

House Ag Committee to Include Valadao Proposal in 2013 Farm Bill

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Press Release

Allows California Dairy Producers to Petition to Join Federal Milk Marketing Order

Washington – Last week, Members of the Senate and House began drafting the 2013 Farm Bill legislation. Today, Congressman David G. Valadao (CA-21) announced that the House Committee on Agriculture has agreed to include an authorization for a California Federal Milk Marketing Order that has been requested by Congressman Valadao.

In March, Congressman Valadao, along with California Congressmen Jim Costa (CA-16), Devin Nunes (CA-22), Jeff Denham (CA-10), Kevin McCarthy (CA-23), and Doug LaMalfa (CA-1), introduced H.R. 1396; the California Federal Milk Marketing Order Act. The legislation would allow California dairy producers to petition the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to be considered to join the Federal Milk Marketing Order.

Following discussions with Chairman Frank Lucas and other Members of the Committee, the House Committee on Agriculture has agreed to Congressman Valadao's request and that the issue be affirmatively addressed in the comprehensive 2013 Farm Bill. Inclusion of these provisions will allow farmers in California and other states not currently included in the Federal Order to petition for inclusion.

Following the decision, Congressman Valadao released the following statement:

"It's time dairy producers, farmers and ranchers, in every state have a say in the dairy pricing system. This issue is especially important to my district, as California is the largest producer of dairy in the nation. I am excited the Committee has taken my legislation into consideration and decided to include my proposal in the overall Farm Bill. I look forward to working with the Ag Committee and Members of both parties on this and other important Ag issues as we move forward in the 113th Congress."

A Farm Bill was last passed in 2008 and reauthorized in 2012. The Farm Bill ensures farmers and ranchers have the tools they need to produce an adequate and affordable food supply for our country and the entire world.

Congressman David G. Valadao represents the 21st Congressional District, which includes Kings County and portions of Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties.