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In Congressional Testimony, IDAIRY Urges Action to Implement Mandatory Animal ID
Congress and USDA Must Work Together to Make Mandatory Animal ID a Reality

Washington, DC – At a Congressional hearing today, the dairy industry renewed calls for a mandatory National Animal Identification System (NAIS) to serve as a collective insurance policy in the event of an animal disease emergency.

Dairy producer Karen Jordan, DVM, from Siler City, North Carolina, testified that the dairy industry “collectively believe(s) that our industry will be best served when all dairy operations, and ultimately, all dairy cows, are identified in a national central database.” Jordan serves as chairperson of NMPF’s Animal Health & Welfare Committee.

Since 2005, IDairy has worked to make NAIS a reality for the dairy industry. Today, nearly 75 percent of dairy producers participate in NAIS by having their premises registered. In many states, including Michigan, Wisconsin, Idaho, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Utah, Nevada, and South Carolina, more than 90 percent of their dairy producers have participated in premises registration. However, until animal ID becomes mandatory, obtaining the last 25 percent participation will be difficult.

While USDA has pursued a voluntary NAIS program for nearly a decade, the dairy industry has been a prominent supporter of mandatory animal ID. In an animal disease emergency, Jordan said, “the system is only as strong as its weakest link. Now is the time for Congress and USDA to work together to make mandatory animal ID a reality.”

“If this is to truly be a New Era of Responsibility, we need to be mindful that preparing for a quick and effective response to emergencies lies at the heart of responsible animal health system,” concluded Jordan.

For more information on registering your premise or obtaining Official NAIS 840-RFID tags, visit the IDairy online at www.idairy.org.

IDairy was established in 2005 and consists of a coalition of 6 dairy organizations: American Jersey Cattle Association; Holstein Association USA, Inc.; Dairy Calf & Heifer Association; National Dairy Herd Information Association; National Association of Animal Breeders; and National Milk Producers Federation.

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 **American Jersey Cattle Association**
www.usjersey.com

 **Holstein Association USA, Inc.**
www.holsteinusa.com

 **Dairy Calf & Heifer Association**
www.pdhga.org

 **National Dairy Herd Information Association**
www.dhia.org

 **National Association of Animal Breeders**
www.naab-css.org

 **National Milk Producers Federation**
www.nmpf.org