



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker



Agriculture
and Markets

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Michael Young
Acting Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
12th & Jefferson Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Young:

We are writing to ask your help in providing urgently needed assistance to Wisconsin and New York dairy farmers victimized by Canada's recent actions to shut down the ultra-filtered milk trade from U.S. producers.

Canada informed major Wisconsin and New York processors that they will no longer have a market for ultra-filtered milk. In Wisconsin this action impacts about 75 farmers, leaving them with no buyer for about one million pounds of their hard-earned daily milk production as of May 1st. If these multi-generational farm families cannot find another market for their milk, they will be forced to sell their cows and go out of business.

In Wisconsin the DATCP's Farm Center staff is contacting all milk processors across the State and in other parts of the country to assist Wisconsin dairy farmers impacted by Canada's actions.

As Secretary and Commissioner of our respective Departments, we urge USDA to assist us in our efforts to help our producers by exercising its authority to purchase cheese and butter in storage and distribute it through USDA's nutritional aid programs, including food banks and our national school programs.

Wisconsin is home to 9,236 dairy farms, more than any other state in the country with 1.28 million cows. 96 percent of Wisconsin farms are family-owned, with an average number of 138 cows per farm. Dairy is the largest segment of Wisconsin agriculture; of the \$88.3 billion economic impact of agriculture, \$43.4 billion is generated by the dairy industry, including 78,900 jobs.

New York exports more to Canada than to any other country in the world. Last year, the bilateral trade relationship totaled \$32.93 billion in goods and supported over 500,000 jobs regionally. New York's dairy industry is the State's largest agricultural sector having almost 5,000 family-run farms that are home to over 618,000 cows, resulting in an average of 128 cows per farm. In 2015, the dairy community brought in \$2.5 billion in sales and employed close to 20,000 people.

Agriculture generates \$88 billion for Wisconsin

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Wisconsin and New York have always appreciated our partnership with USDA and look forward to working with the department to support our dairy farmers during this trying time. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Brancel".

Ben Brancel
Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard A. Ball".

Richard Ball
Commissioner