

Whereas, the National Farmers Union (NFU) is gravely concerned over the state of the agricultural economy; and

Whereas, U.S. dairy farmers are experiencing an extended period of very low milk prices which, unless corrected, will force thousands of farms out of business; and

Whereas dairy prices have fallen by over 40 percent over the last two years, and
Whereas, the Dairy Margin Protection program has not performed as expected during its first two years;
and

Whereas delegates to the 2016 NFU Annual Convention previously passed a resolution calling for assistance, and

Whereas on October 13, 18 Senators [called on](#) the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide immediate short-term relief; and

Whereas on November 4, 16 Members of Congress [called on](#) the House Appropriations Committee to provide immediate short-term relief; and

Whereas governments of other major dairy producing nations have provided emergency dairy relief to its farmers; and

Therefore, be it resolved that, NFU calls on congress to advance spending legislation that includes relief for dairy farmers through additional authority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide direct assistance as an alternative to dairy product purchases and a refund of 2015 Margin Protection Program premiums. Be it further resolved that while the ultimate aim of Congress should be to improve the long-term safety net contained in the farm bill, failing to provide short-term relief risks doing even more harm to a sector already reeling from low prices and business closures.