

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am Jamie Jonker, Chief Science Officer for the National Milk Producers Federation, representing dairy cooperatives and their 20,000 farmer owners.

The National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program—NADPRP—was created to strengthen our nation’s ability to prevent, detect, and respond to high-consequence animal diseases. As we’ve seen with recent challenges like H5N1 in dairy cattle, preparedness is not optional—it is essential for protecting animal health, rural economies, and national food security.

NADPRP funding has already delivered tangible benefits to the dairy industry. For example, NMPF used NADPRP support to develop and implement the FARM Biosecurity Program, which provides on-farm biosecurity planning tools and training for dairy producers. During the H5N1 outbreak, these resources were critical in guiding farms on enhanced biosecurity measures—such as visitor protocols, equipment sanitation, and animal movement controls—to reduce virus spread and protect herd health. FARM Biosecurity served as the foundation for industry-wide response efforts, helping producers implement practical steps quickly and consistently.

Additionally, NADPRP funding will enable bulk milk tank testing for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) a critical innovation that allows rapid, cost-effective surveillance across large numbers of herds. This approach strengthens early detection and continuity of business planning, ensuring milk movement can continue safely during an outbreak.

With increased NADPRP funding, USDA can scale these successes and invest in:

- Expanded biosecurity training and resources for producers nationwide.
- Enhanced surveillance tools, including milk-based diagnostics for multiple diseases.
- More frequent emergency response exercises with state and industry partners.
- Continuity of business strategies to keep supply chains moving during disease events.
- New technologies and data systems for faster, more coordinated responses.

These investments will close gaps in preparedness and ensure that when the next disease threat emerges, we can respond quickly and effectively. Increased NADPRP funding is a strategic investment in resilience—protecting producers, consumers, and the integrity of our food system.

Thank you.