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"We Dairy Farmers pledge to thoroughly and immediately review and study each of the issues that impact the price of milk paid to producers in order to determine and facilitate needed changes that may be required to reach our stated purpose of producer profitability, for now and in the future."

NATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION, INC.



## Producer's Voice

First Quarter 2019

[www.NationalDairyProducersOrganization.com](http://www.NationalDairyProducersOrganization.com)



JOIN THE DISCUSSION! TUESDAY 8 PM EAST – 5 PM WEST

Live Calls: (712)775-7035 Recorded Calls: (712)775-7039 PIN: 330090#

### IT IS YOUR MILK AND YOUR CO-OP DAIRY FARMER, LET'S DO THIS

We all have a random heifer, that refuses to use a headlock. She'll reach with her tongue, eat feed off the floor and off the back of other cattle but to put her head through that headlock is a fate worse than death for her. She'll starve herself to death before submitting to the potential restraint of a headlock despite the promise of luxurious diet of meticulously prepared food just inches away on the other side of the restraint mechanism. Funny how we dairy farmers are so much like these rogue animals that would rather die than be restrained.

***"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing",  
Edmund Burke***

The MANAGEMENT of their minions NMPF, USDEC, DMI, CWT, etc, IS THAT THE GOOD DAIRY FARMER CO-OP MEMBER OWNERS HAVE FAILED TO PROPERLY MANAGE THEIR CO-OP MANAGEMENT. Because the good dairy farmer member owned co-ops have triumphed with their self-serving policies which have encouraged and accommodated maximum, excess milk production yielding the lowest milk price possible, which in turn, has generated maximum profit for co-op management, their joint venture processing partners. Only dairy farmers make the milk and dairy farmer member owned co-ops handle 81% of the milk in this country and NDPO's co-op management policies will improve the milk price for dairy farmers by balancing the milk supply with profitable demand and achieve a profitable milk price from the marketplace. So a little restraint can save existing dairy farmers.

#### Young dairy farmers talk

In Hoard's dairyman intel, Jan 7, 2019, Maggie Seiler asked four young farmers where they thought the dairy industry was headed. The answer of course, is where ever the existing and future dairy farmers take it. Only dairy farmers MAKE the milk which everyone else USES. Dairy farmers and the milk they make are the start of everything that happens in the "dairy industry" Some paraphrased comments/answers of these "young farmers" are as follows: the future will be in efficiencies and automation; I see a lot more businesses sell out in the coming years; milk price will be profitable only for those few that are very good at what they do; we will have to do what consumers want – make cheap milk; economy of scale is important – I once thought the ticket for our farm was 300 cows, now I have a long way to go; we hope to expand to 1,000 to 1,200 cows, we think a little larger will be better for us; once the market finally does make it's corrections, the future will be better. Unfortunately, the future envisioned by these "young farmers" has already come AND HAS ALREADY GONE for many dairy families. Without a sustainable milk price there will be no future for dairy farmers. Milk production must be balanced with profitable demand. It's sad that most producers, young or old, have not learned this by now.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! "NATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION" TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASES.

OFFICE 949-375-4450 • FAX 949-650-9585

Please get your vendors involved with our cause by asking for their support –their internet contributions can be made to "GoFundMe" at [www.gofundme.com/help-ndpo](http://www.gofundme.com/help-ndpo)

# NATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION, INC.

## Membership/Assessment Application for The National Dairy Producers Organization, Inc.

Name	Patron/Producer Number		
Address	If organic, check here		
City	State	Zip	# of Acres
Phone	Email Address		# of Cows
Processor Name/Dairy Plant/Marketer Name		Phone	
Address			
City	State	Zip	

Under National Dairy Producers Organization, Inc. bylaws, your contribution is considered your membership dues. The dues cannot be raised without your consent. This agreement gives the National Dairy Producers Organization, Inc. permission to use your money to accomplish the specific work of the organization, under direction of the board of directors on behalf of its members so as to help all dairy producers achieve and maintain a profitable price for all milk regardless of its use, or the city, state or region of the country in which milk is produced.

Complete, sign, then mail or fax to:

**National Dairy Producers Organization**  
**C/O Gary Genske, Treasurer**  
**3187 Red Hill Ave., Ste. 110**  
**Costa Mesa, CA 92626**  
**Phone: 949-650-9580 Fax: 949-650-4490**

Please initial one of the following:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ I hereby authorize \$.01 (one cent) per hundredweight (CWT) plus \$20 per month assessments to be withheld from my monthly milk settlement payment and remitted to the National Dairy Producers Organization, Inc. at the above address, or
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to be paid by check and remitted to the National Dairy Producers Organization at the above address, or
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ I am a former dairy farmer and want to be a member of the National Dairy Producers Organization, Inc. and hereby pledge payment of \$80 for the annual membership dues to be remitted to the above address.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ We are a vendor to the dairy industry and wish to become an associate member and pledge payment of \$250 for annual membership dues to be remitted to the above address.

As of this date, this assessment request shall become effective and shall supersede prior National Dairy Producer Organization, Inc. assessments, if any.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Dairy Producers Organization, Inc. is a 501(C)(5), a not for profit organization.

# NATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION, INC.

## Capper-Volstead Act to Empower Farmers



3187 RED HILL AVE. #110. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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The Capper-Volstead act, signed into law on February 18, 1922 by President Warren Harding, has played and continues to play a vital role in enabling agricultural producers to collectively process, prepare, handle and market their products. Farmers can associate themselves and are afforded legal protection from prosecution under antitrust laws. Additionally, similar legal protection was granted to farmer's co-ops who cooperate in joint activities was granted within section 6 of the Clayton act of 1914. The primary purpose of the Capper-Volstead Act: (University of Wisconsin center for cooperatives)

- To empower farmers
- To place farmers on an equal footing with large corporate buyers
- Co-ops are organized for the purpose of rendering economic service to improve their members' bargaining positions
- To reduce fire sale pricing
- To forecast supply/demand needs
- To provide a more stable sale outlet

### The Capper-Volstead Act of 1922

Chap 57. – An Act to Authorize Association of Producers of Agricultural Products

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That persons engaged in the production of agricultural products as farmers, planters, ranchmen, dairymen, nut or fruit growers may act together in associations, corporate or otherwise, with or without capital stock, in collectively processing, preparing for market, handling, and marketing in interstate and foreign commerce such as products of persons so engaged. Such associations may have marketing agencies in common; and such associations are operated for the mutual benefit of the members thereof, as such producers, and conform to one or both of the following requirements:

First. That no member of the association is allowed more than one vote because of the amount of stock or membership capital he may own therein, or,

Second. That the association does not pay dividends on stock or membership capital in excess of 8 per centum per annum.

And in any case to the following:

Third. That the association shall not deal in the products of non-members to an amount greater in value than such as are handled by it for members.

Sec. 2. That is the Secretary of Agriculture shall have reason to believe that any such association monopolizes or restrains trade in interstate or foreign commerce to such an extent that the price of any agricultural product is unduly enhanced by reason thereof, he shall serve upon such association a complaint stating his charge in that respect, to which complaint shall be attached, or contained therein, a notice of hearing... If upon such hearing the Secretary of Agriculture shall be of the opinion that such association monopolizes or restrains trade in interstate or foreign commerce to such an extent that the price of any agricultural product is unduly enhanced thereby, he shall issue and cause to be served upon the association to cease and desist from monopolization or restraint of trade... *The remaining text is available upon request*

### Conclusion

In addition to provisions in state law, and guidance in numerous USDA publications on co-op law, the Capper-Volstead Act was also intended to empower farmers to work together through their co-ops to profitably market their commodities. Since over 80% of us in the dairy industry market our milk through our co-ops, we should go back to our co-ops and insist our milk gets profitably marketed in accordance with federal and state law. Co-ops and their board of directors can be liable for not following the laws

## Jerry's Bio

New NDPO board member Jerry Volenec operates Hardscrabble Farms, LLC in Montfort Wisconsin. A fifth generation farmer, Jerry and his wife Jennifer share ownership of their century farm with his parents, Charles and Marilyn. Hardscrabble Farms is a diversified operation milking 330 Holsteins as well as finishing cattle generated from the dairy and their 50 head Herford cow herd.

"The journey leading me to NDPO began in March of 2018 when my co-op implemented a production cap. For the first time in my farming career, shipping more milk to make ends meet was no longer an option. On a trip organized by Wisconsin Farmers Union to offer support to Agri-Mark members at a meeting in Albany, New York, I met Mike Eby. After hearing and contemplating NDPO's message, I came to the realization that we shouldn't be in our current position. If we (as owners of the co-ops we belong to) were managing our co-ops as they were originally and lawfully chartered, we would not be in the dire straits we currently endure. I reject the trajectory we are on. I will no longer stand silent and accept a future for dairy (for agriculture) in the U.S. that replaces Citizen Farmers with corporate control of our nation's food supply.

I consider it an honor to be a member and serve on the board of NDPO. I pledge to fight for my fellow farmers, to expose and work to right the injustice of our current situation. It is my hope, through these efforts, that I may be able to confidently encourage my daughters to continue my family's farming legacy. I pledge (and encourage you, my fellow dairy farmer) to fight for Citizen Farmers and for the current and future farmers of America."



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