News Release

United Dairymen of Idaho

10221 West Emerald, Suite 180
Boise, Idaho 83704
(208) 327-7050
(208) 327-7054 fax

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cheri Storey
Communications Director
208-327-7050
cstorey@udidaho.org

Idaho Dairy Industry Celebrates June Dairy Month

May – 2007 - 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 Art Lee, 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 2006, on-farm cash receipts from milk produced on Idaho farms amounted to approximately $1.439 billion dollars (based on an average price of $11.92 per hundred pounds produced, down from $14.20 in 2005). In 1970, Idaho's dairy industry generated $73 million dollar in cash receipts. In 2006, the industry grew to a healthy $1 billion dollars.

-more-

Direct employment on dairies and in milk and cheese processing plants accounted for 9,260 jobs in southern Idaho. An additional 13,470 jobs throughout all economic sectors of the state are indirectly related to the dairy industry for a total impact on employment of 22,730 jobs. This represents a multiplier of 2.45. In other words, 2.45 indirect jobs are created for each of the 9,260 jobs directly related to dairies and milk and cheese processing plants in southern Idaho.

All but one of Idaho's dairies is family owned and operated. Forty-six percent of Idaho's dairies have fewer than 200 cows.

With so many people involved in the dairy industry, it only makes sense that Idaho is the 2nd largest milk producing state in the twelve western U.S. states and ranks 4th in the total U.S. As of December 31, 2006, the state had 683 dairy farm operations; producing 10.871 billion pounds of milk (1.264 billion gallons) from the 477,193 cows milking.

In terms of milk production: In 1970, Idaho's dairy farmers produced 1.4 billion pounds; but in 2006 produced 10.871 billion pounds. The state average for annual milk per cow is 22,782 pounds (2,649 gallons) in 2006, 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.

-xxx-

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.