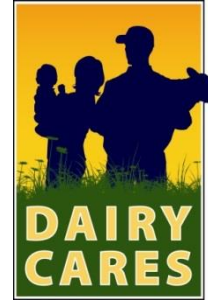


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Dairy Cares Newsletter

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California dairy farmers continue to lead nation with animal care quality assurance efforts

California is well-known for many things across our nation and around the world. Hollywood, Silicon Valley, Disneyland, surfing and movie star governors just to name a few. But California has another important distinction as the home to an industry that nourishes millions of people across the globe.

For more than 60 years, California has been the leading agricultural producing state in the nation, totaling \$37.5 billion in farm receipts in 2010. Part of the annual bountiful harvest includes the production of safe, nutritious and affordable milk, with 20 percent of the U.S. milk supply produced in the Golden State.

While Mother Nature is partly responsible for making California the leading farm and dairy state, it has been the vision, innovation and risk taking exhibited by generations of farmers that has made California the leader it is today.

So it's no surprise that California dairy farmers were among the first in the nation to implement the [National Dairy FARM \(Farmers Assuring Responsible Management\) Program](#). The comprehensive animal well-being program, which includes on-site farm evaluations and independent third-party verification, was launched in March 2010. Since then, more than 725 California dairy farms (about 44 percent of the state's dairy farms) have been evaluated using the program's 77-point animal care and well-being guidelines.



Prior to the implementation of the Dairy FARM Program by California dairy cooperatives and proprietary processors last year, dairy farmers had the opportunity to attend a series of educational classes on topics related to dairy animal well-being and care.

The classes were developed and delivered by the [California Dairy Quality Assurance Program](#) (CDQAP), where leading University of California animal welfare researchers and veterinarians provided dairy farmers and their employees information on the latest science and innovations related to the care, comfort and health of dairy cows and calves. Since 2010, more than 875 dairy farmers and employees have attended one of the 28 classes conducted by CDQAP statewide.

Dairy Cares coalition members recently released a short video about the National Dairy FARM Program and the California dairy community's leadership efforts to implement it. Click [here](#) to view the video or visit the 'Video Archives' section at www.DairyCares.com.

Dairy Cares is a statewide coalition supporting economic and environmental sustainability and responsible animal care. Our members include Bar 20 Dairy Farms, California Cattlemen's Association, California Dairies Inc., California Dairy Campaign, California Dairy Research Foundation, California Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Farmers of America-Western Area Council, Dairy Institute of California, GHD, Inc., Hilmar Cheese Co., Joseph Gallo Farms, Land O'Lakes, Merck Animal Health, Milk Producers Council, Ruan Transport Corp., Western United Dairywomen, Yosemite Farm Credit and others. For information, visit DairyCares.com or call 916-441-3318.