



National Milk Producers Federation

2107 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201 | (703) 243-6111 | www.nmpf.org

Agri-Mark, Inc.
Associated Milk Producers Inc.
Bongards' Creameries
California Dairies, Inc.
Cayuga Marketing Cooperative Milk Producers Association
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
First District Association
Foremost Farms USA
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Lone Star Milk Producers
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association
Northwest Dairy Association
Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
Premier Milk Inc.
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
Southeast Milk, Inc.
Tillamook County Creamery Association
United Dairywomen of Arizona
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

John Barsa
Acting Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, D.C. 20523-1000

Dear Secretary Perdue and Acting Administrator Barsa:

America's dairy farmers have long been proud of their vital role in not only feeding America, but also in helping feed our neighbors in need around the world. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten reliable and affordable access to food supplies in many developing nations, the U.S. is presented with a crucial opportunity to continue this honorable mission by ensuring that American dairy products are distributed to those facing a dire hunger crisis.

I am writing today to encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to work together to purchase nonfat dry milk powder from U.S. farmers who, because of disrupted domestic markets, have an abundance of supply that could be donated to those nations lacking sufficient food supplies and unable to fully meet those needs commercially.

Dairy plays an important role in a healthy diet and milk powder specifically serves a vital function as a key source of high-quality protein and a number of micro-nutrients. This is a versatile dairy ingredient that can help fulfill key nutrient needs for healthy child development and adult wellness.

USDA and USAID must closely coordinate their efforts and diligently work to ensure that nonfat dry milk powder is quickly purchased and then efficiently donated to our international partners. National Milk Producers Federation, representing America's dairy producers and their farmer-owned cooperatives, stands ready to assist in whatever way that we can.

I thank you both for your incredible leadership and efforts to ensure that no one goes hungry during this unprecedented global crisis. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with your staff at a time convenient to your agencies. Jaime Castaneda of my staff will reach out to discuss this important opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jim Mulhern
President & CEO
National Milk Producers Federation