



OHIO DAIRY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

*Supporting Ohio's dairy production industry; optimizing profitability and productivity;
addressing issues that affect dairy producers*

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Re: Urgent Request for Emergency State Support for Food Distribution

Dear Governor DeWine

On behalf of Ohio's dairy community, we thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. As you are aware, the pandemic is impacting our state's ability to provide emergency hunger relief and help the millions of Ohioans in need.

Our organizations, who represent the state's dairy farmers, strongly support the Ohio Association of Foodbanks request for \$25 million in emergency state funding to respond to this unprecedented need for emergency food.

Milk is one of the most requested items for food banks, and this funding would allow the Association to immediately procure nutritious milk and dairy products, as well as other food and essential items, needed by their 12 Feeding America Foodbanks and its pantry network of 3,600 local organizations throughout Ohio.

Ohio's 1,750 dairy farm families continue to work hard to provide a nutritious product for families. With the loss of food service sales and the decline in school milk consumption, dairy farmers currently have an abundance of milk. Many dairy companies are changing production schedules and adjusting packaging to use this milk and make dairy foods that can be purchased by the foodbanks with this support.

We urge you to approve the Ohio Association of Foodbanks request for this emergency funding from the State of Ohio. It is desperately needed to replenish foodbank inventories and ensure Ohioans have food on their tables during this emergency.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Higgins
Ohio Dairy Producers Association

Heather McCann
Dairy Farmers of America
– Mideast Area

Carl Schroeder
National Farmers Organization