



Dairy Permitting; Happy Cows, Healthy Oregonians

ODFA represents Oregon's nearly 200 multi-generational dairy operations. Like most Oregonians, our family farmers' value a healthy environment, our employees, our animals, and our communities. We care for 126,000 dairy cows across thousands of acres of land in 20 of Oregon's 36 Counties, on dairies small and large. We produce both conventional and organic milk, cheese, butter, and ice-cream, providing affordable nutrition beyond our state border. We contribute over \$552 million to Oregon's economy. Our producers are nationally recognized leaders in sustainability, animal welfare and milk quality and they contribute to Oregon's iconic and beloved consumer brands.

For over a decade, special interest groups have used misinformation aimed to curb Oregon's dairy industry by proposing limitations on Confined Animal Feeding Operation permits (through both legislation and social media campaigns). These efforts are less about using facts to draw attention to specific regulatory gaps and more about those that choose to discriminate against farms based on a farms size, not a farms values and a farms animal and environmental outcomes. The proposals are misguided and misleading. SB 583 and HB 2924 purport to stop new "industrial" operations, but instead would limit the expansion or creation of additional responsible, ethical dairy operations in Oregon. In the rare instances where individuals have sought to circumvent Oregon permitting requirements, Oregon's regulatory structure has worked to both ceased those operations and prevented ecological harm.

Current Regulatory Structure

Since 1993, ALL Oregon dairies have maintained a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Permit; a program partnership between the Department of Environmental Quality and administered the Oregon Department of Agriculture designed to protect Oregon's water quality. This program benefits the environment, dairy cows, and all Oregonians through:

- Regular inspections and oversight including quarterly for larger farms.
- Nutrient management for sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices
- Annual reporting on soil, manure, herd size, and feed.

On top of those requirements, all dairy producers hold a USDA Grade A Milk License, requiring regular inspections by Oregon Department of Agriculture and USDA to ensure milk quality and safety. In addition, our producers comply or partner with various agencies and organizations including Oregon Water Resources Dept., Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, USDA's National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other public and private organizations and certification systems.

Oppose HB 2924 & SB 583

Check the facts: Oregon's dairy industry is not a threat to water quality, animal welfare or public health. Instead, our dairy farmers' know it is good business to follow their values in protecting the environment, supporting community, and promoting healthy animals.

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