



Food Labeling

FDA Announces Comment Period to Understand Dairy Food Labeling Issue

After a decades-long effort by NMPF to halt the misleading labeling practices of imitation dairy foods, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it is opening a comment period to better understand the marketing practices of plant-based foods that use standardized dairy terms on their labels.

"The FDA has concerns that the labeling of some plant-based products may lead consumers to believe that those products have the same key nutritional attributes as dairy products, even though these products can vary widely in their nutritional content," said FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb in the Sept. 27 announcement. "It is important that we better understand consumers' expectations of these plant-based products compared to dairy products."

The FDA docket is open for 60 days, but NMPF has requested an extension to compile the data sought by FDA. NMPF plans to submit comments that will provide additional perspective explaining why the agency must enforce its own labeling regulations and limit the use of standardized dairy terms to products that come from an animal. NMPF also will provide information to its members for use with FDA.

"We are pleased that after years of engagement with FDA, the agency is finally addressing our concerns about how these plant-based products are inappropriately marketed to consumers," said NMPF President and CEO Jim Mulhern. "The docket recognizes many of the same issues we've brought to light over the last four decades: that plant-based products are packaged, merchandized and sold in the same way as real dairy foods, yet provide fewer nutrients and therefore cannot be considered suitable substitutes."

This comes five weeks after a July 26 FDA public meeting on government nutrition and labeling standards. Beforehand, Gottlieb released a statement explaining that the agency plans to address the deceptive marketing tactics, and



recognized that the issue needs greater clarity. He has acknowledged that plant-based copycats are not the foods that have been standardized under the name "milk" and often vary widely in their nutrition.

During the FDA hearing in July, NMPF reiterated its insistence that any modernization of food standards should start with enforcing ones that already exist for products like milk, cheese and yogurt. Consumers use these standards to make informed purchasing decisions and "expect a certain level of product performance in return," said Tom Balmer, NMPF's executive vice president. "[Alternative] products not only lack ingredients specified by the standards, they frequently fall short in expected characteristics like mouthfeel, taste and texture, and are nearly always less nutritious," he testified.

NMPF also worked this summer with a bipartisan coalition of senators to fend off an amendment that would have impeded the ability of FDA to enforce standards of identity. Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Jim Risch (R-ID) garnered an overwhelming amount of support to defeat, by a vote of 14-84, a proposed amendment to the fiscal year 2019 FDA appropriations bill that would have instructed the agency to severely limit any action against misleading dairy labeling practices.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

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NMPF Shares Views on Foods Produced with Cell Culture Technology

NMPF told regulators this summer that the emergence of cell-culture imitation meat products will be a regulatory challenge that is similar in many respects to ongoing challenges faced by the dairy sector over the regulation of imitation “milks.”

In comments submitted comments Sept. 26 to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), NMPF warned that FDA needs to demonstrate a commitment to enforcing existing regulations on dairy food terms, and that the use of animal cell culture technologies to manufacture meat, poultry and seafood products also impacts dairy foods. Specifically, the U.S. dairy industry could be affected by the use of genetically modified yeast to produce proteins that share a chemical identity with milk proteins. Using this technology, scientists will soon be able to manufacture synthetic “milk protein”-based compounds without dairy animals.

FDA has claimed jurisdiction over products made with cell culture technology, touting its expertise and scientific experience, but NMPF argued that another important quality should be considered: the agency's willingness and ability to enforce its own existing standards of identity. If FDA can't enforce its own rules, it should not take on new responsibilities, NMPF said. A rule without enforcement is no rule at all. "it is chaos."

NMPF concluded with a plea to the agency: "America's dairy farmers again call for a commitment from FDA to enforce standards of identity and labeling regulations for dairy products. It is 40 years past time to resolve this problem."

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

Food Labeling

NMPF Tells Agriculture Department to Follow Sound Science in Proposed Bioengineered Food Standard

In July, NMPF told the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that the agency's regulatory standard for the labeling of bioengineered food ingredients must ensure that consumers receive clear, accurate information about the foods they eat, and not stigmatize bioengineering when science has demonstrated the safety of the process. A final rule is still pending.

As a member of the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food (CFSAF), NMPF joined in [submitting comments](#) in early July that provided detailed input on USDA's proposed rule to implement the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. The coalition comprises a variety of farm and food organizations that worked together to help pass the labeling law.

NMPF said it supports a science-based approach in determining how foods made using bioengineering should be regulated. Bioengineered foods have repeatedly been found to be completely safe by numerous prestigious domestic and international science and research organizations. Because of this clear and unequivocal safety record, a bioengineered labeling standard should focus on providing consumers accurate information while discouraging misleading marketing tactics or meaningless absence claims, NMPF said.

In addition to supporting the coalition's comments, NMPF filed [its own comments](#) on July 3 to highlight several elements of the rule, including how it should address the labeling of milk and meat from animals that consume bioengineered feed. When it passed the underlying biotech food labeling law in 2016, Congress recognized that feed

grains developed through biotechnology have no effect on the animals or products derived from them, and the labeling standard must reflect this.

Also at issue is USDA's failure to exempt bioengineered enzymes in the proposed rule, such as those used in cheesemaking, from triggering a disclosure requirement. More than 60 countries with a bioengineered food disclosure requirement exempt such enzymes. NMPF said USDA should ensure the United States is consistent with other countries.

The comments also touched on NMPF's concerns with voluntary label disclosures and their potential to be false and misleading. A qualifying statement, NMPF said, would properly educate the consumer and thus alleviate this concern. Finally, NMPF stressed that the bioengineered food disclosure standard is really a measure to regulate food marketing, not food safety. Therefore, in determining the level of a bioengineered substance needed for a product to be considered a bioengineered food, NMPF endorsed the coalition's suggestion that USDA use a 5 percent threshold for inadvertently bioengineered ingredients and 0.9 percent threshold for intentionally bioengineered ingredients.

A final rule from USDA should be released on or around Dec. 1, 2018, and should largely reflect the comments from NMPF and the coalition.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

EPA Codifies Animal Waste Reporting Exemptions Under CERCLA

Late in July, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler approved a final rule to ensure that the legislative clarifications made by Congress earlier this year regarding manure-related air emissions regulations exempt dairy farmers and other livestock producers.

This move codifies the Fair Agricultural Reporting Method (FARM) Act passed by Congress earlier this year, after NMPF and other farm groups asked lawmakers to specify that ammonia and hydrogen sulfide emissions from animal feeding operations not be regulated under CERCLA.

The rule finalizes the CERCLA reporting exemption created by Congress and reverses the decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. On Dec. 18, 2008, EPA published a final rule that had exempted many farms from reporting air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste. On April 11, 2017, the D.C. Circuit Court vacated the 2008 rule – exposing farms to potential new data reporting obligations.

Farms, however, remained exempt because of NMPF-backed legislative changes included in the FARM Act, which was enacted by Congress last March. The final rule makes regulatory revisions to reflect changes to CERCLA as enacted



in the FARM Act. EPA also removed the 2008 definitions of “farm” and “animal waste” from its regulations, and added revised definitions of these terms to CERCLA regulations that correspond with the FARM Act.

“EPA is taking action to reflect Congress’s direction in the FARM Act that removed an undue reporting burden on American agriculture,” said Wheeler. “EPA is committed to providing regulatory clarity and certainty to farmers and ranchers — hardworking Americans invested in conserving the land and environment.”

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2015 WOTUS Rule Partially Back in Effect After District Court Decision

In mid-August, a new ruling issued by a U.S. District Judge in South Carolina revived the flawed 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation for some states – though the rule does not apply in other states where court actions have stayed its implementation. This recent legal turn comes just after NMPF submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that said the 2015 rule must be permanently rescinded and the prior version of the regulation re-codified to provide better clarity for dairy farmers.

On Aug. 16, Judge David Norton for the District of South Carolina ruled that the Trump Administration failed to seek public comment on both the WOTUS Applicability Rule and the implications of delaying the 2015 regulation by two years. The Applicability Rule was put into effect to extend the effective date of the 2015 rule until Feb. 6, 2020, allowing EPA time to repeal and replace it after the Supreme Court determined the U.S. Court of Appeals did not have jurisdiction over the rule.

The South Carolina judge enjoined the Applicability Rule, also referred to as a “suspension rule,” nationwide. Norton’s ruling puts the 2015 policy back into effect in the following states: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. As of the Aug. 16

ruling, there were still injunctions that stay the 2015 rule in the 24 other states. Since then, the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota has extended the stay to Iowa and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas in Galveston has extended the stay to Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The South Carolina court ruling does not impact the repeal process of the 2015 rule, though it could still take time to complete, as the comment period on the repeal closed on Aug. 13. In addition to its own comments, NMPF joined with other farm groups in filing extensive legal and technical comments describing everything that was flawed in the 2015 rule.

In its comments, NMPF said the definitions of the WOTUS rule need to be applied in ways that are consistent with recent Supreme Court decisions and long-standing farming practices. Re-codifying the regulations that existed before the 2015 rule will provide continuity and certainty for dairy farmers, other regulated entities, states governments, agency staff, and the public, the comments said.

The South Carolina decision is being appealed and the Department of Justice (DOJ) has requested that the South Carolina court agree to stay its decision.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

Court of Appeals Decisions Consistent with NMPF Position on CWA

On Sept. 24, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit delivered two decisions that are consistent with NMPF's comments regarding the Clean Water Act (CWA). Summarized, those decisions determined that the Clean Water Act does not extend to pollution that reaches surface waters via groundwater.

In comments submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in May 2018, NMPF stated: "The bottom line is that Congress did not include the regulation of groundwater in the CWA and neither the courts, nor EPA, should extend the CWA beyond what Congress intended."

The comments continued: "Congress discussed the inclusion of groundwater in the CWA and chose not to include it. EPA should make it clear via a regulation, that groundwater directly, indirectly, hydrologically connected or not is not subject to regulation under the CWA and should retract all past statements to the contrary."

NMPF reminded EPA of the fiasco it created when it kept re-interpreting what constituted "oil" under the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Rule. Initially, it did not apply to dairy, but over the course of a decade EPA said it also applied to butter, then higher-fat dairy products, then ice cream and ultimately fat-free milk. Eventually, dairy was exempted.



However, it was becoming clear that the courts and EPA are allowing the same scenario to unfold today.

NMPF agrees with the court that groundwater pollution is best dealt with under state and local laws and, where necessary, under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA). There are now two Courts of Appeals that took NMPF's position, and several against, with more cases pending.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

EPA Sets Two-Year Timeline for NAEMS Air Emission Estimating Methodologies

NMPF staff recently met with scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss the agency's renewed effort to finish the farm-related air quality research that began more than a decade ago under the National Air Emissions Monitoring Study (NAEMS). The EPA said it will issue draft Emissions Estimating Methodologies (EEMs) for ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and particulate matter in July 2020, and an EEM for volatile organic compounds in November 2020.

The NAEMS study was launched in 2006 to obtain modern, accurate data about the volume of manure-related emissions coming from animal agriculture operations across the nation. NMPF was one of the livestock organizations that provided input to EPA on how to develop a scientific survey that would generate useful data both for the government and dairy industry. Dairy industry funding for the research was provided in part through Dairy Management Inc. and the national dairy checkoff program.

When the NAEMS study was initiated, dairy farms were facing potential reporting obligations under three separate federal statutes: the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act (CERCLA). Despite an appellate court decision that eliminated a 2008 agriculture limitation on reporting, NMPF and several agriculture groups were successful in removing the reporting requirement under CERCLA and EPCRA, subject to additional legal challenges. The reporting obligations under the CAA are still unknown and won't be understood until the NAEMS study is further along.

NMPF will monitor the progress and provide feedback to EPA as it proceeds with the analysis of the data it has collected, as well as the subsequent development of models for helping farmers assess their air emissions.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

Environment

NMPF Staff Meets with EPA Senior Leadership on Prime Environmental Issues

At an early September meeting with NMPF staff and senior officials, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its interest in changing how the federal government addresses water quality issues – both surface water and ground (drinking) water. The agency has acknowledged that past EPA efforts have not delivered the improvements to water quality that were originally envisioned, and that a better approach is necessary.

In particular, EPA wants to advance the creation and utilization of environmental markets to help reduce nutrient runoff to improve water quality. The term “environmental markets” includes water quality trading, which NMPF has advocated for years, and could be a cost-effective solution to improving water quality. NMPF is currently engaged with the National Network on Water Quality Trading in developing a document that contains recommendations for addressing the challenges water quality trading programs

have faced in getting off the ground. NMPF plans to share the final document with EPA when it becomes available.

NMPF has also advocated that EPA revise and enhance its 2003 guidance on water quality trading to ensure that permit holders and EPA regional staff understand that trading can and should be incorporated into NPDES permits as a way to ensure compliance. EPA has signaled that such an action is under consideration and could be likely in the near future.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)



Food Safety

EPA, Animal Agriculture Discussion Group Hold Meetings in Chicago, Indiana

From Sept. 5-7, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Animal Agriculture Discussion Group (AADG) held its annual face-to-face meeting in Chicago. NMPF is a core member of AADG, joining the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Pork Producers Council, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, United Egg Producers, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, integrators and individual producers. In addition to private sector participants, EPA invited its regional agriculture advisors and senior leadership. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and several state regulatory participants were also present.

Over the three days, attendees discussed important environmental issues and sustainability technologies that can improve the environmental footprint of animal agriculture. Day One began with discussions at EPA's Region

5 headquarters, followed by an all-day tour of Fair Oaks Farms, led by NMPF Officer Mike McCloskey. It ended with a half-day discussion back in Chicago at the Region 5 office. Region 5 discussions focused on the challenges animal agriculture groups are facing.

It was clear that developing markets for agriculture products derived from manure – including natural gas to power truck fleets, electricity to power farms and home, and pelletized fertilizer for reuse on crops – were all examples of win-win scenarios. EPA made it clear that helping to evolve environmental markets and advance water quality trading will be a priority, and that the administration supports U.S. agriculture.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)



NMPF Joins White House in Rollout of Strategic Biodefense Strategy

In mid-September, NMPF staff participated in an advance discussion with the White House National Security Council prior to the release of its National Biodefense Strategy, which identifies biological threats — whether naturally-occurring, accidental, or deliberate in origin — as being among the most serious threats facing the United States and the world.

The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary is responsible for implementing and overseeing the strategy, with collaboration from the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Homeland Security.

NMPF was the only food or agriculture representative involved in the project, having collaborated with the National Security Council staff during the development of the strategy over the last year. NMPF fully understands the ramifications should a bio-event occur in the United States, like of Foot-and-Mouth disease or the intentional adulteration of the food supply. The U.S. government also understands, and is ready to move forward to minimize the risk and enhance the capability to respond.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

Food Safety

NMPF Joins GMA and Other Groups to Discuss Concerns with FSMA Intentional Adulteration Rule

On Sept. 11, NMPF joined other trade associations to discuss the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) guidance on FSMA's Intentional Adulteration rule.

Despite the agency's efforts to mollify industry qualms, many of the groups still have concerns. One such concern is the amount of detail that will need to be maintained in records. For example, FDA would like companies to review every process step involved in making a food or group of foods and write down why that step was or wasn't an "actionable process step." While FDA does allow foods to be grouped with similar foods, there will still be many steps to consider. The guidance makes clear that yogurt with inclusions can be grouped, but yogurt without inclusions would be considered a separate food. If each of those foods or food groups has 10 or 20 steps to be reviewed, the magnitude of paperwork becomes apparent.

NMPF also said that regarding a mitigation strategy to be taken at a silo, a visual inspection prior to filling might be appropriate. This concern was one of many that industry identified in a dairy vulnerability assessment conducted

with government partners years ago. The guidance suggests that visual inspection be conducted using a high-intensity flashlight and with an ultraviolet light. NMPF does not see the purpose of a UV light. Further, all too frequently inspectors treat guidance as the law, despite FDA's assurances otherwise, and NMPF expects significant second-guessing on the processing step assessments and how mitigation strategies are implemented.

NMPF and other groups also expressed concern over the rule's timeline, which will go into effect in July 2019. NMPF said FDA still owes the regulated community two additional guidance documents, a revised food defense plan software tool, and numerous training materials. NMPF and the group will consider requesting an extension of the effective date until one year after FDA has delivered all compliance assistance materials to ensure the regulated community has a clear understanding of the requirements and best approach to compliance.

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Food Safety

NMPF Submits Comments on Codex Antimicrobial Resistance Documents

In August, NMPF submitted comments to the Agriculture Department and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) documents, titled “[Proposed Draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance](#)” and Chapter 9 of “[Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance](#).” These are in addition to NMPF comments submitted in March on additional Codex TFAMR documents (see Regulatory Register Summer 2018 for more information).

The “Proposed Draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance” is intended to address the responsible use of antimicrobial agents in the food chain, including the role of regulatory authorities, manufacturers of antimicrobial agents, animal and crop health professionals, and farmers. Chapter 9 of “Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance” aims to assist governments in the design and implementation of monitoring and surveillance

programs for food-borne antimicrobial resistance along the food chain at the national level.

NMPF's comments focused on the importance of antimicrobial use for animal health and welfare, countering some proposals that restrict antibiotic use in animals without reducing the risk of AMR. Additionally, NMPF comments sought to maintain the Codex mandate on food safety for risk mitigation of the potential spread of AMR through the food chain – some countries wish to expand these documents beyond the Codex mandate of food safety into animal health, which is already covered by the World Organization of Animal Health. All comments on these documents will be considered at the next TFAMR meeting to be held in December in South Korea.

This work was made possible through support of the U.S. Dairy Export Council.

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

Environment

USDA Releases Dairy NAHMS Report on Nutrient Management

The USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) in August released “[Nutrient Management Practices on U.S. Dairy Operations, 2014](#),” the fourth report from its Dairy 2014 study. The study was conducted in 17 of the nation’s major dairy states. Data presented in the study represent 80.5 percent of U.S. dairy operations and 81.3 percent of U.S. dairy cows. NMPF staff served on the external review panel for the report.

A few highlights from the report include:

- Of the 50.8 percent of operations with a written nutrient management plan, 80 percent developed the plan in

conjunction with USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service or with a local conservation district. Almost half of all operations (43.7 percent) contacted an agronomist/crop consultant regarding nutrient management.

- Overall, 90 percent of operations applied manure to land either owned or rented.
- On average, all operations could store manure for 161.2 days before having to remove it.
- On average, manure was applied 3,688 feet (0.7 miles) from any surface water.

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

Animal Health

USDA Announces Atypical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Detection

On Aug. 29, the Agriculture Department announced the detection of an atypical case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a neurologic disease of cattle, in a six-year-old mixed-breed beef cow in Florida. This animal never entered slaughter channels and at no time presented a risk to the food supply or to human health in the United States.

This is the nation's sixth detection of BSE. Of the five previous U.S. cases, the first, in 2003, was a case of classical BSE in a cow imported from Canada; the rest have been atypical BSE.

Regulations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prohibit the inclusion of mammalian protein in feed for cattle and other ruminants since 1997, and have also prohibited high-

risk tissue materials in all animal feed since 2009. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) recognizes the United States as negligible risk for BSE. As noted in the OIE guidelines for determining this status, atypical BSE cases do not impact official BSE risk status recognition, as this form of the disease is believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate. Therefore, this finding of an atypical case will not change the negligible risk status of the United States.

More information about this disease is available in the [BSE factsheet](#).

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

U.S. Dairy Industry Commits to Reducing Antimicrobial Resistance

On Sept. 25, NMPF joined more than 100 organizations, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the [Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) Challenge](#), a yearlong effort to accelerate the fight against antimicrobial resistance across the globe.

The AMR Challenge is an educational effort with a focus on reducing antibiotics and resistance in the environment (e.g. in water and soil); improving antibiotic use, including ensuring people can access these medicines when they are needed; developing new vaccines, drugs, and diagnostic tests; improving infection prevention and control; and enhancing data sharing and data collection.

NMPF outlined its commitment to the challenge by mentioning the National Dairy FARM Program and its involvement in ensuring high-quality animal care – including the judicious use of antibiotics. The FARM Program’s guidelines for antibiotic use state that: “A cornerstone of the FARM Animal Care program is the



establishment of a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship where the dairy farmer consults with a veterinarian on development of treatment and recordkeeping protocols that address the proper use of antibiotics,” said NMPF. “Dairy farms will be evaluated on conformance to the standards by a certified independent expert.”

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

Food Safety

Farmers Share Perspectives at USDA Food Safety Workshop

Dairy farmers Karen Jordan and Dan Senestraro, along with NMPF staff, represented the U.S. dairy production perspective at an Agriculture Department (USDA) workshop on food safety over the summer. The workshop focused on microbial pathogens in meat potentially causing a foodborne outbreak.

New technology, like Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), is changing the investigative process to determine the origins of a foodborne outbreak. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now using WGS as part of the epidemiology process to help determine the origins of a

foodborne outbreak.

The CDC routinely works with USDA during a foodborne outbreak investigation, tracing suspected bacterial-contaminated meat from the point of consumption back to the processing plant of origin. The workshop explored regulatory and business issues related to further traceback to an individual farm. This initial workshop will be followed by additional stakeholder engagement in the future.

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Animal Health

Animal Drug User Fee Amendments Reauthorized Through Sept. 2023

The Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2018 (H.R. 5554) was signed into law on Aug. 14 to reauthorize the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) and the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act (AGDUFA) programs, which are administered by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These two user fee programs enhance FDA’s ability to maintain a predictable and timely animal drug review process, foster innovation in drug development, and expedite access to new therapies for food-producing and companion animals. NMPF worked with a coalition of other livestock groups and stakeholders to ensure enactment of this important legislation.

The legislation also includes a requirement for FDA to submit a report to Congress by Sept. 30, 2019, that identifies how the agency will incorporate veterinary oversight for all approved medically important antimicrobial drugs administered to animals that are not already subject to veterinary oversight. Although all medically important antimicrobials used in feed or water for food-producing animals are currently under veterinary oversight, some other dosage form products (e.g., injectable, tablet) remain available over the counter. The National Dairy FARM Animal Care program already requires a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship, so the dairy industry is well-prepared for the results of the report.

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

FARM Releases New Materials Related to Workforce Development

In September, the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) released materials as part of its new Workforce Development initiative. The aim of the latest program component is to provide U.S. dairy farm owners and managers with guidance and best management practices around human resources – like hiring, training, and supervision – as well as worker health and safety.

The [Guide for Managing Employee Housing](#) covers legal considerations and management recommendations to promote safe, clean and comfortable living spaces for dairy farm workers.

FARM Program staff have been working on federal and state [legal fact sheets](#) that summarize federal laws and regulations on a variety of human resource issues for dairy farms.

This suite of educational materials will help farmer owners who want basic human resources tools and safety practices for employees, thus enabling them to increase worker engagement, reduce employee turnover and manage liabilities from the safety risks of dairy farming.

Contact: [FARM Program](#)



Upcoming Dates

[U.S. Animal Health Association Meeting](#)

Kansas City, Missouri

October 18 – 24, 2018

[NMPF Joint Annual Meeting](#)

Phoenix, Arizona

October 29 – 31, 2018



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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 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies.

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