



## Food Labeling

### NMPF Tells Regulators: Enforcement Action Needed Against Kite Hill's "Almond Milk Yogurt"

National Milk is targeting another plant-based food company in the new year by urging state and federal regulators to take enforcement action against Kite Hill, whose imitation yogurt products violate the federal definition for dairy foods and fail to provide the same nutrition as real yogurt.

In letters sent in early January to the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) and [California Department of Food and Agriculture](#), NMPF called out Hayward, California-based Kite Hill for illegally labeling its "yogurt" product and implying the nut-based food is a suitable substitute for real yogurt made from cow's milk.

In its letters, NMPF said that under existing federal regulations, the proper term for Kite Hill's products should be "imitation yogurt product." The FDA standard of identity for yogurt defines a product made by culturing cream, milk, partially skimmed milk, or skim milk, alone or in combination, with specific lactic acid bacteria. NMPF said that "without real milk's many nutrients as a base, this fake yogurt product fails to deliver the same nutrition as the real thing."

NMPF also noted that the Kite Hill imitation delivers 40 percent more calories and 10 more grams of fat compared to an equivalent serving of vanilla yogurt, while providing one-third less protein and zero calcium.

NMPF President and CEO Jim Mulhern said that Kite Hill's line of products "is doubly deceiving, first as it declares the use of 'almond milk' as the main ingredient in their foods, and second in calling the resulting product 'yogurt.' A whitened slurry of nuts does not make milk, and adding bacteria to that mix and pouring it in a cup does not make yogurt."

A shareable infographic illustrating Kite Hill's nutritionally inferior product is now on NMPF's website as the latest installment in its "[Dairy Imitators: Exposed](#)" effort, which illustrates the nutritional disparities between imitation foods and real dairy foods, such as yogurt.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)

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## DAIRY IMITATORS EXPOSED

Unmasking imitations of real nutritious dairy foods

### REAL YOGURT BLOWS AWAY KITE HILL'S IMITATION

Kite Hill goes out of the way to make its imitation look and taste like the real thing. The claim that its vanilla "almond milk yogurt" is "traditionally cultured"? That's a contradiction. Live yogurt cultures are intended for use in real dairy yogurt – not a nut slurry. More concerning is how this imitation pales in comparison to real vanilla yogurt where it matters most: nutrition. Kite Hill's product has 40% more calories and 10 more grams of fat, but has 2.3 fewer grams of protein and no calcium – two essential nutrients you get by using real milk.

Kite Hill	VS	Low-fat vanilla yogurt
204	Calories	144
12.5g	Total Fat	2.1g
16g	Added Sugars	11.5g
5.6g	Protein	8.4g
0%	Calcium	22%

\*based on a 6-ounce serving  
% = % Daily Value

## FDA Pilot Program to Evaluate Potential for Single Inspection Scheme for non-Grade “A” Products in Grade “A” Facilities

On Nov. 1, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced a pilot program](#) that will consider a single inspection scheme for facilities that process both Grade “A” and non-Grade “A” products.

Because of extensive work by NMPF and other industry stakeholders at the National Conference for Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) in both 2015 and 2017, facilities regulated by the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) are compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and will continue to be inspected and regulated by the PMO. However, most IMS-listed dairy processing facilities (more than 90 percent) manufacture both Grade “A” and non-Grade “A” products. An unanswered question has been how to reconcile the separate regulatory and enforcement schemes for these types of mixed-product facilities.

On Nov. 30, the NCIMS Executive Board held a conference call with FDA to discuss details of the pilot program to improve the efficiency of inspections at dairy processing facilities under FSMA. In summary, the visits will be coordinated so that a facility receives no more than one inspection visit per fiscal year for FSMA PC requirements. The idea is that multiple personnel will conduct the required inspections in a single visit (no consolidation of inspection personnel at this time). [NMPF submitted comments](#) to FDA with initial thoughts on FDA's proposal. NMPF will share more information about the pilot as it is made available, as well as continue to engage with FDA and advocate for a common-sense approach that does not put additional regulatory burdens on the industry.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)

## Nutrition

## USDA Announces Regulation to Allow Low-Fat Flavored Milk Back into Schools, Reflecting NMPF Input

Low-fat (1%) flavored milk will return to schools after the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) announced new regulatory changes](#) in late November. The change reflects a long-standing NMPF goal to increase the availability of a greater variety of milk options in public schools. An interim final rule implements the changes needed to reinstate low-fat flavored milk in schools, and goes into effect in time for milk processors to negotiate supply contracts for the 2018-2019 school year.

The regulation follows changes that USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue initially proposed last year to streamline the process by which schools can serve low-fat flavored milk. In 2012, USDA implemented new regulations requiring that schools only offer fat-free flavored milk, mostly to reduce calories. Participation rates in school meal programs fell, with students consuming 288 million fewer half-pints of milk from 2012-2015, even though public school enrollment was growing. NMPF and the International Dairy Foods Association worked together to persuade Congress to address the issue.

In October, Reps. G.T. Thompson (R-PA) and Joe Courtney (D-CT) introduced the bipartisan School Milk Nutrition Act of 2017, which would allow schools to offer low-fat and fat-free milk, including flavored milk with no more than 150 calories per 8-ounce serving. The bill allows individual schools and school districts to determine which milkfat varieties to offer their students.

The publication of the interim final rule allows school districts to solicit bids for low-fat flavored milk this spring, before the



2018-2019 school year begins. This gives milk processors time to formulate and produce a low-fat flavored milk that meets the specifications of a particular school district.

NMPF will file comments in response to the proposed rule, expressing strong support for permitting schools to offer 1% flavored milk on a permanent basis. After taking comments, USDA will issue a final rule next fall that is expected to extend the regulation to school years after 2018-2019.

As science continues to suggest health benefits from higher-fat milk varieties, NMPF continues to take a leadership role in encouraging this newer science to be incorporated in school meals and dietary guidelines.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)



Compliance Date Extended for Nutrition Facts Label Update

In September, [FDA proposed](#) that the compliance date for the Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts label final rule and the Serving Size final rule be extended from the current date of July 26, 2018, to Jan. 1, 2020, for manufacturers with more than \$10 million in annual sales (smaller firms get an extra year, until January 1, 2021).

This additional time will allow for implementation of the final rules and for obtaining clarification on technical issues and questions. FDA also affirmed that no other substantive changes to the Nutrition Facts label requirements were being proposed.

NMPF supports an extension of compliance time, given that many manufacturers will also have label changes related to compliance with USDA’s National Bioengineered Food Disclosure standard that is currently being promulgated. A



single, harmonized date for compliance with both rules would minimize the impact to industry from multiple label changes.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)

FDA Addresses Industry Concern about Human Food Byproducts Used for Animal Food Under FSMA

In November, FDA added two questions to the [FSMA FAQs on the Rules for Preventive Controls for Human and Animal Food](#) that addressed industry concerns about human food byproducts used for animal feed.

FDA’s FAQ affirms that “processors already implementing human food safety requirements, such as brewers, would not need to implement additional preventive controls or Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) regulations

when supplying a by-product (e.g., wet spent grains, fruit or vegetable peels, liquid whey) for animal food, except to prevent physical and chemical contamination when holding and distributing the by-product.”

NMPF has long advocated for a balanced approach regarding the regulation of human food byproducts used for animal food.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#) or [Beth Briczinski](#)

NMPF Submits Input to NASEM on Revisions to Dietary Reference Intakes for Sodium, Potassium

On Oct. 31, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) [posted a tentative list of members for the committee](#) to review the DRIs (Dietary Reference Intakes) for sodium and potassium.

[NMPF drafted comments](#) in response, which were submitted jointly with the International Dairy Foods Association in mid-November, supporting the efforts of the NASEM. Given the current scientific debate about appropriate sodium intake, NMPF advocated for a broad and balanced range of multiple disciplines on the committee to conduct a thorough and collaborative review. NMPF also echoed the comments of a coalition of other trade associations, requesting a longer

comment period to evaluate and assemble the committee.

“DRIs” is a general term for the set of reference values used to plan and assess nutrient intakes of healthy people, and includes Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs). These values are reflected in calculating Daily Values (%DVs) that appear on Nutrition Facts labels. The work of the committee may also affect FDA efforts to develop voluntary sodium reduction targets, on which NMPF has previously submitted extensive comments emphasizing the food safety role of sodium in cheese and other dairy foods.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)

## FDA Proposes Revoking Health Claim for Soy Protein

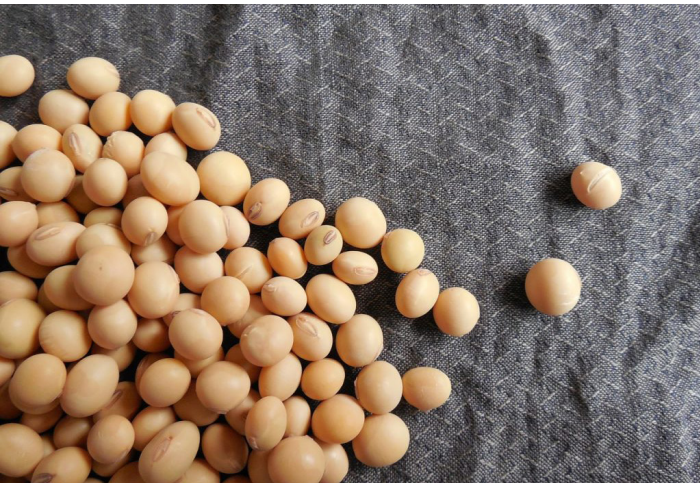
On Oct. 30, [FDA proposed revoking the health claim](#) that soy protein reduces the risk of heart disease. NMPF will submit comments on FDA’s proposal prior to the Jan. 16 comment deadline.

According to a statement from the director of FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Dr. Susan Mayne: “For the first time, we have considered it necessary to propose a rule to revoke a health claim because numerous studies published since the claim was authorized in 1999 have presented inconsistent findings on the relationship between soy protein and heart disease.”

“While some evidence continues to suggest a relationship between soy protein and a reduced risk of heart disease – including evidence reviewed by the FDA when the claim was authorized – the totality of currently available scientific evidence calls into question the certainty of this relationship.”

This proposed action reflects FDA’s commitment to provide consumers “with information they can trust to make informed dietary choices.”

There are three categories of claims that can be used on food labels: health claims (including qualified health claims), nutrient content claims, and structure/function claims. FDA-authorized health claims reflect well-established relationships based on the most robust level of scientific



evidence. There are currently 12 health claims that have been authorized by FDA, including the link between calcium, Vitamin D, and osteoporosis.

Qualified health claims are used when evidence is less strong. If the soy protein health claim is revoked when the rule is finalized, FDA will allow the use of a qualified health claim if there is sufficient evidence to support a link between eating soy protein and a reduced risk of heart disease.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)

## NMPF Comments on FDA Education Program Highlight Volume of Misinformation on Bioengineering

In response to an FDA proposal to create a consumer education program on bioengineered foods, NMPF told the agency that, in the interests of scientific integrity, it must correct common misconceptions about the health and safety of such foods.

Earlier this year, Congress instructed FDA to launch an education program to help consumers understand bioengineered foods and dispel misinformation about their origins and safety. In response to FDA’s request for input on this program, [NMPF filed comments](#) that expressed concern over the volume of inaccurate claims used in comments submitted by the public. NMPF urged FDA to catalog and refute every false notion and make them publicly available for stakeholder use.

NMPF also quoted FDA’s guidance on labeling bioengineered foods, noting that the agency had determined in a 1992 policy document that it was not aware of information that determined bioengineered

foods differed from other foods in any meaningful way, and that there was no safety concern. NMPF suggested that because of the quantity of misinformation in the marketplace, every bioengineering claim – regardless of whether a product contains bioengineered ingredients – should bear an additional statement that says there is no material difference between a bioengineered food and a non-bioengineered food.

In addition, NMPF said FDA should work with USDA to develop materials that explain the benefits of bioengineering including: less pesticide use, foods and feeds with better traits, and improved agricultural sustainability. USDA, meanwhile, continues its work on a bioengineering label disclosure regulation, and NMPF expects that the agency will release a draft of the proposal in 2018.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

## NCIMS Executive Board Meets Regarding FDA Concur/Non-concur Letter, Robotic Milking Subcommittee

The Executive Board of the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) met from October 11-12, 2017, in St. Louis, Mo., to discuss a number of issues, including FDA's [Concur/Non-concur letter](#) from the 2017 Conference. FDA concurred with all the passed proposals from the Conference, except for three proposals: #113, 224 and 226. These proposals were initially non-concurred with, based on the need for editorial license to incorporate FDA's suggested text and to eliminate conflict within NCIMS documents:

- #113: Clarifying the concept of “first use” and sample collection time for milk tankers.
- #224 and 226: Clarifying when test methods not evaluated by FDA and accepted by the NCIMS may be used for screening bulk milk tankers for non-beta lactam drug residues.

The NCIMS Board reviewed and accepted the suggested working changes and reached mutual concurrence with FDA. All proposals with which FDA concurred will be incorporated into the PMO and related documents, and will take effect one year from the electronic publication of those documents, or by the official notification to the states through the transmittal of the IMS-a. For states that can legally enforce the new regulations based on the issuance of IMS-a-51, the effective date will be Dec. 6, 2018, unless otherwise specified.

The NCIMS Executive Board also reviewed requests from NMPF and FDA to create an automatic milking installation (AMI) subcommittee within the NCIMS Technical Engineering Review

Committee. In September, [NMPF requested the subcommittee be formed](#) within the structure of NCIMS to capitalize on the expertise and perspectives of the Conference in addressing stakeholder concerns. NMPF believes this approach represents the most effective means to allow industry to take advantage of the best on-farm technology and production tools while continuing to produce a safe, wholesome product.

The newly established subcommittee will examine the issue of compliance of AMIs with PMO requirements, with the specific objective of identifying obstacles and potential solutions to aligning PMO requirements with current and next generation AMI equipment and operations. Subcommittee membership will include representatives from state regulatory agencies, FDA, AMI manufacturers, and other industry sectors as needed to obtain the necessary technical expertise and stakeholder input.

Also during the Board meeting, NMPF raised concerns about Appendix N producer reinstatement protocols, which were not consistently applied across the entire United States. During recent Appendix N Committee discussions, NMPF identified significant inconsistencies in reinstatement protocols both within and among states (about half of the states were performing incomplete tests). The NCIMS Board directed FDA to issue an M-I for much-needed clarification and consistency (refer to [M-I-17-6](#)).

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)

## NMPF News

## NMPF Pitches in After Hurricane Maria Devastates Puerto Rican Dairy Industry

NMPF worked closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Infrastructure Protection Division and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) throughout the fall to secure generators and fuel for Puerto Rican dairy producers affected by Hurricane Maria.

With assistance from NMPF Third Vice Chairman Mike McCloskey, NMPF advocated for the needs of the Puerto Rican dairy industry. The organization urged FEMA and USDA to act on the requested multi-million-dollar aid package that Secretary Sonny Perdue received from the Puerto Rico governor's office – a significant portion needed for generator fuel and animal feed. On Oct. 19, USDA announced it was providing up to \$12 million to enable operators of Puerto

Rico's 253 dairy operations to purchase feed for their cattle.

Shortly after the hurricane hit, FEMA summoned the leadership of its critical infrastructure sectors to FEMA headquarters to discuss the situation and plans for restoring infrastructure. NMPF's Clay Detlefsen, as the chair of the Food and Agriculture sector, immediately urged DHS and FEMA to provide generators and fuel to the island's dairy producers, and participated in the daily calls with the National Business Emergency Operations Center and FEMA. In addition, at USDA's request, NMPF staff joined the Emergency Support Function #11 team, which focuses on agriculture issues.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

## Food Safety

## FDA Remains Concerned about *Listeria*; Final Guidance Pending

The Alliance for Listeriosis Prevention (ALP), of which NMPF is a member, met with FDA in early December to discuss FDA's "Draft Guidance for Industry: Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-To-Eat Foods" and share the organization's feedback.

FDA's Compliance Policy Guide states that it may regard Ready-To-Eat (RTE) foods that don't support the growth of *L. monocytogenes* (Lm) to be adulterated when present at or above 100 colony forming units per gram of food (cfu/g). However, FDA has signaled that this may change. In particular, FDA is contemplating having a zero tolerance for Lm in RTEs that do not support growth.

FDA's concerns are based on illnesses that were seen in recent ice cream-related outbreaks where the level in the product was below 100 cfu/g. During the meeting, FDA also indicated a willingness to assist industry with training needs, for example, developing training videos as "how-to" guides for testing for *Lm*.

The Alliance anticipates that FDA will release a final guidance document in 2018. When this happens, the agency will reissue its Compliance Policy Guide and issue guidance on determining the definition of RTE foods.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#) or [Clay Detlefsen](#)

## Food Safety

## DHS Informs NMPF: Dairy Farmers Not in Compliance with Chemical Security Rule

Eleven years ago, Congress passed the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007, which required the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to create a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. The program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities to ensure they have security measures in place to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack associated with the use of certain chemicals. The CFATS regulation lists more than 300 chemicals of interest (COI) which, if held in specified quantities or concentrations, trigger reporting requirements to DHS. Facilities are required to report their chemical holdings within 60 days of coming into possession of a COI.

However, DHS granted an indefinite time extension for certain activities at agricultural facilities. The extension applies to chemicals used for soil preparation and the treatment of crops, feed, land, livestock, or other areas of an agricultural production facility (for example, ammonia used as a fertilizer falls under the extension, but propane for fuel or hydrogen peroxide for cleaning and water treatment must be reported).

DHS has been visiting facilities that use chemicals to see if they comply. These visits include agriculture operations that may have their chemical use subject to the indefinite exemption. DHS has visited several dairy farms and has observed COIs being used to clean equipment and hydrogen peroxide to treat water – both non-exempt activities. DHS subsequently contacted NMPF staff and asked for help in clarifying the requirements to dairy producers.

With respect to hydrogen peroxide, the rule states that hydrogen peroxide with a concentration of 35% or higher is a COI. If the concentration is below 35%, it is not a COI and it will not trigger reporting. NMPF urges dairy producers using hydrogen peroxide on their farms to immediately begin using a solution less than 35%. NMPF staff are also exploring whether other chemicals being used could trigger the rule.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

## Regulatory

## FMCSA Grants 90-Day Waiver for Transportation of Agricultural Commodities

On Dec. 20, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) granted a [limited 90-day waiver](#) from the federal hours-of-service (HOS) regulations pertaining to electronic logging devices (ELDs) for the transportation of agricultural commodities. NMPF worked through a coalition to achieve this waiver, which is currently scheduled to expire on March 18, 2018.

NMPF has been concerned about animal welfare issues when transporting animals, as well as logistics for transporting milk

from farm to processing plants (particularly during winter) that have arisen from implementation of this rule.

Under the waiver, an agricultural commodity is any non-processed food, feed, fiber, or livestock. The waiver also provides FMCSA with time to consider potential exemptions for agricultural concerning the use of ELDs to document drivers' hours of service and clarify applicability of the requirements.

Contact: [Paul Bleiberg](#) or [Jamie Jonker](#)



## Air Emissions Reporting Still Not Required After Court Further Stays Mandate Until January

Years of discussion over whether and how livestock farms must comply with air emissions regulations have yet to be resolved, and NMPF remains firm in its recommendation that farms that could be impacted should not file emissions reports until the legal process is complete.

In 2008, EPA exempted all livestock operations from reporting under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulation, and exempted all but the largest livestock operations from reporting under the Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

However, last April, a federal appeals court ended EPA's exemption for reporting of livestock air emissions under CERCLA/EPCRA, following legal challenges made by activist groups. NMPF immediately engaged with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Congress and other animal agriculture organizations to find a solution to the problem created by the U.S. Court of Appeals' decision to end the nine-year-old federal exemption. EPA sought and was granted additional time from the court to delay the effective compliance date so the agency could develop materials to help producers understand their obligations.

The court agreed to give EPA until Nov. 14, 2017, to show progress, after which the agency could request additional time. In late October, EPA filed a motion requesting that the stay remain in place until Jan. 17, 2018, and provided the court with the draft guidance it had developed as evidence of the progress it had made and the remaining complexity of the issue. EPA also provided the court with its new interpretation that EPCRA reporting was not required. The court did not immediately act on the request to continue the stay.



The stay's expiration on Nov. 14 caused a great deal of confusion because many interested parties believed the expiration of the stay automatically triggered the reporting requirement. However, the appeals court must first issue a mandate to EPA initiating the reporting requirement. The court did not issue its mandate to EPA and, in fact, on Nov. 22, the D.C. Court of Appeals granted EPA's motion to further stay the mandate until Jan. 22, 2018.

NMPF continues to work with other animal agriculture organizations, EPA and members of Congress to find a long-term solution that will preclude the need to file air emission reports stemming from the decomposition of manure. If dairy producers do need to report, NMPF has prepared guidance and instructions and will conduct outreach to explain the process further.

Contact: [Clay Detlefsen](#)

## Animal Health

## NMPF Comments on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals

On Nov. 13, [NMPF submitted comments](#) to FDA's "[Proposed Method for Adjusting Data on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals Using a Biomass Denominator](#)" expressing concern that biomass estimates by species would not provide the precision and accuracy necessary to provide useful data on antibiotic use. In fact, the publication of biomass estimates as proposed by FDA may run the risk of pushing sales of more potent antibiotics – which are often ranked as critically important – rather than older, less important drugs.

NMPF concluded that FDA and its federal partners should

present a comprehensive plan for antibiotic use data collection, complete with justifications and goals, rather than incomplete, ad-hoc approaches that only confuse the issue, such as using estimated sales and distribution data divided by estimated biomass by species. NMPF also recommended that FDA should work with USDA to gather on-farm use data under the National Animal Health Monitoring System combined with defined goals. Additionally, human use and resistance data needs to be effectively gathered and analyzed to understand the entire antimicrobial resistance picture to assure One Health solutions.

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

## National Organic Program Proposes Withdrawing Livestock, Poultry Practices Rule Following NMPF Request

On Dec. 18, USDA's National Organic Program proposed its [intention to withdraw](#) the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule published in the *Federal Register* on Jan. 19, 2017. The withdrawal follows a request by National Milk to the Agriculture Department to reconsider the organic livestock standards.

USDA expressed concern that the OLPP final rule's prescriptive codification of animal care and wellbeing standards in the dynamic, evolving marketplace could have the unintended consequence of preventing or stunting future market-based innovation in response to rapidly evolving social and producer norms. Overly prescriptive regulation can discourage technological and social innovation, especially by small firms and consumers, distorting or even preventing technological development.

On June 9, [NMPF commented](#) that the [FARM Animal Care Program](#) assures animal care and wellbeing throughout the U.S. dairy industry, and thus the requirements in USDA's final rule are unnecessary and duplicative for dairy cattle. Further, the basis of the FARM Animal Care Program is sound science, and standards are updated every three years to



accommodate the latest research around animal health and wellbeing. Additionally, NMPF recommended suspending the final rule indefinitely, and said USDA should consider whether to implement, modify, or withdraw the final rule.

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

## Environment

## NMPF Supports Proposed WOTUS Rule Applicability Date

On Dec. 13, NMPF – as part of a coalition – [supported](#) adding an applicability date to the “Clean Water Rule: Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ (WOTUS)” (the “2015 Rule”) to two years from the date of final action on this proposal.

The definition of WOTUS and the administration of the Clean Water Act (CWA) have been a focal point of the agricultural community for decades. Given the broad array of potentially

jurisdictional water features that exist throughout the country's farm, ranch, and forest lands, clarity, predictability, and consistency is essential. Farmers, ranchers, and foresters need to know what features on their lands are subject to federal jurisdiction and, by extension, whether their day-to-day activities are lawful. Repeated changes to the regulatory landscape within a short period of time would create unnecessary disruption, confusion, and inconsistencies.

The addition of an applicability date would mean the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can maintain a consistent application of the pre-2015 definition of “Waters of the United States” as they consider possible revisions to the 2015 rule. NMPF continues to seek clarification on WOTUS, and on Sept. 27 [commented](#) that the proper course is to rescind the 2015 rule in the *Code of Federal Regulations*, re-codify the definition that currently governs administration of the CWA, and pursue new notice-and-comment rulemaking. A fresh start and a more reasonable approach that complies with previous Supreme Court rulings will provide greater certainty for dairy producers.

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

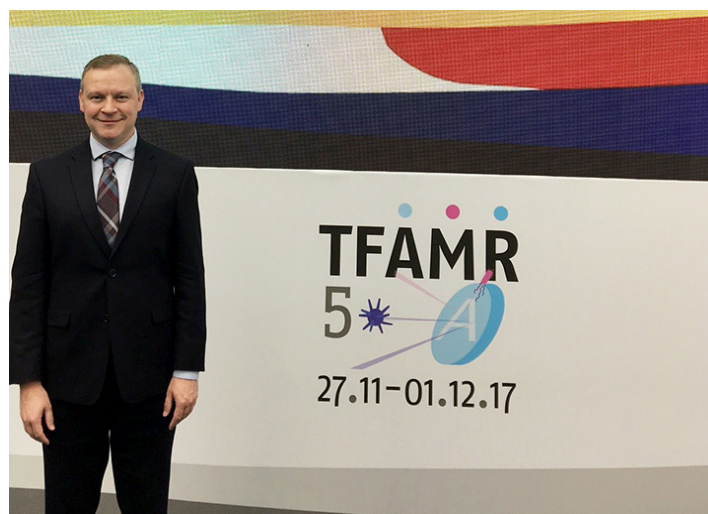




### CODEX Task Force Meets on Antimicrobial Resistance

During the last week of November, the ad hoc [Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance](#) met in Jeju, South Korea, to discuss draft proposals to revise guidelines to monitor for and reduce the incidence of antibiotic resistance bacteria in the food chain. NMPF represented U.S. dairy interests as a Codex stakeholder through involvement with both the U.S. government and as the International Dairy Federation delegate.

The meeting was attended by participants from 44 member countries, one member organization, 11 observer organizations, the World Organization for Animal Health, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization of the United Nations. Participants discussed the proposed draft revision to the "Code Of Practice To Minimize And Contain Antimicrobial Resistance" which provides guidance for measures along the food chain to minimize the development and spread of foodborne antimicrobial resistance. Participants also discussed new proposed draft guidelines on "Integrated Surveillance Of Antimicrobial Resistance" which are intended to assist governments in the design and implementation of monitoring and surveillance programs for food-borne AMR along the food chain at the national level. At the conclusion of the meeting, two electronic working groups were established to advance development of the drafts for the next meeting in 2018. Codex food safety standards are used in international trade to alleviate the risk of food safety issues in food products. If these Codex codes and guidelines are finalized with a Eurocentric "precautionary principle"



*NMPF's Jamie Jonker attends the CODEX Task Force meeting.*

viewpoint, they may be used by a country to prevent the importation of U.S. dairy products under the guise of preventing the spread antimicrobial resistance.

The resulting standards are intended to give countries guidance on how to manage antimicrobial resistance through the food chain. The final report of the meeting is available [online](#). This work was made possible through support of the U.S. Dairy Export Council.

Contact: [Jamie Jonker](#)

## NMPF News

### NMPF Scholarship Program Now Accepting Applications

NMPF is now accepting applications for its National Dairy Leadership Scholarship Program for academic year 2018-2019.

Each year, NMPF awards scholarships to outstanding graduate students (enrolled in master's or Ph.D. programs) who are actively pursuing dairy-related fields of research that are of immediate interest to NMPF member cooperatives and the U.S. dairy industry at large.

Graduate students pursuing research of direct benefit to milk marketing cooperatives and dairy producers are encouraged to submit an application (applicants do not need to be members of NMPF to qualify). The top scholarship applicant will be awarded the Hintz Memorial Scholarship, which was created in 2005 in honor of the late Cass-Clay Creamery Board Chairman

Murray Hintz who was instrumental in establishing NMPF's scholarship program.

Recommended fields of study include but are not limited to: Agriculture Communications and Journalism, Animal Health, Animal and/or Human Nutrition, Bovine Genetics, Dairy Products Processing, Dairy Science, Economics, Environmental Science, Food Science, Food Safety, Herd Management, and Marketing and Price Analysis.

Applications must be received no later than **Friday, April 6, 2018**. For an application or more information, please visit the [NMPF website](#) or call the NMPF office at 703-243-6111.

Contact: [Beth Briczinski](#)

## Upcoming Dates

### NICMA Annual Meeting

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

January 15 – 17, 2018

### National Mastitis Council Annual Meeting

Tucson, Arizona

January 30 – February 2, 2018

### **NMPF March Board Meeting**

Arlington, Virginia

March 5 – 6, 2018

### ADPI/ABI Meeting

Chicago, Illinois

April 29 – May 1, 2018

### **FDA Western Milk Seminar**

Reno, Nevada

May 1 – 3, 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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