



JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Celebrating America's Dairyland with June Dairy Month

June 4, 2018

People around the nation and the world know Wisconsin as “America’s Dairyland” and for good reason. According to the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, the dairy industry contributes over \$43 billion dollars to our state’s economy each year. In fact, dairy means more to Wisconsin than potatoes to Idaho or citrus to Florida. The importance of the dairy industry to Wisconsin is nothing new. Our state has held the title of America’s Dairyland for a long time. It was way back in 1939 when the legislature added the slogan to Wisconsin license plates. One year later in 1940, Governor Julius P. Heil signed a proclamation declaring the first June Dairy Month in Wisconsin and we have been celebrating ever since. Here are some dairy facts worth celebrating:

- The dairy industry contributes approximately \$82,500 per minute to the state's economy.
- Wisconsin is home to more dairy farms than any other state, about 8,500.
- If Wisconsin were its own country, it would be the 4th largest cheese producing country in the world.
- Wisconsin accounts for approximately 45% of all the specialty cheese made in the United States.
- At the 2017 U.S. Cheese Championship Contest, Wisconsin cheesemakers won 184 awards out of the 306 that were given (60.1%).

With dairy and agriculture’s importance to both Wisconsin and the 87th District, I was proud to serve on the Assembly Agriculture Committee this session. As your state representative, I am proud to represent the hardworking dairy farmers and workers of the 87th Assembly District.

The June Dairy Breakfasts around the district are one of the highlights of my year. Earlier this month I attended the Marathon County Dairy Breakfast outside of Athens and look forward to attending more around the district in the weeks ahead, including the Rusk County Dairy Breakfast and the Town & Country Dairy Breakfast this weekend.

The Rusk County Dairy Breakfast is this Saturday, June 9th from 7:00 until 11:00 a.m. at the Rusk County Fairgrounds in Ladysmith. The Town & Country Dairy Breakfast is this Sunday, June 10th from 7:30 a.m. until Noon at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford. Also later this month is the Gilman 4-H Dairy Breakfast on Saturday, June 16th, during the Gilman June



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Dairy Days Celebration and the Sawyer County Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast at the Sawyer County Fairgrounds on June 23rd. I encourage you to head out to one of these great community events and I hope to see you there!

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