For Immediate Release: Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske
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**America’s Dairyland**

We are nearing the end of June and as referenced in a previous column: June is Dairy month. In my previous column, I referenced the importance of dairy in our state and I also spoke at length about the large amount of dairy breakfasts in the area. I hope you all had the opportunity to one or more of these breakfasts and enjoyed the food, community, and farm!

I wanted to take a little bit of time to further expand on the economic numbers associated with dairy in Wisconsin because I believe putting numbers to this industry will help us all realize its importance to our state.

Wisconsin on average accounts for over a quarter of the nation’s cheese production. This comes out to roughly 3.5 billion pounds of cheese produced on any given year. On top of this large number, Wisconsin also produces over 25 billion gallons of milk on any given year. Altogether, our dairy industry provides a whopping $45 billion bump to our state economy year in and year out.

In the budget negotiations this last summer; my colleagues and I worked excruciatingly hard to put more money in this field because of its vital importance to our state. We also wanted to give our producers and farmers every opportunity to thrive. We made sure to double our funding towards the dairy processor grant program which seeks to innovate and bolster operations in various dairy processing plants throughout our state. We also spearheaded a key initiative that provides $2 million towards a promoting our already great product on a national and global level.

As mentioned in previous articles as well, creating the agricultural roads improvement aid program or ARIP was a source of great pride for myself and my fellow peers in the Wisconsin State Legislature. The $150 million granted to this program will categorically improve our agricultural roads used daily by milk haulers and farmers. This program in turn will also make the transportation of these goods far less than it’s been in year prior.

Wisconsin might be the Badger state but we are known globally for our dairy products. This is why it’s such an important for me to discuss and I cannot tell you enough to make sure to thank a farmer and go to a dairy breakfast near you!

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns at my email: Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov.

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