

Sen. Shilling: Fighting for America's Dairyland

Written by Jennifer Shilling, State Senator 32nd District
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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/farm-family-s5.jpg>



We need a meaningful and comprehensive approach to help our farmers and rural communities succeed.

MADISON - When you say 'Wisconsin' what is the first thing that comes to mind? For me, I think 'America's Dairyland.' As Wisconsinites, that title is something we take deep pride in, knowing that our state produces the finest milk and cheese in the nation.

It isn't surprising that Wisconsin produces more than 26 percent of the nation's cheese and accounts for more than 14 percent of the nation's milk productions. Between cheese, dairy and vegetables, agriculture contributes almost \$105 billion to our state's economy.

What's easy to forget is the people whose sweat, hard work, perseverance, and dedication built the foundation of our state pride.

Despite this honorable farming heritage, Wisconsin has been losing dairy farms at an alarming rate – roughly two farms a day – and our state leads the nation in farm bankruptcies. We cannot abandon those generations of families that have dedicated their lives to feeding our families and communities.

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