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Column: Investing in America’s Dairyland

Wisconsin is proud to be known as America’s Dairyland, especially during June Dairy Month. June was first coined as “National Milk Month” in 1937 as a way to promote the distribution of extra milk during our warm summer months. Two years later, June officially became “Dairy Month”, a month long celebration of the dairy industry, its workers, producers and products.

This June Dairy Month, I lead my Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) colleagues in investing in programs that will help Wisconsin continue to be a leader in the dairy industry now and into the future. These investments include adopting my version of the agriculture exports program which creates export goals for industries including dairy, meat, fruit, vegetable and other agricultural products. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will work in collaboration with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to track these goals and report their progress to ensure this program is creating real outcomes for our agriculture economy.

Additionally, JFC chose to invest \$200,000 a year into dairy promotion and processing grants. These grants provide support to youth interested in dairy as a profession and help dairy processors with expanding, modernizing and increasing production of their facilities.

One great way to explore those facilities and support this industry is to attend local dairy breakfasts! These breakfasts welcome the community to the farm to taste their products and see what modern dairy is all about. Stop by to hear about the hard work our farm families are doing so we can enjoy the ice cream, grilled cheeses, cheese curds and other dairy products we all know and love.

June 12 Markesan Dairy Days 7:00 – 10:30 a.m. City Garage South Bridge St Markesan, WI	June 12 Drive-Thru Grilled Cheese 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Schuster Dairy 1561 Koro Rd Berlin, WI
June 13 'So Fine' Grilled Cheese 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. So-Fine Bovine W7560 Ember Ave Westfield, WI	June 13 Sundae on the Farm 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Slowey Farm Inc. N5339 County Rd A Westfield, WI
June 19 Columbia County 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Schoepp Farms LLC N2007 E Harmon Rd Lodi, WI	June 20 Ripon FFA Alumni Breakfast 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Page Farms W12875 Cork St Rd Ripon, WI

As the budget process continues, my office produces a Ballweg Budget Bulletin to keep constituents and stakeholders up to date with JFC’s investments. Please feel free to contact my office you have questions, need help with a state agency or have any other concerns surrounding state government. Also, make sure to ask to sign up for my e-newsletter for regular updates from my office!

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