

Written Report for Virtual Listening Session for  
White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health  
Hosted by National Milk Producers Federation  
June 30, 2022 – 10:00-11:00 AM EST

Listening Session Summary & Report Overview

On Thursday, June 30, a wide-ranging group of agricultural producer, anti-hunger, nutrition, and medical organizations came together for a focused White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health virtual listening session to discuss the crucial need for the administration's conference strategy to prioritize improving and expanding food access. Attending organizations included American Academy of Pediatrics, American Egg Board's Egg Nutrition Center, American Society for Nutrition, Feeding America, Food Research and Action Center, International Dairy Foods Association, International Fresh Produce Association, National Dairy Council, National Milk Producers Federation, School Nutrition Association, and United Egg Producers.

This listening session centered around the first pillar of the conference: *Improve Food Access and Affordability*. Prior to the listening session, these five questions provided by the White House were shared with all attendees to consider:

1. How has hunger or diet-related disease impacted you, your family, or your community?
2. What specific actions should the U.S. Federal government, including the Executive Branch and Congress, take to achieve each pillar? What are the opportunities and barriers to achieving the actions? Actions should include specific policy and/or programmatic ideas and changes as well as funding needs.
3. What specific actions should local, state, territory and Tribal governments; private companies; nonprofit and community groups; and others take to achieve each pillar?
4. What are opportunities for public- and private-sector partners to work together to achieve each pillar?
5. What are innovative, successful activities already happening at the local, state, territory, and Tribal levels that could inform actions at the Federal level?

All attending organizations spoke to the importance of increasing access to nutritious food, approaching the topic with expertise from working in the policy area as well as offering lived experiences from those whom the groups represent. One theme revealed during the discussion was that increasing overall access to affordable, healthful foods requires Americans to have the power to make informed, meaningful choices about what to feed themselves and their families. Without real choices to allow for cultural influences, nutritional needs, and taste preferences, Americans will not have real access to the foods they will actually eat, making choice a practical requirement in achieving nutrition security and improved health.

Due to the limiting nature of time, organizations were unable to provide answers to all questions during the live listening session. The comments below reflect each organization's views and input on the five questions provided by the White House, including responses which time prevented from being shared at the live event. Neither during the listening session nor in the following comments do American Egg Board's Egg Nutrition Center and National Dairy Council provide input on or advocate for policy. Rather, both organizations provided research-based

findings and information only. At the close of this report, following the below comments, is a list of the ideas and recommendations that recurred throughout the written comments, across organizations.

#### Organization Description and Answers to the White House's Five Questions

The following comments are arranged by organization, with each organization providing its own information and answers, which NMPF compiled without altering. The first bullet under each organization name provides a short description of the organization and any views it has on the upcoming conference; the second bullet lists the individuals who represented the organization during the live session; and each number corresponding with the organization's answer to the same numbered White House-provided question.

#### **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

- Organization Description – <https://www.aap.org/>

#### **American Egg Board's Egg Nutrition Center**

- Organization Description – American Egg Board is the national research, education, and promotion checkoff program for U.S. egg farmers. AEB is home to the Egg Nutrition Center—the acknowledged leader in research and education related to eggs. As a research and promotion organization, AEB does not advocate on federal actions.

#### **American Society for Nutrition (ASN)**

- Organization Description – <https://nutrition.org/>

#### **Feeding America**

- Organization Description – <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>

#### **Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)**

- Organization Description – <https://frac.org/>

#### **International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA)**

- Organization Description – The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), Washington, D.C., represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industry, which supports more than 3.3 million jobs that generate \$41.6 billion in direct wages and \$753 billion in overall economic impact. IDFA's diverse membership ranges from multinational organizations to single-plant companies, from dairy companies and cooperatives to food retailers and suppliers. Together, they represent more than 90 percent of the milk, cheese, ice cream, yogurt and cultured products, and dairy ingredients produced and marketed in the United States and sold throughout the world.
- Attendees –
  - Joseph Scimeca, PhD; Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs
  - Michelle Albee Matto, MPH, RDN

2. The federal government, including the Executive Branch and Congress, should take actions to strengthen and expand existing federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP, WIC, and school meals, among others.

## SNAP

We know from USDA's Foods Typically Purchased Report, that participants of SNAP prioritize purchases of dairy foods. In fact, among the top 20 items purchased with SNAP benefits, 20% are dairy products. The 2014 Farm Bill created a healthy incentive model at a national scale in the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI), now known as the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, or GusNIP program. What FINI and GusNIP achieved was to improve SNAP by offering SNAP participants incentives to purchase healthier options, such as fruits and vegetables. With the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Program (HFMIP) passed in the 2018 Farm Bill, policymakers took incentives a step further and sought to address the dairy consumption gap pointed out by the *2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs)*. Yet, neither GusNIP nor HFMIP are sufficiently working at the scale necessary to address malnutrition and disease.

Therefore, we encourage Congress and USDA to build a Healthy Dairy Incentive Program at a national scale in partnership with food retailers, local nutrition organizations, state SNAP agencies, and dairy foods makers. We encourage policymakers to expand this program to include healthy dairy foods that SNAP beneficiaries want to purchase, including more varieties of fluid milk, yogurts, and cheeses. It is important to take lessons learned from partnerships such as the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, which has been working with retailers to explore different methodologies of encouraging SNAP participants to increase their purchases and consumption of healthy dairy foods as recommended by the DGAs.

Further, technology must not be a barrier. That's why we encourage policymakers to commit the funding needed to equip each retail outlet offering a SNAP incentive program with Point-of-Sale (POS) software that can provide an immediate benefit incentive or discount to SNAP participants, rather than relying on paper coupons and other forms of redemption that can act as a barrier between participants and healthy options. Additionally, education is critical. State agencies must understand the incentive structure. Retailers must understand how to deliver incentives. Shoppers need to know that incentives exist and how to activate them. And community hunger and nutrition partners must reinforce science-based, positive messages around dairy's role in a healthy diet.

## WIC

One of the lessons learned during the pandemic was that flexibility around sensible packaging and variety helped to increase food access. In 2020, 6.3 million Americans participated in the WIC program, according to USDA data, even though many more women and children qualify for the program. Despite best efforts, WIC remains rife with barriers to access, including a limited menu that does not always reflect DGA recommendations nor the latest nutrition research.

At present, WIC participants are not fully redeeming their WIC milk benefits and are consuming fewer essential nutrients as a result. Policymakers could chip away at that gap by reinstating reduced-fat (2%) milk (the most widely available and consumed variety) for all WIC participants, as well as permitting other varieties of milk such as ultrafiltered and organic to simplify and fulfill their allotted redemptions. Further, policymakers need to deemphasize package size in WIC. For example, WIC benefits should be able to be used to buy yogurt in single-serving sizes instead of large, 32-ounce containers which are not widely available particularly in small neighborhood stores.

### School Meals

The importance and essential role of nutritious school meals in children's nutritional development and learning ability is well-recognized. Providing school meals to as many students as possible, through the provision of universal school meals, will encourage increased intake of school meals and the nutrient-rich foods that are part of those meals.

Any changes to the school meal programs should encourage students to select and consume nutrient-rich foods that are recommended by the most recent DGAs. One way is to include a greater variety and availability of milk and dairy options in school meals. For example, when students have access to varieties of milk and dairy products that they consume at home, overall meal consumption increases, waste declines, and children get the nutrients they need to thrive. When dairy products are excluded or restricted, participation and hence consumption of nutritious foods in school meals falls.

Any limits on certain nutrients in the school meal programs should be practical and implementable to permit and encourage the inclusion of nutrient-rich foods. For example, a gradual, reasonable reduction in sodium limits for certain foods like cheese is critical as cheese makers have made great strides in the last decade and have nearly reached the limit of sodium reduction while still ensuring the safety of cheese and its palatability.

### Procurement

The USDA food/commodity procurement system as it is currently operating is a major barrier to sourcing available healthy food options from growers and processors, especially smaller and non-traditional entities. Based on feedback from IDFA members, approval eligibility is burdensome; delivery windows are not flexible enough for vendors; product varieties and packaging requirements are too rigid; and fees and expenses are prohibitive. We urge USDA to prioritize developing a streamlined procurement system with fewer burdens on businesses of all sizes and a system that allows for greater flexibility in delivery dates, product SKU and variety, and package size.

3. There are numerous programs based on federal regulations and many of these also include situations where state and Tribal and potentially local governments can affect food access through policy decisions. For example, states and Tribal governments can set the specific foods that are available in the WIC food packages. States or Tribal governments that provide

flexibility within the food packages can encourage increased redemption of WIC benefits and increased consumption of nutrient-rich foods and beverages in this program.

For example, flexibility in container sizes, in varieties of fluid milk (2%) and other dairy products (cottage cheese, drinkable yogurt) would permit people to select and consume their preferred dairy product. Flexibility will be important in the federal regulations, but also in the policies and buying lists established by each individual state and Tribal government.

4. There are a number of areas where public-private partnerships have successfully worked toward increasing access to nutrient-rich foods. However, these should be strengthened and expanded to further increase access.

Where SNAP and WIC are not sufficient, food banks fill the gaps. We know from Feeding America®, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, that milk is one of the items most requested by its network, yet fresh milk is not widely available or is not usually collected due to a lack of cold storage capacity at food banks. This is not a complex problem to solve. We encourage all partners to work together to advocate for greater funding that would allow a significant upgrade in cold storage capacity among our nation's food bank network to house more fresh or perishable foods, such as milk.

While the Farmers to Families Food Box program had challenges, the effort uncovered new methods and networks for distributing food to those most in need. From IDFA's perspective, the food box effort should be applauded for expanding the network of distributors outside of the traditional partners, such as food banks, to include small and grassroots organizations close to communities in need. It is unfortunate that many of those partners are no longer working with USDA or USDA vendors to get fresh, healthy foods to those in need. Moreover, the food box program improved on other longstanding programs, such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). On the former, the food box program used refrigerated transportation to bring healthy and fresh foods to low-income seniors when they had been accustomed to receiving dried, canned, and boxed foods. The food box program also expanded the types and varieties of food that could be provided through programs like TEFAP, which prompted TEFAP partners to speak on behalf of their customer base by demanding more fresh, healthy food options in the food packages. For CSFP and TEFAP, the food box effort expanded program access in rural, tribal, and other currently underserved areas in a way that traditional programs still have not.

In addition to these existing programs, we strongly encourage establishment of new public-private partnerships to improve equity and access. Examples of such partnerships could include expanded food donation programs, collaborations between regional/local organizations and food distributors or processors and connecting healthcare providers with local food banks or food retailers.

5. One of the policies and programs that has worked well to increase access to nutritious foods is incentive programs under SNAP.

As mentioned previously, the 2014 Farm Bill created a healthy incentive model at national scale in the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive, now known as the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, or GusNIP program. What FINI and GusNIP did was improve SNAP by offering SNAP participants incentives to purchase healthier options, such as fruits and vegetables. With the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Program passed in the 2018 Farm Bill, policymakers took incentives a step further and sought to address the dairy consumption gap pointed out by the *2020-2025 DGAs*. Yet, neither GusNIP nor HFMIP are sufficiently working at the scale necessary to address malnutrition and disease.

Therefore, we encourage Congress and USDA to build a Healthy Dairy Incentive Program at national scale in partnership with food retailers, local nutrition organizations, state SNAP agencies, and dairy foods makers. We encourage policymakers to expand this program to include healthy dairy foods that SNAP beneficiaries want to purchase, including more varieties of fluid milk, yogurts, and cheeses. It is important to take lessons learned from partners such as the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty that is working with retailers to explore different methodologies of encouraging SNAP participants to increase their purchases and consumption of healthy dairy foods as recommended by the DGAs.

#### **International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA)**

- Organization Description – <https://www.freshproduce.com/>

#### **National Dairy Council (NDC)**

- Organization Description – The National Dairy Council (NDC) is a non-profit organization founded by dairy farmers to support peer-reviewed dairy research and nutrition education to benefit public health and wellness.

**NDC cannot influence but it can inform with factual information. NDC is a checkoff program and the statutes of the Dairy Stabilization Act and Dairy Order which created the checkoff do not allow the program to lobby. As a leader in science-based dairy nutrition information, NDC is permitted upon request, or through a request for public comments, to share factual educational information.**

The NDC has a common interest in improving healthy equity and nutrition security for the benefit of public health.

- The reality is that poor nutrition is the leading cause of health issues in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Diet-related diseases start in childhood and are preventable. What NDC is striving for is a different reality, the opposite reality, one in which all citizens have access to affordable, nutritious foods that are culturally appropriate and contribute to optimal health.
- The concept of nutrition security, now a priority of the White House and the Secretary of the USDA, goes beyond having enough food to having enough nutrient-dense food and includes consistent and equitable access to nutrient-dense foods that promote health and well-being. It's about everyone having an equal opportunity to live the healthiest life possible.

- The body of evidence is strong indicating that milk and dairy foods are part of the solution to challenges like food and nutrition insecurity, health equity and reducing risk of noncommunicable diseases.
- Dairy milk and the foods made from it like yogurt and cheese naturally provide a unique matrix of nutrients and bioactive components that contribute to health and are backed by a century of science.<sup>2,3</sup>

### **National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF)**

- Organization Description – National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) is a trade association representing America's dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. NMPF is the only national dairy trade association representing milk producers, and its dairy cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies, like USDA and HHS. We at NMPF are proud to represent farmers and cooperatives who work hard every day to deliver the healthful food that feeds our nation and our world. Ensuring people have access to the nutrition they need to live, develop, and be healthy is key priority for NMPF and dairy farmers across the U.S. When the White House announced its Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, we at NMPF were excited by the potential for this conference to help propel meaningful advancement toward achieving its stated goals of ending hunger, increasing healthy eating and physical activity, and decreasing the prevalence of diet-related diseases in America. NMPF shares these goals and knows from decades of working in this issue area that increasing access to food and maintaining choice are critical requisites for attaining them. Dairy products — and the 13 essential nutrients they provide — will be a vital ingredient in this effort. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans shows that dietary patterns including dairy are associated with beneficial health outcomes, including lowered risk for cardiovascular disease, obesity, and type 2 diabetes. The dietary guidelines also identify dairy products as a critical source of calcium, potassium, and vitamin D, three of the four nutrients of public health concern, and note that dairy is under-consumed across all age categories. NMPF looks forward to working with the White House and both public and private partners toward advancing these incredibly important goals as we work to ensure all Americans have access to nutritious and healthy food.
- Attendees –
  - Jim Mulhern, President and CEO
  - Claudia Larson, PhD; Senior Director of Government Relations
  - Miquela Hanselman, Manager of Regulatory Affairs
  - Maria Brockamp, Regulatory Intern
- 1. NMPF hears regularly from our dairy cooperatives and the farmers who own them regarding food insecurity and diet-related diseases across their communities. Our farmers and member cooperatives take immense pride in the fact that *their work feeds people*. This deep pride and the value they place on helping to put food on people's dinner tables every night cannot be overstated, and it should be explored as a powerful, humanistic motivation that will provide the White House and all government officials a strong partnership with dairy producers when developing a strategy for ending hunger and nutrition insecurity as well as increasing healthy eating.

2. In general, NMPF supports government action that maintains or increases access to healthful food and an individual's ability to make informed, meaningful choices about what they eat. We know both food access and choice are essential for combating food insecurity and diet-related disease and that choice can dramatically affect access. Without choices that allow for cultural influences, nutritional needs, and taste preferences, Americans will not have real access to the foods they will actually eat. And without eating the food, they are not accessing the nutrients they need. It is at this intersection of choice, access, and nutrients where the fight against nutrition insecurity will be won.

As such, NMPF advocates for meal and nutrition program funding and requirements that encourage consumption of nutrient-dense food — with consumption being a key part of that approach to help ensure people are accessing the nutrients in the food. Funding for and access to nutrition programs are a significant part of this, but maintaining choice at practical and healthful levels is also pivotal. For example, providing universal school meals would help increase students' access to nutritious foods, and NMPF supports increasing access. Yet, ongoing work on school meal standards powerfully affects what kids actually eat. Thus, specific and immediate government action to *encourage the important consumption of nutrient-dense food should also occur when working on meal standards*.

In the executive branch realm, USDA is currently working on a rule to be issued in January to update meal standards in accordance with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA), with the new standards taking effect beginning with the 2024-25 school year. In its rulemaking, USDA should allow for schools to take pragmatic approaches to achieve nutrition goals. This includes evaluating foods based on their entire nutrient package/nutrient-density and approaching any sort of limit-setting holistically to allow schools flexibility and choice, with overall weekly-limits as opposed to limits on a single-item basis. In this rulemaking, USDA should also continue to allow schools to choose to serve any milk variety that is consistent with the current DGA, including low-fat flavored milk.

In the congressional arena, Congress should expand the varieties of milk schools can choose to serve in their school meal programs, as we know that milk consumption increases when more varieties are available. For example, when schools reintroduced low-fat flavored milk, they saw milk consumption rise, and in many cases participation in the school meal program overall also rose. As such, we are strong supporters of the bipartisan School Milk Nutrition Act (H.R. 4635) led by Representatives Joe Courtney (D-CT) and GT Thompson (R-PA), which secures more permanently the ability for schools to choose to serve any milk variety consistent with the DGA, including 1% flavored milk. We also support the Whole Milk for Health Kids Act (H.R. 1861) led by Representatives GT Thompson (R-PA) and Antonio Delgado (D-NY) when he was still serving in the House, which would allow flavored and unflavored milk varieties all the way up to whole milk to be options for schools to choose to serve. Congress should pass these bills or pass a child nutrition reauthorization package that includes language to achieve the goal of expanding milk variety options in schools.

Beyond the need for funding, the obstacles to completing these actions are the efforts of actors and organizations who believe that we must limit the types of foods people can access

through nutrition programs. NMPF is fully supportive of working toward the goal of achieving nutrition security, and, as previously stated, we know that allowing meaningful choice within nutrition programs is vital for nutrition security. Nutrition security requires that individuals consume a full range of nutrients – the operative phrases here being “consume” and “full range.” Neither can be achieved if highly popular types of nutritious foods are restricted from or underfunded in nutrition programs, resulting in individuals who are no longer eating because they do not have options they will choose to consume.

4. NMPF’s members have long understood the importance of public-private sector partnerships and their role in achieving food and nutrition security. The Dairy Donation Program (DDP) is a federal program which provides one of the newer opportunities for public-private partnership to address hunger and nutrition insecurity. DDP was created in December 2020 in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, funded at \$400 million as part of the ongoing COVID relief efforts. The program builds on the milk reimbursement program established in the last farm bill, designed with the simultaneous goals of facilitating the timely donation of eligible dairy products to food insecure families and preventing and minimizing food waste.

To achieve these goals, DDP works to establish and then leverage local partnerships between dairy organizations and non-profit feeding organizations. The idea behind the program is to create partnership-based networks so surplus dairy foods can be quickly and immediately donated to the non-profit feeding organizations, who in turn provide the healthful dairy foods to their clients. DDP improves upon the previous milk reimbursement program by providing reimbursement for milk used in all types of donated dairy products (not just fluid milk) as well as some manufacturing and transportation costs.

Because the program is so new, NMPF is still learning from program users about their experiences using DDP. NMPF plans to continue working with the dairy industry, feeding organizations, and USDA to strengthen the program, as we are hopeful DPP will help deliver nutritious dairy products to our partners at feeding organizations across the country while reducing or eliminating food waste when there is surplus milk.

5. NMPF hears from our dairy cooperatives across the country about successful partnerships they have with feeding organizations and meal providers in their communities. In fact, the federal Dairy Donation Program created in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 was modeled on a partnership and community network developed by one of our member cooperatives. One of the most compelling and consistent themes that rise from these stories is how solution oriented both the dairy organization and feeding organization/meal provider are in trying to secure healthful dairy products for those living with food insecurity. Ranging from food banks driving across the region to pick up dairy products in their refrigerated vehicles to dairy cooperatives matching sales with donations, these success stories exist throughout the U.S., but at the community level. As such, NMPF encourages the federal government to look specifically at dairy partnerships at the local and state levels. NMPF welcomes the opportunity to help identify such partnerships or provide additional information if the White House or others working on the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health would find it useful.

### **School Nutrition Association (SNA)**

- Organization Description – The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 50,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. We are the boots on the ground, serving 4.9 billion of the healthiest meals in the US.

The priorities of the SNA for this call and conference are to highlight the incredible work that school nutrition operators have done over the past 2 years, test piloting school meals for all students free of charge, and to advocate to permanently secure the positive nutritional, behavioral and academic progress that healthy school meals for all provides.

SNA strongly believes in creating policies that: address our nation's nutritional challenges; provide access to affordable and nutritious food; are attainable, realistic for implementation and well received by our customers, the students.

### **United Egg Producers (UEP)**

- Organization Description – United Egg Producers (UEP) is a Capper-Volstead cooperative of U.S. farmers working collaboratively to address legislative, regulatory and advocacy issues impacting egg production – through active farmer-member leadership, a unified voice and partnership across the agriculture community.

#### Recurring Ideas and Themes

In addition to the shared priorities of increasing access to nutritious food and protecting choice, these ideas and recommendations recurred in the written comments, across organizations:

- Research shows that school meal feeding programs are a vital source of nutrition for school-aged children across the U.S. As such, universal school meals – including breakfast, lunch, and out-of-school programs – would likely have a powerful impact on reducing nutrition insecurity for students.
- In addition to providing universal school meals, existing federal nutrition assistance programs should be strengthened and expanded. This includes robustly funding programs, enlarging eligibility to serve more individuals facing nutrition insecurity, and building on current successful practices that incentivize the consumption of healthful food. Various organizations highlighted the following ways to strengthen and expand current federal nutrition programs:
  - Build out programs within SNAP that incentivize healthy food choices, namely GusNIP and HFMIP, to the size and scope necessary to sufficiently address malnutrition and disease
  - Allow for flexibilities within nutrition assistance programs to encourage the consumption of under-consumed foods and the important nutrients they provide
  - Streamline programs and update technologies to make it easier for participants, businesses, and program administrators to use SNAP and fulfill procurement process requirements in other programs
- Nutrition education plays a crucial role in addressing nutrition insecurity. Expanding nutrition education communication and outreach, both government programs and public-

private partnerships, can help empower individuals, families, and communities to make informed choices about their diets and their own nutrition-related health.

- While nutrition programs should encourage the consumption of healthful food, there must be flexibility within each program to allow program administrators, local officials, and program participants the ability to make choices that best serve the needs of their communities and participants.
- Any future changes to program requirements regarding nutrient content should prioritize the consumption of nutrient-rich foods, which also requires the changes be evidence-based, realistic, and practical.
- Nutrition assistance efforts during COVID shined a bright light on ways to improve nutrition programs that should be extended beyond COVID recovery. Some of the important lessons learned that can be incorporated to strengthen nutrition assistance efforts include:
  - Online rather than in-person services can reduce the burden of certain program requirements and increase the accessibility of programs
  - Flexibility around sensible food packaging and variety of options can notably increase the amount of and access to program-eligible food
  - Community-based organizations and local networks are innovative, nimble, and know their neighbors and community resources. As such, they are powerful partners in finding local solutions for local problems based on the daily realities of the community and those living within it.
- Those who work every day to provide food and nutrition assistance have an unparalleled expertise comprised of both policy-knowledge and practical experience. They know what works, what doesn't work, how to best navigate existing programs to maximize effectiveness, and ways to improve programs and solve problems. These individuals and their uniquely-situated knowledge should play a pivotal role in developing programs and strategies for addressing nutrition insecurity and diet-related health.

### Closing

We thank you for your time and work spent planning the second White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, coordinating the regional listening sessions, and providing the tool kit for us to host our own session. As both stakeholders and individuals driven to address food insecurity, hunger, and nutrition-related health issues, we appreciate the opportunity to voice our thoughts. We look forward to learning more about the administration's plans for this fall's conference and appreciate the opportunity to be included in the discussion and planning process. If you have questions regarding this listening session, please contact Claudia Larson, Senior Director of Government Relations with the National Milk Producers Federation, at [clarson@nmpf.org](mailto:clarson@nmpf.org) or (571) 481-6525.

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### National Dairy Council (NDC) References

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