



Dairy industry statement in response to video released by Humane Society of the U.S. (on behalf of National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), Dairy Management Inc. (DMI), and International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA))

June 26, 2008 – Dairy farmers are committed to proper animal care and take animal stewardship very seriously. We reject any ill treatment of animals as deplorable and bad business. The incidents in the HSUS videotape are unacceptable and are contrary to industry guidance which says that non-ambulatory animals should not be moved to market.

Dairy producers fully support preventing non-ambulatory animals from being approved for slaughter for the human food chain. We are in the final stages of distributing supplemental educational materials to encourage the best-informed decisions about animal handling, transportation and culling.

We support USDA's efforts to reach out to state government and industry groups to address this issue. We also support the efforts of the Livestock Marketing Association and others in providing training to animal handling facilities across the country. Since 1985, the dairy industry has worked with the Dairy Quality Assurance Center to develop animal care guidelines for dairy farmers and to conduct education and other efforts to encourage adoption of these guidelines. For more information about animal care on dairy farms, refer to www.dairyfarmingtoday.org.

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Dairy Management Inc.™ (DMI) is the nonprofit domestic and international planning and management organization responsible for increasing sales of and demand for U.S.-produced dairy products and ingredients on behalf of America's dairy producers. DMI manages the American Dairy Association®, National Dairy Council® and U.S. Dairy Export Council®. DMI's website is www.dairyinfo.com.

International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), Washington, DC, represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industries and their suppliers, with a membership of 530 companies representing a more than \$110-billion a year industry. IDFA is composed of three constituent organizations: the Milk Industry Foundation (MIF), the National Cheese Institute (NCI) and the International Ice Cream Association (IICA). IDFA's 220 dairy processing members run more than 600 plant operations, and range from large multi-national organizations to single-plant companies. Together they represent more than 85% of the milk, cultured products, cheese and frozen desserts produced and marketed in the United States. IDFA's website is www.idfa.org.

National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF's 31 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of more than 40,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. NMPF's website is www.nmpf.org.