



Statement

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"Connecting Cows, Cooperatives, Capitol Hill, and Consumers"

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National Milk Producers Federation Statement on Department of Labor Child Labor Announcement

From Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of NMPF

ARLINGTON, VA – "Yesterday, the Department of Labor (DOL) withdrew its contentious proposed rule restricting the work that children could do on farms. In [a statement issued by the DOL](#), it was made clear that the proposed rule would not be pursued 'for the duration of the Obama Administration.'

"The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) is encouraged by the Department's recognition that the path it was on with this proposal was an affront to millions of family members on farms and ranches across America. Many of them had objected to what the Labor Department was planning to do, and they voiced their concerns to the DOL, as well as to Congress. The withdrawal of the proposal is a victory for common sense.

"This proposed child labor rule would have changed the definition of the 'parental exemption,' changed the student learner exemption, and significantly redefined what practices would be acceptable for youth under the age of 16 to participate in. These changes drew objections from NMPF, along with all the other major agricultural organizations, because of the significant impact the change would have had on rural communities and families. Instead, the DOL says it will work with rural stakeholders to develop education programs to reduce accidents to young workers and promote safer agricultural working practices."

The National Milk Producers Federation, based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF's 30 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of more than 32,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. Visit www.nmpf.org for more information.