



2019 DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Deleted: 8

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55

- Section A: Make Minnesota a Great State for Livestock.....2**
- A1: ~~Move to Outcome-Based Regulation.....2~~
- A2: Health Insurance and Affordability.....2
- A3: Tax Policy – State and Federal3**
- A4: Corporate Ownership of Farmland3
- A5: Preservation of Productive Agricultural Land4
- Section B: Support for the Next Generation Dairy Farmers and Agriculture.....5**
- B1: Support for the Next Generation Dairy Farmers5
- B2: Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Center5
- B3: Estate Tax Exemption and Tax Rate6**
- B4: Veterinary Education and Veterinarian Loan Forgiveness6
- B5: Support for University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Programs6
- B6: Farm Youth Leadership Programs including 4-H and FFA.....7
- Section C: Providing Incentives for Growth8**
- C1: Strengthening Minnesota’s Processing Sector8
- C2: Livestock Investment Grant Program and Access to Capital8
- C3: Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement (DDPEP)8
- C4: Federal Farm Program9**
- C5: Risk Management Tools for Milk Producers10
- Section D: Create the Premier Dairy Industry Infrastructure11**
- D1: Infrastructure Needs of Rural Communities and Milk Processors.....11
- D2: Safer Roads.....11
- D3: Competitive Overtime Pay Policy11
- D4: Remedy for Stray Current.....12
- D5: Renewable Energy – Federal and State Policies and Incentives12
- D6: Wind and Solar Development Lease and Setback Requirements.....13
- D7: Immigration13
- D8: Employment Under False Pretenses.....14
- D9: Manure Hoses in Right of Ways.....14
- D10: Better Trucking Laws14
- Section E: Maintain and Grow Dairy Markets16**
- E1: Healthy Choices in Schools.....16
- E2: Raw Milk Sales – Public Health and Safety.....16
- E3: Opposition to Beverage Container Deposit Legislation17
- E4: State Support for Dairy Research and Market Development17
- E5: Fair Milk Price.....17
- E6: Truth in Labeling for Dairy Products18
- E7: Fluid Milk Solid Standards18**
- E8: Import Quality and Safety and Export Standards18
- E9: Trade Policies19
- E10: New and Existing Technologies and Products.....19
- Section F: Improving the Environment through a Public/Private Partnership21**
- F1: Water Stewardship.....21**
- F2: Board of Water Soil Resources Cost Share Program21
- F3: Agriculture Drainage Systems22
- F4: Climate Change and Clean Air Act22
- Section G: Support for Industry Efforts24**
- G1: Options for Animal Disposal24
- G2: Care of Animals.....24
- G3: Johne’s Disease.....24
- G4: US Dairy Sustainability Efforts25
- G5: Strategic Alliances.....25

Deleted: Environmental Compliance, Permitting and Environmental Review

58 **SECTION A: MAKE MINNESOTA A GREAT STATE FOR LIVESTOCK**

59 **A1: ~~Move to Outcome-Based Regulation~~**

Deleted: Environmental Compliance, Permitting and Environmental Review

60 **WHEREAS**, well managed dairy operations provide significant natural resource benefits to Minnesota due to the
61 acreage committed to multi-year crops in alfalfa and hay production which reduces soil erosion; and

62 **WHEREAS**, the application of manure as a soil amendment and natural crop fertilizer limits the amount of
63 nutrients imported from other areas, which is better for water quality and soil health; and

64 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota dairy farmers are committed to protecting our natural resources for the benefit of all
65 citizens as well as the dairy farmer’s well-being; and

66 **WHEREAS**, the viability of Minnesota’s dairy industry depends on reasonable and rational environmental
67 regulatory processes for permitting, environmental review and compliance that do not reduce existing environmental
68 protection standards; and

69 **WHEREAS**, the existing processes for permitting, environmental review and compliance in Minnesota present
70 significant challenges for livestock farmers, supporting industry, state and local officials, and citizens; and

71 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk supports the development of a permitting, environmental review and compliance
72 framework which would provide greater certainty with respect to permit and compliance requirements and timelines; and

73 **WHEREAS**, activist attorneys and/or special interest groups are misleading and influencing townships to adopt
74 arbitrary and onerous zoning ordinances that conflict with federal, state and county permits, ordinances and other
75 regulations which ultimately threatens Minnesota animal agriculture;

76 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

77 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the establishment of a permitting and environmental review process that
78 provides farmers, supporting industry, and state and local officials with clarity, consistency and timeliness.

79 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk opposes regulation on extreme soil loss, preferring instead preventative
80 measures to increase multi-year vegetation like pasture and hay ground.

81 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports existing environmental compliance standards – MinnFARM
82 standards for non-CAFOs and zero discharge standards for CAFOs.

83 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports ordinances and regulations based on sound science and current
84 technology and an environmental review process which ensures that Minnesota dairy farmers are not put at a
85 disadvantage compared to farmers in other states.

86 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges State, County and Township officials to join the Association in
87 developing proposals to improve the current process.

88 **A2: Health Insurance and Affordability**

91 **WHEREAS**, the cost of health insurance premiums is rising dramatically each year; and

92 **WHEREAS**, hundreds of Minnesota farm families cannot afford health insurance coverage and are not eligible for
93 MnSURE; and

94 **WHEREAS**, health care reform measures may also provide a framework for developing affordable health care
95 coverage for Minnesota farm families.

96 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

97 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges both State and Federal officials to implement policies to provide broader and
98 more equitable access to affordable health insurance coverage.

99 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that law be changed to allow for farms to create group health plans with the benefit
100 of lower costs realized by those group plans at other employers.

101 **A3: Tax Policy – State and Federal**

102 **WHEREAS**, the dairy industry is a major employer and economic engine for the United States and Greater
103 Minnesota; and

104 **WHEREAS**, dairy farmers need to remain competitive in a national market; and

105 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota dairy farmers are incurring significant costs relative to their counterparts in neighboring
106 states as they pay state sales tax on equipment and building materials to expand or improve operations.

107 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

108 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports tax policies that do not discriminate against the unique nature of dairy farms.

109 ~~**RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports full state conformity with federal tax benefits like Section 179 depreciation
110 and Section 199A deduction.~~

111 ~~**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports sales tax exemption for materials purchased for new construction
112 or renovation of barns, storage facilities and milking parlors in order to improve Minnesota milk producers' competitive
113 position in the national dairy marketplace.~~

114 **A4: Corporate Ownership of Farmland**

115 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk believes that local, private ownership of farmland is necessary for building and
116 maintaining healthy communities; and

117 **WHEREAS**, absentee ownership by corporations does not contribute to maintaining healthy communities; and

118 **WHEREAS**, certain business structures such as limited liability companies, farm producer corporations or other
119 networking structures for producers to work together attract outside capital and spread risk to afford the opportunity for
120 locally owned, farmer managed, dairies to succeed.

Deleted: 1

123 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

124 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the current corporate farm law provisions.

125 **A5: Preservation of Productive Agricultural Land**

126 **WHEREAS**, feeding a growing world population will become an ever more challenging task for the agricultural
127 sector; and

128 **WHEREAS**, valuable, productive agricultural land is being diverted to development and non-productive
129 conservation uses at a steady rate; and

130 **WHEREAS**, preservation of productive agricultural land will be essential to producing enough food to feed people
131 around the world.

132 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

133 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports policies that would protect the diversion of productive agricultural land to
134 industrial, commercial or residential uses or to non-productive conservation uses.

136 **SECTION B: SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION DAIRY FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE**

137 **B1: Support for the Next Generation Dairy Farmers**

138 **WHEREAS**, the average age of Minnesota dairy farmers continues to increase, with 22% of the state’s dairy farmers
139 under the age of 45 years old; and,

140 **WHEREAS**, new farmers rejuvenate and reinvest in Minnesota’s dairy infrastructure; and,

141 **WHEREAS**, new farmers face limited access to the capital needed to generate sustainable revenue for the
142 incoming generation.

143 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

144 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk support programs, partnerships and collaborations that increase the success of new
145 famers entering dairy farming as a career.

146 **B2: Dairy Research, Teaching and Consumer Education Center**

147 **WHEREAS**, University of Minnesota research has been a building block for production agriculture in the State; and

148 **WHEREAS**, the Minnesota State system, especially the dairy program at Ridgewater College, does an outstanding
149 job of preparing students for a career in dairy production in spite of inadequate teaching facilities; and

150 **WHEREAS**, a new on-campus dairy facility will foster cooperation between the University of Minnesota and the
151 dairy industry to enhance research capabilities and improve productivity and profitability for Minnesota dairies; and

152 **WHEREAS**, a new University of Minnesota Dairy Research Center will prepare the next generation of dairy
153 operators for business success using environmentally sound practices, improved animal care and enhanced product
154 quality and use; and

155 **WHEREAS**, the Center will provide a means to inform consumers of the health benefits of current and newly
156 developed dairy products; and

157 **WHEREAS**, upgrades to the current facilities at the West Central Research and Outreach Center will enhance dairy
158 learning.

159 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

160 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports development of a sustainable, long-term business model, with permanent
161 operating funding in place and reliance on grants for research and facilities upgrades.

162 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports funding for the University of Minnesota Dairy Research Center
163 through an allocation of state general obligation bond proceeds.

164 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports legislative approval of general fund appropriations to support
165 operation of enhanced Dairy Research, Training and Consumer Education Centers within the state of Minnesota, with an
166 emphasis on consumer education if based in the metro area.

167 **B3: Estate Tax Exemption and Tax Rate**

168 **WHEREAS**, estate tax law has significant impact on succession planning for dairy operations; and

169 **WHEREAS**, the current federal estate tax exemption and tax rate provide a reasonable framework for the tax
170 treatment of a descendant's assets.

171 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

172 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the continuation of the current federal estate tax exemption and tax rate.

173 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the Minnesota Beginning Farmer Tax Credit to be used amongst immediate
174 family members as well as non-relatives.

175 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports indexing the level of exemption for inflation and continuation of
176 stepped-up bases and provisions for spousal portability in order to provide long-term certainty for estate planning work.

177 **B4: Veterinary Education and Veterinarian Loan Forgiveness**

178 **WHEREAS**, the long-term sustainability of Minnesota's dairy industry depends upon having a sufficient number of
179 veterinarians trained in the care of animals in production agriculture; and

180 **WHEREAS**, partnerships with existing dairy operations which provide opportunities for veterinary students to receive
181 hands-on experience are a practical way to provide training opportunities for veterinarians; and

182 **WHEREAS**, the cost of pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine is placing pressure on veterinary students to
183 pursue alternatives to working in animal agriculture.

184 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

185 **RESOLVED**, the College of Veterinary Medicine should work closely with large scale dairy operations to maintain
186 facilities and programs which allow practical, hands-on experience for veterinary students to work with animals in
187 production agriculture.

188 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that funds be appropriated to provide loan forgiveness for graduates of the School of
189 Veterinary Medicine who practice in Minnesota in the area of food animal agriculture for a period of at least five years
190 following their graduation from the School of Veterinary Medicine.

191 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports federal funding for the University of Minnesota's College of
192 Veterinary Medicine National Center for Dairy Veterinary Education as a National Center of Excellence in Dairy Veterinary
193 Medical Education as authorized by the Federal Farm Bill.

194 **B5: Support for University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Programs**

195 **WHEREAS**, the University of Minnesota Land Grant College provides Minnesota Citizens an opportunity for
196 continuing education through the University of Minnesota Extension; and

197 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk has partnered with Extension in the development and hosting of this convention and
198 other educational events; and

199 **WHEREAS**, the Adult Farm Business Management program within the Minnesota State system provides crucial
200 business management support to dairy producers and the Ridgewater College program provides youth with education for
201 dairy production careers.

202 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

203 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges the Extension to increase animal production agriculture staffing in the University
204 of Minnesota.

205 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges counties to support the satellite offices of the Extension.

206 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges continued support for the Ridgewater College and urges the
207 Minnesota State system to improve and strengthen the Adult Farm Business Management program.

208 **B6: Farm Youth Leadership Programs including 4-H and FFA**

209 **WHEREAS**, the 4-H Program and FFA have successfully served generations of rural youth with practical education
210 and leadership training; and

211 **WHEREAS**, maintaining strong youth programs in Minnesota which focus on agricultural activities is vitally
212 important to preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders.

213 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

214 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports continued state and county funding to maintain 4-H and state and school
215 district funding to maintain FFA Programs throughout Minnesota.

216

217 **SECTION C: PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR GROWTH**

218 **C1: Strengthening Minnesota’s Processing Sector**

219 **WHEREAS**, growth and prosperity of the dairy industry is important to the state of Minnesota economically,
220 socially and environmentally; and

221 **WHEREAS**, processing and innovation is critical to a prosperous dairy industry in Minnesota; and

222 **WHEREAS**, dairy farmers and processing partners work together to further success of the dairy industry; and

223 **WHEREAS**, continued growth and advancement of Minnesota’s processing sector provides for strategic growth
224 for making Minnesota a more profitable state for dairy; and

225 **WHEREAS**, insufficient processing innovation and capacity inhibits growth in Minnesota.

226 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

227 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports direct incentives to encourage further innovation and increased milk
228 processing capacity to add value to Minnesota produced milk.

229 **C2: Livestock Investment Grant Program and Access to Capital**

230 **WHEREAS**, private sector investment in dairy farm modernization in Minnesota has not kept pace with
231 investments made by dairy operations in other parts of the nation; and

232 **WHEREAS**, the capitalization of the Livestock Investment Grant Program will encourage investment by family
233 farmers in Minnesota’s dairy industry; and

234 **WHEREAS**, the number of dairy farms in Minnesota continues to decline; and

235 **WHEREAS**, modernization and expansion of the industry is necessary for Minnesota dairy farmers to compete
236 economically with dairy farmers in other states; and

237 **WHEREAS**, many Minnesota dairy farmers lack access to sufficient capital to make the kinds of investments
238 needed to modernize or expand their dairy operations.

239 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

240 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports state funding of the Livestock Investment Grant Program in the amount of
241 at least 40% of total AGRI funding (per year) in order to facilitate modernization of our dairy industry.

242 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports Livestock Investment Grants awarded in amounts not less than
243 10% of total proposed project costs, not to exceed the current cap of \$50,000, or more for beginning dairy farmers.

244 **C3: Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement (DDPEP)**

245 **WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Dairy Initiative (MDI) has been the primary focus of the Dairy Development and
246 Profitability Enhancement programs (DDPEP); and

Deleted: ¶

248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277

WHEREAS, MDI has focused on the delivery of technical and financial services to Minnesota dairy farms; and

WHEREAS, the public investment in MDI helps to retain existing farms and support their ability to modernize and expand; and

WHEREAS, DDPEP has consistently provided at least a 5 to 1 return on the state’s investment thereby adding significant value to the state’s \$3 billion dairy industry while serving the farmers of the state; and

WHEREAS, greater flexibility with respect to the administration of state Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement Program would authorize the use of state funds for dairy training and research programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports a return to full funding of \$1 million for the Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk also supports maintaining funding for the on-farm component of the program (dairy profitability teams) to continue to serve the individual needs of program participants by addressing management issues which prevent participants from achieving their individual business goals.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the program be modified to provide greater flexibility to allow funds to be used to continue MDI activities and/or fund dairy training and research activities.

C4: Federal Farm Program

WHEREAS, the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill supports programs which impact Minnesota dairy farmers, including Dairy Risk Coverage (DRC), LGM-Livestock, Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP), and other conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Farm Bill contains nutrition assistance programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and School Breakfast Program (SBP); and

WHEREAS, dairy products should continue to be a primary food source in all USDA food assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, alfalfa and other grass-based forages have a positive impact on the environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk urges USDA to educate producers about the programs in the 2018 Farm Bill, specifically, DRC and EQIP.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk will work with United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Services to ensure proper implementation of federal programs on dairy farms.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the DRC should allow for additional production history for a participating dairy when a family member joins or when an inter-generational transfers occurs.

Deleted: 4

Deleted: Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP

Deleted: 4

Deleted: ; and

Deleted: WHEREAS, the current state of MPP-Dairy shows little incentive to enroll above a \$4.00 margin.¶

Deleted: 4

Deleted: MPP

Deleted: MPP

287
288
289
290
291
292
293
294
295
296
297
298
299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311

FURTHER RESOLVED, the DRC should update base for those who have grown.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports making the Dairy Risk Coverage lower cost for producers to aid enrollment, especially for the equivalent of an every-other day tanker load of milk – about 12 million pounds.

Deleted: Margin Protection Program

Deleted: first 5 million pounds of milk

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports the original feed-cost adjuster into DRC.

Deleted: MPP-Dairy

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports the inclusion and federal funding of nutrition assistance programs contained in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Deleted: 4

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports a program which works and acts like crop insurance for milk revenue.

Deleted: FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports permanent and full funding of LGM-Livestock program.¶
FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports classifying milk as a commodity, rather than livestock, to enhance use of the LGM-Dairy program.¶

FURTHER RESOLVED, that national dairy policy should encourage domestic and export market growth and consumption of dairy products.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that future farm policy should eliminate the penalty which farmers experience in moving cropland to alfalfa or other grass-based forages.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk work to identify resources to offset any negative repercussions for transitioning to a higher grass based production.

C5: Risk Management Tools for Milk Producers

WHEREAS, Minnesota dairy farmers require access to improved tools to help them manage the risks inherent in modern agriculture, including adverse weather and severe market fluctuations; and

WHEREAS, dairy farmers who do not have access to adequate risk management tools will struggle to obtain financing for their dairy operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports the development and implementation of strong risk management tools to protect the financial viability of dairy operations.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports efforts to educate farmers regarding the availability and efficacy of utilizing federal risk management programs.

321 **SECTION D: CREATE THE PREMIER DAIRY INDUSTRY INFRASTRUCTURE**

322 **D1: Infrastructure Needs of Rural Communities and Milk Processors**

323 **WHEREAS**, a vibrant, diverse and growing dairy processing sector is vital to dairy sustainability; and

324 **WHEREAS**, local infrastructure needs such as roads, bridges, utilities, water supply and wastewater facilities affect
325 the ability of milk processors to remain competitive; and

326 **WHEREAS**, ongoing operations and any planned expansion by milk processors located in communities whose
327 infrastructure is inadequate to meet their operational needs will jeopardize jobs and economic impact in Greater
328 Minnesota and dairy farmer sustainability; and

329 **WHEREAS**, state financial assistance is needed to ensure that municipalities can make timely improvements to
330 public infrastructure.

331 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

332 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports funding and incentives to maintain or improve essential local infrastructure.

333 **D2: Safer Roads**

334 **WHEREAS**, employment opportunities in rural agricultural communities often attract a high population of
335 undocumented Minnesota residents; and

336 **WHEREAS**, undocumented Minnesota residents cannot currently receive a driver's license from the State of
337 Minnesota; and

338 **WHEREAS**, completing proper driver training and successful passage of driver exams will allow undocumented
339 Minnesota residents to be safer drivers in our communities; and

340 **WHEREAS**, the privilege of a license to drive legally in the State of Minnesota would allow undocumented
341 Minnesota residents to have a safe and legal means of transportation for emergency and other purposes, making safer
342 communities.

343 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

344 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports legislation requiring the State of Minnesota to offer a provisional driver's license to
345 undocumented Minnesota residents when those applicants demonstrate they have automotive and personal injury
346 liability insurance and meet minimum safety or driver training standards.

347 **D3: Competitive Overtime Pay Policy**

348 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota dairy farmers are operating in an increasingly competitive national market; and

349 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota's neighboring states of Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota all recognize and implement the
350 federal farm exemption for overtime payment; and

351 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota farm operations currently pay a stepped-up minimum salary established in state law for
352 agricultural operations; and

353 **WHEREAS**, employers and workers have developed mutually beneficial work schedules using Minnesota's
354 relatively higher hourly wage rates.

355 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

356 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports legislation which would place Minnesota on par with neighboring states by
357 ensuring that the federal agriculture exemption for overtime pay is the legal standard established in the state and by
358 rescinding the stepped up minimum salary for agricultural workers.

359 **D4: Remedy for Stray Current**

360 **WHEREAS**, a number of dairy herds continue to experience problems with milk production and animal health
361 associated with stray current on Minnesota dairy farms; and

362 **WHEREAS**, a comprehensive solution to this problem must be found through a commitment of Minnesota utilities
363 to address stray current where it exists on their high-voltage transmission or local distribution systems; and

364 **WHEREAS**, other dairy states are working to develop mechanisms to address stray current concerns.

365 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

366 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk work with state utility companies – including rural electric cooperatives – to identify
367 and address stray current conditions.

368 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk opposes legislation that would limit the rights of dairy producers pursuing
369 damages in a court of law for alleged electricity pollution and reduced milk production related to stray current.

370 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk proposes the use of expert testimonies of veterinarians and other dairy
371 industry professionals to support the case in representing the negative and harmful impact produced by stray current.

372 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges further research avenues targeted at identifying solid measurements
373 to accurately represent Minnesota's diverse dairy industry, for the health and protection of the cattle.

374 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports Dairy Farmers of America policy to determine the quantity of stray
375 current on a producer's facility by using the value of 125 ohms per cow instead of 500 ohms.

376 **D5: Renewable Energy – Federal and State Policies and Incentives**

377 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota dairies can become significant contributors to our energy supply and to energy self-
378 sufficiency through the continued development of bio-gas, electricity and heat from livestock manure, and other clean,
379 renewable energy technologies.

380 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

381 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the expansion of the state alternative energy production incentive for
382 methane digesters, solar, and small scale wind developments.

383 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports policies and programs that encourage the development and
384 utilization of all sources of ag-based renewable energy resources, including ethanol and biodiesel, that help free us from
385 dependence on fossil fuels.

386 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges the State to establish minimum standards for utility renewable energy
387 production and pricing for net-metering of power which more accurately reflects the cost of generation of power from
388 renewable sources such as on-farm digesters.

389 **D6: Wind and Solar Development Lease and Setback Requirements**

390 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk supports the orderly and safe development of renewable energy; and

391 **WHEREAS**, some developers are presenting lease documents to landowners which are open-ended as to the wind
392 and solar project development timeframe and contain language which would provide interests in the leased property
393 which are more extensive than what is needed to construct a wind project; and

394 **WHEREAS**, some developers are not adhering to manufacturer recommended setbacks for wind turbines and solar
395 panels; and

396 **WHEREAS**, stray current can be a problem for dairy farms.

397 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

398 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports a time limit on wind and solar project lease terms of seven years, by which
399 time a project must have commenced construction or the lease is void, requiring that a new lease be negotiated and
400 executed.

401 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that wind and solar project leases must be limited to real estate interests which are
402 necessary to develop a wind project.

403 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that state site permit standards for wind turbine and solar setbacks be reviewed and
404 modified to reflect at least current manufacturer setback distances.

405 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that wind developers conduct independent pre- and post-development testing for stray
406 current for dairy farms located with a wind and solar project footprint.

407 **D7: Immigration**

408 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk understands the importance of reforming federal immigration policy for the dairy
409 industry; and

410 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk has been working with Minnesota's Congressional delegation on a reform package
411 that protects Minnesota's dairy families, their employees and their animals; and

412 **WHEREAS**, the Agriculture Workforce Coalition has undertaken efforts to develop solutions for dairy operations
413 that employ immigrant workers; and

414 **WHEREAS**, the changing demographics across the U.S. clearly show a shortage of qualified workforce.

415 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

416 **RESOLVED**, that immigration reform should be handled at the Federal level and not by individual states.

417 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports a comprehensive immigration reform plan and establishment of a
418 guest worker program to address immediate worker needs.

419 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports implementation of the “AG Card” and Temporary Worker Visa
420 proposals developed by the Agriculture Workforce Coalition.

421 **D8: Employment Under False Pretenses**

422 **WHEREAS**, a central concern of Minnesota dairy farmers is the health and comfort of their livestock; and

423 **WHEREAS**, individual farmers and the dairy industry as a whole can suffer significant economic consequences
424 from findings or even allegations of animal abuse; and

425 **WHEREAS**, opponents of animal agriculture may seek to gain access to farm operations under false pretenses in
426 order to record real or staged instances of substandard animal care.

427 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT:**

428 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk remains vigilant in their commitment to proper animal care.

429 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the enactment of penalties for individuals who would gain access
430 to animal agriculture operations under false pretenses in order to stage and record the mistreatment of animals.

431 **D9: Manure Hoses in Right of Ways**

432 **WHEREAS**, manure hoses provide manure a fast, efficient, safe, and agronomic way to get nutrients to the field; and

433 **WHEREAS**, the state of Minnesota has the right to designate what is and is not allowed in public right-of-ways;
434 and

435 **WHEREAS**, local government powers should be respected, but the benefits to soil, road maintenance, and public
436 safety outweigh a local government trying to make business more difficult to dairy farm.

437 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

438 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports full rights for manure hoses in public right-of-ways with no permitting.

439 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the changes to right-of-way law in 2016 for flex pipes made life better for all
440 Minnesotans and Minnesota dairy farms.

441 **D10: Better Trucking Laws**

442 **WHEREAS**, milk trucks are carrying non-divisible loads that must safely get to a processing plant as soon as possible to
443 ensure a fresh product; and

444 **WHEREAS**, the FAST Act implemented by Congress allows for milk trucks to carry up to 91,000 pounds on federal
445 roads; and

446 **WHEREAS**, milk trucks require flexibility to limit the number of trips while still emptying bulk milk tanks on farms
447 in full due to the rules in the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance; and

448 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota law enforcement officials ticket milk trucks inconsistently over the road and at the milk
449 plant.

450 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

451 **RESOLVED**, that Minnesota conforms to neighboring state laws allowing minimal numbers of milk truck trips to
452 lower milk's carbon footprint.

453 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Minnesota begins regulating milk trucks by axle, combined with bridge safety
454 education, rather than by Gross Vehicle Weight.

455 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government improve animal welfare by allowing more flexibility in long-
456 haul rules for livestock drivers.

457

458

459 **SECTION E: MAINTAIN AND GROW DAIRY MARKETS**

460 **E1: Healthy Choices in Schools**

461 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk believes that the State of Minnesota should support a healthy school environment
462 which improves access to foods which contribute to a healthy diet, such as high quality whole milk, and limits access to
463 those which do not; and

464 **WHEREAS**, the availability of high quality milk through various venues in our schools is key to supporting healthy
465 dietary choices; and

466 **WHEREAS**, flavored milk is the healthy option for students to choose as a snack or with their lunch, and

467 **WHEREAS**, dairy options, including flavored milk, provide students with important nutrients including calcium and
468 Vitamins A and D.

469 **WHEREAS**, recently implemented federal school lunch guidelines establish lower limits on caloric intake for
470 students from school lunch programs; and

471 **WHEREAS**, the new guidelines are generating complaints from active students and their parents about the
472 adequacy of the modified guidelines in meeting the nutritional needs of at least some children.

473 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

474 **RESOLVED**, that the State of Minnesota encourage the presentation of healthy beverages including high quality
475 milk and flavored milk, at competitive prices, in the school lunch line, alongside other healthy beverages sold in school
476 vending machines or school stores throughout the state.

477 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every effort be made to present milk products in the most desirable packaging and at
478 the most desirable temperature in school settings.

479 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk will work with other dairy industry interests to reach out to school
480 nutritionists and food service professionals to encourage the expanded availability of dairy products, including flavored
481 milk, in a healthy meals program.

482 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the adjustment to federal school lunch guidelines to allow for
483 additional offerings of milk and other dairy products to meet the caloric/nutritional needs of active students.

484 **E2: Raw Milk Sales – Public Health and Safety**

485 **WHEREAS**, milk is an important part of a healthy diet for most Americans; and

486 **WHEREAS**, milk is made safe by virtue of certain long established processes including dairy inspections and
487 pasteurization; and

488 **WHEREAS**, current state law limits the sale of unpasteurized (raw) milk to on-farm sales; and

489 **WHEREAS**, consumers will face increased health risks due to greater availability of raw milk.

490 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

491 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports strong dairy inspection programs and continuation of the current limitations
492 on the sale of raw milk.

493 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Minnesota dairy interests, including the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and
494 cooperative organizations strongly oppose the method of marketing raw milk.

495 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk will work with other dairy industry interests to strengthen and clarify state
496 law to limit the availability of raw milk to on-farm sales.

497 **E3: Opposition to Beverage Container Deposit Legislation**

498 **WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is developing a draft program design for a recycling refund
499 program for beverage containers in Minnesota; and

500 **WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota currently rates second in per capita recycling among all states without having
501 a recycling refund/deposit program in place; and

502 **WHEREAS**, a recycling refund/deposit program would impose significant costs for both consumers and businesses
503 using beverage containers in Minnesota.

504 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

505 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk opposes the establishment of a recycling refund/deposit program for beverage
506 containers in Minnesota.

507 **E4: State Support for Dairy Research and Market Development**

508 **WHEREAS**, research and market development improves processor efficiencies and increases consumption of dairy
509 products; and

510 **WHEREAS**, state assistance for research and market development for Minnesota's dairy processing sector will
511 provide job growth and dairy producer sustainability.

512 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

513 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges support for research and market development from the state through the
514 University of Minnesota, the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute and other entities, including check-off
515 organizations, to grow a vibrant and diverse Minnesota dairy industry.

516 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk will work with these existing dairy research and market development
517 institutions to ensure coordination and cooperation with research undertaken by the emerging Dairy Research, Teaching
518 and Consumer Education Center.

519 **E5: Fair Milk Price**

520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543
544
545
546
547
548

WHEREAS, profitability continues to be a significant problem facing dairy farmers; and
WHEREAS, there is a significant spread between the retail price of milk and the farm gate price for milk.
WHEREAS, certain processors are capturing significant margins in the market by means of labeling practices which imply that safe and approved animal treatment technologies are not perfectly safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that state and federal policymakers and dairy operators' milk processing partners work to secure a greater proportion of the milk price for milk producers.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state prohibits unfair or inaccurate labeling practices which increase cost to consumers without providing price benefit to producers.

FURTHER RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports establishment of a national system to verify cold storage reports.

E6: Truth in Labeling for Dairy Products

WHEREAS, liquid extracted from grains, seeds, beans or leaves of various plants are being processed and marketed as "milk"; and

WHEREAS, these imitation dairy products are not nutritionally the same as real milk; and

WHEREAS, the labeling and placement of these products in the marketplace serve to confuse consumers regarding the relative benefits of these products; and

WHEREAS, it is a longstanding public policy to ensure that consumers receive accurate information regarding products they are purchasing for consumption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the term "milk" be reserved for foods that come from mammals.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that non-dairy products be labeled with information to ensure that consumers understand that imitation dairy products do not contain the same nutrient value as real milk.

E7: Fluid Milk Solid Standards

WHEREAS, the current fluid milk solid standards are not uniform nationally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, Minnesota Milk supports a more dynamic pricing system that would appropriately incentivize increasing protein and fat inclusion in fluid milk.

Deleted: raising the solids standards for fluid milk at least equal to the level of fresh milk from the farm and consider adopting California standards nationwide

E8: Import Quality and Safety and Export Standards

WHEREAS, imported dairy products may not be inspected as stringently as are U.S. dairy products; and

552 **WHEREAS**, an inadequate inspection system may constitute a bio-security risk; and

553 **WHEREAS**, the movement of dairy products in international commerce calls for efforts to ensure that U.S. milk
554 complies with certain minimal production standards; and

555 **WHEREAS**, international trade in dairy products should be governed by fair, reciprocal product standards.

556 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

557 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports federal legislation to increase inspection of imports, enhance tracking, and
558 to ensure that imported products adhere to the same regulations as U.S. products.

559 **E9: Trade Policies**

560 **WHEREAS**, international trade policies have a significant impact on Minnesota dairy farmers.

561 **WHEREAS**, many well-known cheeses trace their origins to Europe, and decades of trade and emigration have
562 increased the familiarity and production of these cheeses beyond that of the historically European geographic region. To
563 the extent that many of these cheeses are known by common food names regardless of the geographic area it is produced.

564 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

565 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the development of trade policies and regional trade agreements that
566 safeguard U.S. dairy production and economics.

567 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we specifically oppose including dairy in the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment
568 Partnership (TTIP); such action would result in superseding existing bilateral agreements, such as the U.S./Australia FTA, and
569 open the U.S. market for increased imports of dairy products without gaining any increased market access for U.S. exports.

570 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the goal of U.S. trade policy and future trade agreements should be to expand access
571 to profitable markets for exports of U.S. dairy and other agricultural products.

572 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that U.S. trade policy should limit the efforts of the European Union to gain exclusive
573 geographical indication coverage of many common names of cheeses, many of which, the generic names have been used
574 and recognized throughout the world.

575 **E10: New and Existing Technologies and Products**

576 **WHEREAS**, new and existing technologies and products continue to be researched by Universities and private
577 institutions to improve the safe production of foods including milk; and

578 **WHEREAS**, the consumers are assured of the safety and quality of the food supply by the U.S. Food and Drug
579 Administration and other responsible governmental agencies; and

580 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug
581 Administration (FDA) have all confirmed the safety of food and animal feed that contain genetically modified organisms
582 which are made through biotechnology; and

583 **WHEREAS**, dairy farmers are committed to the production of quality, safe milk, excellent care of their animals and
584 the sustainable use of our natural resources.

585 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

586 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the use of new and existing technologies and products by dairy farmers when
587 approved by the responsible governmental agencies.

588 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges processors and marketers of milk to refrain from misleading claims
589 about the safety and quality of milk.

590 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk does not support food labels which would mislead consumers about the
591 safety of biotechnology, erode the credibility of FDA and discourage consumer confidence of new, beneficial technologies;
592 and

593 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any attempt to disseminate misleading consumer messages denies dairy farmers the
594 freedom to produce and market a quality product.

595

596 **SECTION F: IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH A PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

597 **F1: Water Stewardship**

598 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota’s dairy and other farmers are one of the primary stewards of the waters of our state; and

599 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk supports having all waters of the state designated as to their use and a determination
600 made with respect to natural, background, and/or legacy levels of impairments which contribute to TMDLs; and

601 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota dairy farmers propose to actively participate in the TMDL process and the establishment of
602 an equitable fee structure to implement TMDL remedies; and

603 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota voters made clear through their adoption of the Clean Water Amendment in 2012 that they
604 share the goal of more resources being targeted to clean Minnesota waters.

Deleted: .

605 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:**

606 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center, a formal coalition of
607 farm organizations whose focus is to bring farmers input to the Impaired Waters and TMDL discussion and to help non
608 farmers gain a better understanding of existing practices utilized to protect the waters of our state.

609 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports reasonable, science-based assessments of water quality which
610 take into account modern agricultural practices which limit agriculture’s contribution to groundwater and surface water
611 quality concerns.

612 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk opposes any increase in water fees assessed to feedlots by the Minnesota
613 Pollution Control Agency.

614 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports using Clean Water Amendment sales tax collections to experiment
615 with and improve clean water practices, and to incentivize land owners for water quality practices and compensate for
616 any regulatory taking such as mandatory buffers.

Deleted: agricultural

Deleted: .

617 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk encourages State Leaders to target sensitive lands and not take fertile
618 cropland out of production, and urge that any programs be voluntary and not permanent.

619 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges that no additional regulation be imposed.

620 **F2: Board of Water Soil Resources Cost Share Program**

621 **WHEREAS**, all Minnesota dairy farmers over 1,000 animal units are already in compliance with state feedlot rules
622 and all producers under 300 animal units must have sought to come into compliance with the state’s feedlot rules; and

623 **WHEREAS**, the expense of coming into compliance should not be borne by dairy producers alone since improving
624 our natural resources is a benefit to all citizens and the cost of compliance adds uncompetitive production costs to the
625 smaller-scale dairy farmer; and

629 **WHEREAS**, the state established the cost share program to assist farmers in making investments in facilities and
630 practices to bring dairy operations into compliance with the feedlot rules, and

631 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota’s Feedlot Water Quality Grant cost share program is administered by the Board of Water
632 and Soil Resources (BWSR); and

633 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature appropriated \$260,000, per year for Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 for Feedlot
634 Water Quality Grants which provides competitive grant opportunities for feedlots under 300 animal units, in watersheds
635 where there are impaired waters; and

636 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

637 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges the state to maintain, at a minimum, current levels of funding to allow feedlot
638 operators to come into compliance with state feedlot rules.

639 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the state determines the number and location of dairy operators who are yet to come
640 into compliance with the feedlot rules.

641 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk and State officials work together to facilitate compliance of dairy producers
642 on a realistic timeframe.

643 **F3: Agriculture Drainage Systems**

644 **WHEREAS**, landowners currently experience frustration from the need to interact with numerous state and
645 federal agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands and drainage activities; and

646 **WHEREAS**, landowners experience lack of certainty with regard to wetland definitions and delineations, and a
647 complicated mix of wetland protection laws and wetland restoration programs.

648 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

649 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the development of working agreements between the U.S. Department of
650 Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR),
651 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) that simplify the installation
652 and maintenance of agricultural drainage systems.

653 **F4: Climate Change and Clean Air Act**

654 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk recognizes the climate is changing; and

655 **WHEREAS**, factors impacting climate change are worldwide in scope; and

656 **WHEREAS**, the dairy industry’s carbon footprint per pound of milk produced has been shrinking since 1944; and

657 **WHEREAS**, there is little or no conclusive scientific evidence indicating that particulate matter from farm
658 operations adversely affects public health.

659 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

660 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges policy aimed at impacting climate change be resolved on a national and
661 international level.

662 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk calls for the adoption of environmental regulations based on sound science
663 and by means of a transparent process, and that regulations be administered in a practical manner so as to prevent undue
664 hardship for dairy farmers.

665

666 **SECTION G: SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY EFFORTS**

667 **G1: Options for Animal Disposal**

668 **WHEREAS**, the Food and Drug Administration has developed rules which prevent the rendering of animals over
669 30 months of age; and

670 **WHEREAS**, some County regulations do not allow composting or burial of animals.

671 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

672 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports having the Board of Animal Health be the leading state agency to set,
673 implement or enforce policies relating to animal disposal practices.

674 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that additional options for disposal of animals must be uniformly available to producers
675 across the state including continuation of financial support through programs such as EQIP.

676 **G2: Care of Animals**

677 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk supports a vibrant livestock sector and believes in maintaining consumer confidence
678 in the Nation's food supply; and

679 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota dairy farmers provide quality care of their animals; and

680 **WHEREAS**, the foundation for the care of dairy animals is based on the values and integrity of the dairy farmers
681 whose way of life is dependent upon the health and well-being of their animals; and

682 **WHEREAS**, Minnesota Milk will participate in initiatives which seek to establish livestock care standards that are
683 based on sound science, economic feasibility and which are broadly accepted in the marketplace.

684 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

685 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk urges its members to provide quality housing, nutrition, husbandry and veterinary
686 care to all animals.

687 **FURTHER RESOLVED** Minnesota Milk work with other entities to ensure animal care standards are being met and
688 to educate the broader community, including elected officials, about current animal care practices.

689 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk opposes initiatives to impose arbitrary animal care standards through
690 statute.

691 **G3: Johne's Disease**

692 **WHEREAS**, Johne's Disease is a threat and can be detected through testing.

693 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

694 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk requests that the state and federal governments provide cost-share funding for the cost
695 of a voluntary testing program with the goal of establishing Minnesota as a Johne's-free state.

696 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the state of Minnesota continue the John's testing program.

697 **G4: US Dairy Sustainability Efforts**

698 **WHEREAS**, the dairy industry is working to provide consumers with the nutritious and responsibly produced products
699 they want, while developing a more sustainable food system for the 21st century and beyond; and

700 **WHEREAS**, dairy farmers are committed to socially responsible, economically viable and environmentally sound
701 practices that promote the current and future health and wellbeing of our consumers, our communities, our employees,
702 our cows, our planet, and our business through leadership in innovation and research; and

703 **WHEREAS** the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy is a collaboration effort of experts from academia, government,
704 nongovernment organizations, as well as professionals from the U.S. dairy value chain whose focus is to measure, improve
705 and communicate dairy's role in a sustainable food system.

706 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

707 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports the dairy industry's sustainability commitment through the Innovation
708 Center for U.S. Dairy.

709 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk will provide input and assistance to its members as they work to optimize
710 their production practices and to communicate positive contributions their farm businesses make.

711 **G5: Strategic Alliances**

712 **WHEREAS**, the dairy farmer and their cooperatives must work together to get a fair price for their product; and

713 **WHEREAS**, the cost of transporting milk for processing in the Upper Midwest is considerably higher than in other
714 milk producing regions; and

715 **WHEREAS**, this cost is being paid by the producer -- either directly or indirectly; and

716 **WHEREAS**, enhanced outcomes can be gained through strategic alliances and coalitions.

717 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

718 **RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk supports Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) Program which bring cooperatives
719 and farmers together to achieve common goals.

720 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that dairy farmers and milk processing partners continue working to improve hauling
721 efficiencies by every means possible in order to reduce assembly costs.

722 **FURTHER RESOLVED**, Minnesota Milk seek strategic alliances when improved association priority outcomes can
723 be achieved.