



February 13, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
SONDA SIBOLE
Kemin Agri Foods
North America, Inc.
Orland

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Stop 0233, Room 2958 – South Building
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0233

VICE PRESIDENT
DUANE "BUTCH" FISCHER
J.D. Heiskell & Co.
Tulare

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

PAST PRESIDENT
BILL ADAMS
Imperial Western Products
Selma

The California Grain and Feed Association represent over 230 members of the grain and feed industry in California. Our members are responsible for providing high quality feed and numerous other services to animal agriculture in the state of California. We are integral part of the system that provides safe and plentiful Dairy products to the United States.

DIRECTORS

TOM ARMSTRONG
Corn Products
Stockton

It is apparent that the Dairy Industry in California, most who are family farmers, is in the midst of a crisis. We urge you to support the current requests of the Dairy Groups in California and Congressmen Costa and Cardoza.

PAT BIVENS
Cargill Animal Nutrition
Turlock

We support the following actions to assist the Dairy Industry in California.

MIKE BRAUN
Phibro Animal Health
Fresno

- Reinstating the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP). This is a useful tool to help stabilize product supply and demand.

DON DESMET
Darling International Inc.
San Francisco

- Increased dairy and beef product purchases for use in nutrition assistance and feeding programs. Increasing the distribution of nutritious foods to food banks and other programs will help struggling farmers and those in need of assistance without disrupting the market for these products.

CASEY DOELMAN
Quality Grain Company
Chino

- Purchases of butter, powder and cheese by the Commodity Credit Corporation. These purchases will assist in stabilizing the market for higher value products that greatly benefit those in need and farmers.

BOB GALLAGHER
A.L. Gilbert Co.
Keyes

In addition, we encourage you and the Department to utilize the resources on hand to assist the Dairy farmers in California during this difficult time. We can attest that the impact of this crisis goes well beyond the Dairy farmers themselves. It impacts the 10 plus hands that all have a role in insuring we provide safe, reliable and economical food to our nation.

CHUCK HEURING
Penny-Newman Grain Co., Inc.
Fresno

Sincerely,

EJNAR KNUDSEN
Western Milling LLC
Goshen

Chris Zanobini
Executive Vice President

TOM MCLAUGHLIN
Integrated Grain & Milling
Fresno

DAN MEZGER
Mezger Bros.
Yolo

RON SELEY
Seley & Co.
South Pasadena

Cc: Congressman Cardoza
Congressman Costa
Senator Feinstein
Senator Boxer
Western United Dairyman
Alliance of Western Milk Producers
Milk Producers Council

RANDY SMITH
Screw Conveyor Corp.
Visalia

STEVE STEWART
Interwest Commodities LLC
Dana Point

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
CHRIS ZANOBINI
Sacramento