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Information concerning the Florida Dairy Industry presented for consideration of candidates for Governor and for Commissioner of Agriculture —

FLORIDA LAWS RELATING TO THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

1. CHAPTER 502. THE FLORIDA MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS LAW.

Administered by a "Dairy Division" of the State Department of Agriculture with a Chief Dairy Supervisor and a staff of about five area Deputy Supervisors, a Mobile Laboratory Unit and certain Laboratory Technicians.

The administrative procedures under this Law were systematized and improved by an amendment adopted in the Agricultural Department Reorganization Bill by the 1959 Legislature.

The basic provisions of the Milk and Milk Products Law were not amended and consideration is being given by both the Dairy Industry and the Chief Dairy Supervisor to the preparation of some amendments to this Law to be submitted to the 1961 Legislature.

Two principal improvements are needed: (a) More uniformity of the laws, regulations and inspections between the State Department of Agriculture, the State Board of Health and the various County and City Health Departments with principal authority in the "Dairy Division" of the State Department of Agriculture. (b) A strengthening of the inspection services of the State Department of Agriculture through additional revenue which should be provided by an inspection tax on milk produced and milk sold.

The Dairy Industry strongly favors the administration of the State Milk and Milk Products Law in the State Department of Agriculture, where it has been since its passage in 1928, and not under the State Board of Health.

2. CHAPTER 503. THE FLORIDA FROZEN DESSERTS LAW.

This law regulating the standards of manufacture and distribution of ice cream and other frozen desserts is also administered and enforced by the "Dairy Division" of the State Department of Agriculture.

This law is operating satisfactorily but may need some correctional amendments which the Chief Dairy Supervisor and the industry are jointly considering.

3. CHAPTER 501. THE FLORIDA MILK COMMISSION LAW.

* Purpose of Law

This Law, enacted in 1933, has the objective of stabilizing the Dairy Industry by stabilizing milk prices paid to milk producers and the resale prices of milk charged by dairies, stores and other retail outlets for milk.

Also by the establishing of sound trade practices within the Dairy Industry and by acting as a referee between members of the industry in maintaining fair and equitable dealings and trade practices within the industry.

* Administration of Law

This law is administered by a seven-member Milk Commission and an administrator — all appointed by the Governor.

* Problems In Operation of this Law

This law operated from 1933 to the beginning of the Governor Collins Administration with comparative success and little friction. During this time the law was interpreted by the dairy industry and the Milk Commission as requiring the establishing and enforcing of both the farm prices and the resale prices of milk.

Notwithstanding this long established understanding and policy, Governor Collins appointed new members to the Milk Commission who proceeded to discontinue the supervision and enforcing of all resale milk prices and trade practices related to the resale of milk.

This was done following the naming of Brailley Odham, a known enemy and opponent of this law and the regulation of milk prices, as Chairman of the Milk Commission.

This action has resulted in great confusion within the industry and tremendous economic losses among both milk distributors and milk producers through unrestricted and unregulated milk price cutting and milk price wars.

* DAIRY INDUSTRY FEELING AND CONVICTIONS CONCERNING THIS LAW AND ITS ADMINISTRATION

This law is important and essential today as it was when enacted in 1933 and re-enacted and sustained by the Legislature for a period of 27 years for the purposes stated by the Legislature in its legislative finding and declaration which are incorporated in the preamble to this law.

It is essential and necessary to prevent demoralizing price wars causing the selling of milk below cost and threatening economic ruin to many of the independently-owned dairies of the state.

The industry was well stabilized as long as the Milk Commission Law was enforced on both milk producers and milk distributors.

The dairy industry feels that it is the duty of the Governor to see that this law— just as other laws of the State — is fairly and justly administered and enforced.

We feel that it is the Governor's duty to appoint well qualified and fair-minded members to the Milk Commission and then to allow them to administer the law in a legal, dignified and fair-minded manner without interference or dictation from the Governor.

We strongly feel that the appointment of a person to the Chairmanship of this Commission who was known and had publicly declared himself to be opposed to the law and its purposes was a gross injustice to the dairy industry.

The Florida Dairy Industry feels that as long as the Milk Commission Law is a Law of the State that the industry is entitled to the full services provided by the law.

We urge you as a candidate for Governor to adopt a position that if elected Governor you will undertake to see that this law—along with other laws of the State — is fairly and efficiently administered and enforced.

We would also urge that the Governor call into conference known leaders and representatives of the dairy industry when problems regarding this law and other laws of the industry arise.

4. THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS AND SUPERVISION
RELATING TO ANIMAL DISEASES AND MILK SANITATION.

It is generally felt within the dairy industry that the State Board of Health exceeds its authority in its activities relating to dairy herd diseases and in the supervision of "Milk Sanitation".

The State Livestock Board should regulate dairy herd diseases and the "Dairy Division" of the State Department of Agriculture should supervise "Milk Sanitation" with the cooperation and assistance of City and County Health Departments and consultations only from the State Board of Health.

5. SPECIAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF SOME CITIES AND COUNTIES PLACING ADDITIONAL
REGULATIONS ON MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS NOT CONTAINED IN THE STATE LAWS.

Some cities and some counties have local laws and regulations relating to milk and milk products, production, processing and distribution which are different and some in excess of standards and regulations of the State Laws.

The dairy industry has too many bosses because of these various laws and favors the restricting of local laws and authority to that provided by the State Laws.

6. FLORIDA LIVESTOCK BOARD REGULATING AND AIDING THE INDUSTRY
IN CONTROL OF HERD DISEASES.

* This law was amended with the 1959 Agricultural Services Reorganization Act and, so far as we know at this time, is satisfactory.

FLORIDA DAIRY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

J. H. Laher, President