, government, nongovernment organizations, as well as professionals from the U.S. dairy value chain whose focus is to measure, improve and communicate dairy's role in a sustainable food system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports the dairy industry's sustainability commitment through the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Milk Producers Association will provide input and assistance to its members as they work to optimize their production practices and to communicate positive contributions their farm businesses make.

Minnesota Milk Producers Association's Final 2016 Resolutions

Resolutions 1-6: 2016 Top Dairy Initiatives • **Resolutions 7-16:** State Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 17-23:** State Regulatory Concerns
• **Resolutions 24-34:** Federal Legislative Concerns • **Resolutions 35-38:** Animal Health and Care Concerns • **Resolutions 39-43:** General &/or Non-Governmental Concerns

RESOLUTION #41: PRESERVATION OF PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND

WHEREAS, feeding a growing world population will become an ever more challenging task for the agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS, valuable, productive agricultural land is being diverted to development and non-productive conservation uses at a steady rate; and

WHEREAS, preservation of productive agricultural land will be essential to producing enough food to feed people around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports policies that would protect the diversion of productive agricultural land to industrial, commercial or residential uses or to non-productive conservation uses.

RESOLUTION #42: FARM YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS INCLUDING 4-H AND FFA

WHEREAS, the 4-H Program and FFA have successfully served generations of rural youth with practical education and leadership training; and

WHEREAS, maintaining strong youth programs in Minnesota which focus on agricultural activities is vitally important to preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports continued state and county funding to maintain 4-H and state and school district funding to maintain FFA Programs throughout Minnesota.

RESOLUTION #43: STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

WHEREAS, the dairy farmer and their cooperatives must work together to get a fair price for their product; and

WHEREAS, the cost of transporting milk for processing in the Upper Midwest is considerably higher than in other milk producing regions; and

WHEREAS, this cost is being paid by the producer -- either directly or indirectly; and

WHEREAS, enhanced outcomes can be gained through strategic alliances and coalitions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association supports Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) Program which bring cooperatives and farmers together to achieve common goals.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that dairy farmers and milk processing partners continue working to improve hauling efficiencies by every means possible in order to reduce assembly costs.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Milk Producers Association seek strategic alliances when improved association priority outcomes can be achieved.