



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

PATRICK A. TAKASUGI
Director

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2006

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TAKASUGI CREDITS IDAHO'S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD, PRO-BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FOR DAIRY GROWTH

(BOISE) Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi told a national audience Tuesday that Idaho's pro-business leadership and positive environmental record is behind the recent surge in the state's dairy industry. The director also noted that several communities in the state are still trying to attract dairy businesses or value-added industries, such as cheese plants, to the area.

Takasugi noted that Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne and the state's congressional delegation remain very supportive of the dairy industry, and said much of the industry's success is attributable to their efforts.

Takasugi was one of three panelists speaking at a forum of the International Dairy Foods Association meeting in La Quinta, California. Others on the panel included agriculture secretaries from Pennsylvania and Minnesota. The session covered national dairy policies and explored why dairy industries are thriving in some states but not in others. The discussion also focused on possible changes to the Farm Bill in 2007 to address the disparity.

But Takasugi said Idaho has been successful in growing the state's dairy industry because Idaho has demonstrated that it is a pro-business state and is, at the same time, willing to address environmental issues. Idaho is widely regarded for its agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that addresses the handling and monitoring of dairy waste. The department is also proactive in working with dairies and dairy organizations on the control of odors.

Idaho recently eclipsed Pennsylvania to become the No. 4 milk producing state in the nation.

Representatives from Idaho processors, including Jerome Cheese, Glambia, Gossner, Sorrento-Lactalis and Darigold attended the meeting.

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