

## **Resolution Supporting Dairy Farmers**

WHEREAS dairy farmers in the United States are buffeted by the milk markets and do not always receive a just return on their investment and effort; and

WHEREAS some local dairy farmers have formed a cooperative, the Dairy Pricing Association (DPA), where they can stabilize milk prices through a \$.10 per hundred pound check off that allows them to buy milk products when the price of milk dips below a certain level; and

WHEREAS the cooperative donates the milk products they buy to local food pantries to feed hungry people; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the La Crosse Area Synod express support for the efforts of the cooperative to both support local dairy farmers and feed hungry people and encourage others to do similar activities with other commodities; and be it further

RESOLVED that the La Crosse Area Synod's World Hunger Subcommittee join forces with farmers and organizations to alleviate the hunger experienced by 11% of the population in the counties served by the La Crosse Area Synod congregations.

Submitted by the World Hunger Subcommittee

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### **Supporting Documentation**

The Dairy Pricing Association (DPA) was formed by three dairy farmers 5 years ago. Since then the membership has increased to 400. These members make a 5-15 cent/hundred-weight-of-milk-produced donation into a fund that buys surplus dairy products which are in turn donated to people in need.

The two goals of DPA are to help stabilize the milk price that dairy farmers receive (milk prices have fallen from \$27/cwt to \$13/cwt in the past 2 years) by removing surplus product from the market and to provide nutritious dairy products to people that may otherwise not be able to get them. Products are distributed through local food pantries, soup kitchens, and surplus food distribution centers. Also, when different natural disasters have occurred DPA has provided product to those affected.

In 2011, DPA's first year, they donated a value of \$10,979 of dairy products from 28 members to needy people. In 2015 with growth to 400 members they donated 89,972 gallons of milk and 11,309 pounds of cheeses at a value of \$342,799. These donations are made literally from coast to coast. This is funded by these farmer members and has no government involvement. The growth in 5 years has been amazing, allowing these donations to increase and enabling DPA to touch more people's lives.

DPA would like to thank the La Crosse Area Synod for their support in offering up this resolution supporting DPA and other like-minded organizations in their efforts to help feed a hungry world!