LEGISLATION for WISCONSIN DAIRYMEN

The position of Wisconsin as the leading dairy state in the nation is in no small measure due to the vision of seven wise men who met at Water-town in February, 1872, and organized the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association. Out of this modest beginning grew our great dairy industry. Few people realize that Wisconsin in the year 1872 was a wheat producing state which was exhausting our soil fertility. The infant dairy industry was unorganized and without adequate markets. The Wisconsin Dairymen's Association pioneered in opening up the world's markets to Wisconsin cheese and other dairy products. It also drafted legislation for many laws protecting dairying. It organized the first cow testing association in Wisconsin and the second such association in the United States. From 1906 until 1936 its major program was to organize and supervise cow testing work in the state. Since 1936 when this activity was turned over entirely to the College of Agriculture our program has been a general one along educational lines.

Wisconsin again faces a critical period in its dairy industry, and there is a need as never before for unified action on the part of all dairymen.

We find that to our knowledge there is no statewide group responsible for legislation affecting dairy farmers. We propose to be that voice in all legislative matters concerning dairymen. True there are segments of the industry that have legislative programs but a united Wisconsin Dairymen's organization will carry more weight and make legislators listen to what the grass roots dairymen want in the way of better legislation for the dairy industry. As one Assemblyman has said, when confronted with our program, "It is a good strong program and I also feel that we as legislators would profit a great deal by having such a group to go to for advice and information."

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