



# *News Release*

## *United Dairymen of Idaho*

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*For Immediate Release*

May – 2006

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### **Idaho Dairy Industry Celebrates June Dairy Month**

Boise, ID - It's a fact - Idaho's dairy industry is the number one agriculture crop in Idaho. June Dairy Month is the perfect time to reflect on how the dairy industry impacts Idaho's economy.

“We know we are producing a quality product that is valued by people all over this country and really the world,” said Ken Hall, Co-Chair for United Dairymen of Idaho. “There will always be a need for good, beneficial food and that's what we as an industry focus on – providing a wholesome product now and for generations to come.”

The dairy industry continues to be a significant factor in Idaho's overall economic health. In 2005, on-farm cash receipts from milk produced on Idaho farms amounted to approximately \$1.439 billion dollars (based on an average price of \$14.20 per hundred pounds produced, down from \$14.90 in 2004). In 1970, Idaho's dairy industry generated \$73 million dollar in cash receipts. In 2005, the industry grew to a healthy \$1 billion dollars.

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Direct employment on dairies and in milk and cheese processing plants accounted for 7,942 jobs in southern Idaho. An additional 11,517 jobs throughout all economic sectors of the state are indirectly related to the dairy industry for a total impact on employment of 19,460 jobs. This represents a multiplier of 2.45. In other words, 2.45 indirect jobs are created for each of the 7,942 jobs directly related to dairies and milk and cheese processing plants in southern Idaho.

With so many people involved in the dairy industry, it only makes sense that Idaho is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest milk producing state in the twelve western U.S. states and ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the total U.S. As of December 31, 2005, the state had 719 dairy farm operations; producing 10.129 billion pounds of milk (1.178 billion gallons) from the 470,730 cows milking.

In terms of milk production: In 1970, Idaho's dairy farmers produced 1.4 billion pounds; but in 2005 produced 10.129 billion pounds. The state average for annual milk per cow is 21,518 pounds (2,502 gallons) in 2005, while the state average in 1970 was 9,793 pounds (1,138 gallons).

The dairy industry provides significant resources to support the research and promotion needed to stabilize and sustain Idaho's dairy industry to drive demand for Idaho produced dairy products, which contributes to the financial stability of rural communities and benefits the state's and region's economies.

At the end of the day, Idaho's dairy producers are proud of their industry and its contribution to Idaho's economic health.

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*United Dairymen of Idaho (UDI) is the local planning and management organization responsible for increasing demand for U.S. produced dairy products on behalf of Idaho's dairy farm families.*