

Co-ops Wasting Together

Co-ops are funding politicians. Let's take a look at the money that dairy farmers through their hard work supplied these politicians. Remember this money could be given back to you from your co-op, but instead they pay the politicians, so if a favor is needed, they have the politicians leveraged with your money. The 2018 disastrous Farm Bill was paid with money to the politicians in 2017-2018 like this*—

Senator Pat Roberts, Chair of the Senate Ag Committee, received from:

- Dairy Farmers of America \$3,000
- Deans Foods \$1,000
- Intl. Dairy Foods Association \$2,500

Ranking Member Senator Debbie Stabenow received from:

- Associated Milk Producers Incorporated \$6,000
- California Dairies \$5,000
- Cheese Importers Assn. of America \$1,000
- Dairy Farmers of America \$6,000
- Deans Foods \$3,500
- Hilmar Cheese \$2,500
- Intl. Dairy Foods Association \$7,500
- Maryland Virginia Milk Producers \$1,000
- Michigan Milk Producers \$6,500
- National Milk Producers Federation \$5,000
- Southeast Milk \$2,000
- United Dairywomen of Arizona \$1,000

Mike Conaway, Chair of the Congressional Ag Committee, received from:

- California Dairies \$5,000
- Cheese Importers of Assn. of America \$500
- Dairy Farmers of America \$6,000
- Darigold \$1,000
- Deans Foods \$5,500
- Hilmar Cheese \$5,000
- Intl. Dairy Foods Association \$3,500
- Land O'Lakes \$10,000
- Maryland Virginia Milk Producers \$1,000
- National Milk Producers Federation \$10,000
- Southeast Milk \$1,500
- United Dairywomen of Arizona \$1000

Ranking Member Collin Peterson of the Congressional Ag Committee received from:

- Associated Milk Producers Incorporated \$10,000
- Dairy Farmers of America \$8,000
- Deans Foods \$4,000
- Intl. Dairy Foods Association \$9,000
- Land O'Lakes \$10,000
- National Milk Producers Federation \$7,500

**This information was purchased from Open Secrets by Dairy Pricing Association*

It looks like **\$152,000** was paid to these 4 people in two years from the dairy industry. In addition, House and Senate Representatives from 16 states received **\$192,600** from the dairy industry.

In 2023, Congress was to write and implement a farm bill. At a farm bill listening session in La Crosse, WI, the Chair of the Congressional Ag Committee Glenn Thompson guaranteed that the Class 1 pricing would revert back to the old formula of the higher of Class 3 or 4 instead of the average of Class 3 or 4 plus 74 cents, which was the cause of devastating PPD's. Congress failed to get a farm bill passed, which delayed and ended some payments to struggling dairy farmers. In return, this could still lead to large negative PPD's. In the midst of this chaos was the Federal Milk Marketing Order hearing which became stalled for unknown reasons. Then Congress passed The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act just to have it left on Senator Stabenow's desk, who is the Chair of the Senate Ag Committee, not even to introduce the bill in the Senate for a vote. Is this the only reason Congress passed this act? Because Senator Stabenow is not running for re-election and it would be easy for her to do nothing without suffering any consequences?

The current money flow from dairy co-ops in 2021-2022 ahead of the 2023 Farm Bill looks like this*—

Senator Debbie Stabenow Chair of the Senate Ag Committee received from:

- Agri-Mark **\$1,500**
- Associated Milk Producers Incorporated **\$2,500**
- Darigold **\$2,500**
- Dairy Farmers of America **\$4,500**
- Maryland Virginia Milk Producers **\$2,000**
- Michigan Milk Producers **\$7,500**
- National Milk Producers Federation **\$2,500**
- Southeast Milk **\$2,000**
- United Dairywomen of Arizona **\$1,000**

Ranking Member of the Congressional Ag Committee Glenn Thompson received from:

- Agri-Mark **\$2,000**
- Associated Milk Producers Incorporated **\$3,500**
- California Dairies **\$10,000**
- Darigold **\$1,000**
- Dairy Farmers of America **\$10,000**
- Intl. Dairy Food Association **\$7,500**
- Maryland Virginia Milk Producers **\$6,000**
- Michigan Milk Producers **\$1,500**
- National Milk Producers Federation **\$5,000**
- Southeast Milk **\$3,000**
- United Dairywomen of Arizona **\$1,000**

David Scott Chair of the Congressional Ag Committee received from:

- Agri-Mark **\$1,000**
- Associated Milk Producers Incorporated **\$4,500**
- California Dairies **\$6,000**
- Darigold **\$1,000**
- Dairy Farmers of America **\$10,000**
- Hilmar Cheese **\$1,000**
- Intl. Dairy Foods Association **\$10,000**
- Land O'Lakes **\$5,000**
- Maryland Virginia Milk Producers **\$7,500**
- Michigan Milk Producers **\$1,000**
- National Milk Producers Federation **\$10,000**
- Southeast Milk **\$3,500**
- United Dairywomen of Arizona **\$2,000**

Ranking Member of the Senate Ag Committee John Boozman received from:

- California Dairies **\$10,000**
- Dairy Farmers of America **\$7,500**
- Hilmar Cheese **\$2,500**
- Intl. Dairy Foods Association **\$3,000**
- Land O'Lakes **\$5,000**
- National Milk Producers Federation **\$5,000**

It looks like **\$172,000** was paid to these 4 people in two years from the dairy industry. In addition, **House and Senate Representatives from 16 states received \$301,500 from the dairy industry.**

If you do not see your Co-op listed above, do not fear. You may still have skin in the game. National Milk Producers Federation is funded by 24 Co-op's. Even if you ship to a private plant and belong to Farm First or Edge Dairy Co-op, they have you covered. Is this money the reason supply management is never talked about? The last worst deal that congress passed to help dairy farmers was the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 or better known as the dairy checkoff. With the failure of this program, it is good that Congress does not act too often. Even with the large number of dairy farms going out of business Congress fails to listen to dairy farmers. The money the politicians receive from the dairy industry far outweighs the farmer's voice.

Because of the two party system in Washington, D.C. that cannot or will not work together, dairy farmers are left with little choice but continue to either suffer under the failed policies of politicians or think beyond the status quo and look at other options. The option is **Dairy Pricing Association (DPA)**. Would you spend 2 cents per hundred or less or possibly more to remove surplus dairy products in a manner that would positively affect your milk check? These products are used to help needy people, including children, who really need dairy in their diet. DPA is a grassroots dairy farmer operated non-government organization. As we say at Dairy Pricing Association, this is **America's dairy farmer's helping themselves by helping others**. Milk Check Comparisons—call for more information.

Get involved to help

Blessings of Hope, Christian Aid Ministries, The Farm Link, Catholic Charities USA, Hunger Task Force + local charities!

Phone: (715) 284-2590
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