YOUR MEMBERSHIP DEFENDS DAIRY

In 2024, Western United Dairies invested **$1.69 million** defending California dairy farmers.

Your Membership Supports:

- Legislative Advocacy
- Regulatory Defense
- Legal Protection
- Crisis Response
- Farmer Representation
- Technical Assistance & Compliance Support
- Included Labor Law Resources ***(No Additional Fee)***
- Regulatory Composting Guidance (AB 411 Implementation)
- Activism Monitoring & Protection

2024 Membership Investment





Included with Your Membership: WUD provides hands-on technical assistance to help dairies stay in compliance and keep operating.

- One-on-one support navigating permits and regulations
- Assistance identifying and applying for grant funding
- Ongoing compliance guidance from industry experts
- Annual labor law posters included at no additional cost
- Guidance on how to legally implement on-farm composting under AB 411
- Monitoring and reporting activist activity impacting dairy operations
- Supporting dairies with situational awareness and response strategies

Advocacy in Action



Western United Dairies works year-round in Sacramento, in regulatory agencies, and in communities across the state to protect dairy farmers from harmful policies while advancing practical solutions for the industry. This includes both large policy wins and daily, hands-on support helping dairies stay compliant, avoid risk, and keep operating.

AB 411- On-Farm Composting of Livestock Mortalities

WUD led the successful passage of AB 411, allowing dairies to compost routine livestock mortalities on-farm rather than relying solely on expensive rendering services.

Why It Matters:
Provides a practical, lower-cost disposal option and reduces regulatory hurdles for dairy operations, particularly smaller or remote dairies.

AB 1264 – Ultra-Processed Food Regulation

WUD secured key amendments narrowing the scope of this bill so dairy foods like flavored yogurt and cheese were not swept into broad "ultra-processed" restrictions.

Why It Matters:
Protects dairy's place in school meal programs and helps preserve demand for California milk.

Proposition 4 Climate Bond

WUD supported the successful bond measure that secured funding for groundwater recharge and agricultural water conservation projects.

Why It Matters:
Provides critical funding opportunities for dairy farmers to secure water access and comply with SGMA without losing productive farmland.

What WUD Stopped: Preventing Harmful Policies

Blocking Taxpayer Subsidies for Plant-Based Competitors

WUD assembled and led a statewide coalition that stopped a proposal seeking $60 million in taxpayer funding for plant-based food promotion programs.

Preventing Additional Bird Flu Regulations

WUD worked with CDQAP and state agencies to demonstrate the effectiveness of the dairy industry's HPAI response.

Defeating Anti-Dairy Legislation

WUD successfully opposed legislation that would have undermined existing methane reduction programs and created additional regulatory burdens for dairy farmers.

Major Programs Investments

In addition to legislative advocacy, WUD leads and supports major programs addressing some of the most complex challenges facing California dairy.

These large-scale efforts address the biggest long-term threats to dairy operations in California, from water access to activist-driven restrictions.



Sonoma United – Defeating Measure J

WUD invested more than $1 million in political advocacy, polling, voter outreach, and coalition building to defeat Sonoma County Measure J.

Why It Matters: The measure would have severely restricted livestock agriculture and created a dangerous precedent for similar activist-driven initiatives across California.

Land*Flex*

WUD partnered with irrigation districts and agricultural groups to support LandFlex projects designed to help farmers adapt to groundwater restrictions under SGMA.

WUD was the only trade association to successfully secure compensation for farmers for groundwater supply reductions.

Why It Matters: Protects water access, compensates farmers for groundwater reductions, and helps dairies remain viable while meeting California's groundwater sustainability requirements.

HPAI Industry Response

WUD worked with CDFA, CDPH, Cal/OSHA, and CDQAP to coordinate the dairy industry's response to the bird flu outbreak. This included distributing more than 4.6 million units of PPE and supporting worker safety programs across the state.

Why It Matters: Protected dairy workers while preventing unnecessary regulatory mandates on dairy operations.

North Coast Dairy Protection Initiative

Western launched a comprehensive effort to protect North Coast dairies from water quality litigation and conflicting regulatory requirements. This includes farmer-led monitoring programs, compliance tools, and the creation of a dedicated legal defense structure.

Why It Matters: This effort helps protect dairies from costly lawsuits and regulatory conflicts by providing practical tools and support to stay in compliance and continue operating.

BY THE NUMBERS

Western United Dairies represents the majority of California's dairy industry and invests significant resources each year protecting dairy farmers from regulatory and political threats.

ADVOCACY INVESTMENT

$1.69 Million

invested in 2024 protecting dairy farmers through advocacy, regulatory engagement, and farmer representation

$1 Million

spent defeating Sonoma County Measure J and protecting dairy operations from activist-driven restrictions

PROTECTING WATER ACCESS

$386 Million

in funding secured for farmers to support groundwater reliability and compliance

150,000 Acre-Feet

of water infrastructure protected through LandFlex partnerships

PROTECTING FARMERS & WORKERS

4.6 Million

PPE units distributed during the HPAI response through Western United Dairies and partners

3,400+

worker safety kits distributed to dairy operations during the outbreak

Western United Dairies exists to protect the future of dairy farming in California.

Through advocacy, legal defense, and farmer representation, Western ensures dairy producers have a strong voice when critical decisions affecting the industry are made.