



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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VanderMeer Announces Strong Support for University of Wisconsin Dairy Innovation Hub

Madison – Lawmakers, university officials and dairy industry stakeholders held a press conference Wednesday morning at the State Capitol in Madison to introduce Senate Bill 186 to establish a Dairy Innovation Hub at UW Madison, UW Platteville and UW River Falls.

The bill requires the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to create a UW Dairy Innovation Hub and provides \$7.9 million to fund the requirements under the bill. The goal of the Dairy Innovation Hub is to help generate much needed new discoveries, train current and future industry leaders, and build a team of collaborators best positioned to provide interdisciplinary solutions to the complex challenges the \$88 billion agriculture industry in Wisconsin faces.

This proposal, authored by Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Representative Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City), is a recommendation of the Dairy Task Force 2.0 and is supported by the Dairy Business Association, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, and other agricultural organizations.

Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), member of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, released the following statement:

“The creation of the Dairy Innovation Hub is a proposal that is vitally important to agriculture producers and stakeholders across the state. I’ve formally co-sponsored the legislation and am in strong support of its passage.

“Farmers and the agriculture industry as a whole are facing tremendous challenges right now. What is frustrating to me as a state legislator striving to address problems people are having is that most of the root causes of the detrimental issues our farmers are facing right now seem to rest at the federal level. This is something tangible that we can do, right here in our state, to positively impact the future of the \$88 billion agriculture industry.”

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.