



WESTERNUNITEDDAIRIES



January 3, 2023

Members of the Senate Climate Workgroup

Senator John Laird
Senator Ben Allen
Senator Josh Becker
Senator Anna Caballero
Senator Henry Stern

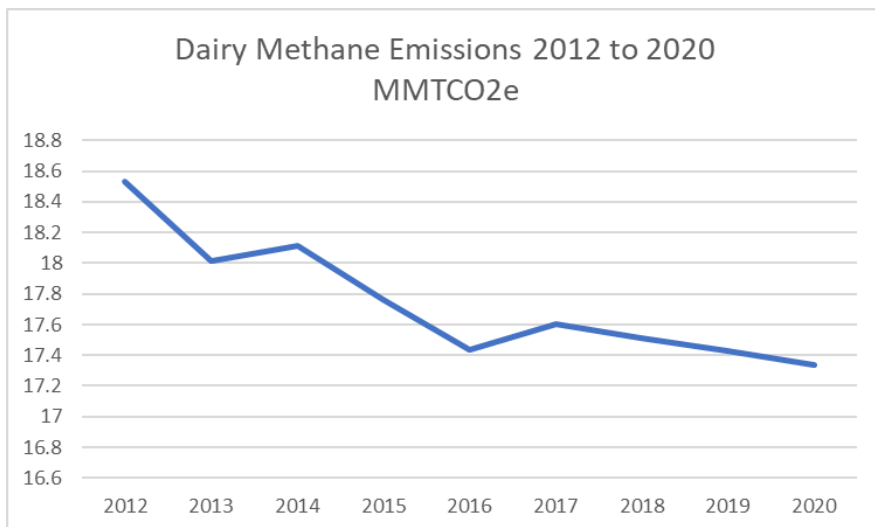
Senator Maria Elena Durazo
Senator Lena Gonzalez
Senator Monique Limon
Senator Mike McGuire

Dear Members of the Senate Climate Workgroup:

California’s dairy farmers and lead the nation in environmental sustainability, animal welfare and technological innovation. In partnership with the California Department of Food & Agriculture and the California Air Resources Board, dairy farmers are implementing on-farm advancements that will reduce the industry’s greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. The dairy industry is on its way to meeting that goal, and in doing so, will set an environmental sustainability benchmark not found anywhere else in the nation.

California’s Dairy Industry is Leading on Methane Reduction.

In 2016 the Legislature approved and the Governor signed SB 1383 (Lara) which requires the CARB to approve and implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce “short-lived climate pollutants” to achieve a 40% reduction in methane emissions from 2013 levels. The legislation requires the CARB to coordinate with the dairy industry to evaluate the best available scientific, technological and economic information to ensure implementation strategy is effective and technologically feasible. According to CARB’s most recent statewide emissions inventory analysis released in November of 2022 livestock methane emissions in California have been reduced considerably and continue to trend downward.



Year	MMTCO ₂ e
2012	18.53059
2013	18.01339
2014	18.11636
2015	17.76021
2016	17.43845
2017	17.60095
2018	17.51295
2019	17.42538
2020	17.33825



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Continued Support for Methane Reduction Programs.

Both the California Air Resources Board and the Legislative Analyst's Office have found that investments in dairy methane reduction are the most cost-effective of all of the state's climate investment programs. According to CARB's 2021 report to the Legislature on the state's climate investments, state appropriations that support methane reductions at dairies have cut carbon emissions at just \$9 per ton of CO₂e. That is less than one-fifth the average cost of carbon reductions in California compared to other state emission reduction investment programs.

Key Public Policy Outcomes for Smart Climate Agriculture Initiatives.

- 1. Economic Development:** Funding for the AMMP & DDRDP will provide state support for methane reduction projects that will provide meaningful economic stimulus that will help dairy producers recover from the economic impacts of the global pandemic that destabilized dairy markets around the globe.
- 2. Environmental Sustainability/Climate Change:** Funding for the AMMP & DDRDP will provide meaningful support to help the livestock sector meet the world's strongest environmental goals and accelerate the dairy industry's ability to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and meet or exceed the goal of reducing methane emissions by 40% by 2030.
- 3. Support for Disadvantaged Communities:** Funding for AMMP & DDRDP projects will improve groundwater quality – particularly in disadvantaged communities – because these technologies allow dairy farmers to manage nitrates to prevent interaction with groundwater. These projects also help transition away from diesel fuel to clean renewable transportation fuel in disadvantaged communities. The local air quality impacts for clean air and the health of our communities are significant.

California-Grown Dairy Products are Proven to Advance Students' Educational Success.

Evidence supports the inclusion of dairy in a healthy diet. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, students who drink one or more glasses of milk per day are more likely to have higher grades, with 43% of high school students earning mostly "As" drinking at least one glass of milk per day as compared to 28% of students with mostly "Ds" and "Fs". Likewise, beef is an authentic source of high-quality protein with numerous nutritional benefits. A 4-ounce serving of 93% lean ground beef has 10 essential nutrients at 10% or higher than their respective daily values per serving, including zinc, iron, and B vitamins all in about 170 calories, providing overall fewer calories, fat, saturated fat, and sodium (and more protein) than beef alternatives.

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Dairy milk has a unique package of essential nutrients that can be difficult to replace in a healthy dietary pattern, especially when compared with plant-based beverages. This is even more important for young children and adolescents, with dairy foods making a critical contribution to child nutrition

California's Priority Must be Addressing Food Insecurity Amongst School-Aged Children.

According to Feeding America, 1 in 8 children in California are facing hunger and an astonishing 1.6 million children face food insecurity. The "COVID-19 pandemic has caused a public health and economic crisis....The repercussions [of which] will include added hardship for already vulnerable populations as well as a significant increase in the number of people experiencing food insecurity," Feeding America explains. The number of California children experiencing food insecurity is expected to climb by 864,100 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing the state's total to 2.2 million food-insecure children. In another report by Feeding America issued in July of 2022, Los Angeles County has the highest number of food insecure children in the nation.

Given the breadth of food insecurity among California's schoolchildren, the state's first priority should be ensuring that all California students receive adequate nutrition in school. As long as a significant number of California schoolchildren remain hungry and malnourished, the state must continue to support initiatives like the California School Meals Program and the Farm to School Program to increase access to healthy, nutritious products.

We are happy to continue to brief you on the critical role the California's dairy industry plays in providing access to nutritious foods for schoolchildren and leading the nation in environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

Anja Raudabaugh
Chief Executive Officer
Western United Dairies

Shane Gusman
Legislative Advocate
Teamsters Public Affairs Council