



WESTERNUNITEDDAIRIES

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Farmer-Led Proposal Calls for Action to Strengthen U.S. Beef Supply and Protect Rural Jobs

Western United Dairies urges USDA to move quickly as packing plants face closures and families struggle with high food costs

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA — As the U.S. enters 2026, agricultural leaders are raising alarms about a growing imbalance in the domestic beef supply chain, one that is putting rural jobs at risk, straining food security, and keeping grocery prices high for American families.

In response, Western United Dairies (WUD) has put forward *Make America More Ground Beef*, a farmer-led proposal calling on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to use existing authority to increase domestic beef production, keep U.S. packing plants operating, and deliver more affordable protein to the marketplace.

The proposal focuses on increasing the flow of American cattle through the beef system, strengthening domestic production without relying on imports or new legislation. Supporters say the approach is voluntary, fast, and built around safeguards to ensure stability across the supply chain.

“When packing plants slow or close, entire rural communities feel it,” said Frank Mendonsa, President of Western United Dairies. “Standing still is not an option. This proposal is about turning challenges into opportunities, keeping American agriculture working, and putting more affordable protein on American tables.”

Ground beef accounts for roughly 70 percent of beef consumed in the United States, making it a critical component of both household food budgets and domestic protein supply. Agriculture leaders say increasing domestic beef production is one of the most direct ways to support working families while protecting U.S. jobs and infrastructure.



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Importantly, the proposal can be implemented using existing USDA mechanisms, allowing the Department to act quickly without waiting on Congress.

WUD leaders say farmer engagement will be essential as the proposal moves forward, and are encouraging dairy farmers to make their voices heard.

“This is a farmer-driven solution,” Mendonsa added. “If we unify around practical ideas like this, we can strengthen our food system and our rural communities at the same time.”

More information about Make America More Ground Beef is available at <https://westernuniteddairies.com/mamgb>.

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About Western United Dairies

Western United Dairies is a trade organization representing local dairy farmers across the state. Their mission is centered around promoting sound legislative and administrative policies and programs for both the industry and consumers, focusing on the general welfare and longevity of dairy producers. Learn more [here](#).