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Senator Jacque Streamlines Dairy Regulations to Aid Farmers

(Madison, WI) Senator André Jacque (R – De Pere) had seven bipartisan bills signed into law yesterday, three of which streamlined regulations to help farmers, Senate Bill 737, 684 and 685. These reforms were derived from unanimous recommendations from the Dairy Taskforce 2.0 and widely supported by farmers and dairy stakeholders.

Senate Bill 737 creates a voluntary animal ID program that gives farmers the flexibility to tag their livestock with infrared tags. This will allow for more accurate traceability of livestock and add to the resale value of the animals.

Senate Bill 684 cuts long standing red tape that prevented dairy transporters with out of state milk weighing licenses from weighing milk in Wisconsin without a separate license. Now, a person who is licensed by an agricultural agency of another state to take samples of milk can legally weigh bulk milk.

Senate Bill 685 streamlines burdensome reporting requirements that specified dairy farmers had to obtain a signed and notarized affidavit every year that stated their milk does not contain rBST, or a bovine growth hormone. With these changes, dairy farmers will no longer be required to submit an affidavit yearly, but instead once.

“It’s clear that farmers are struggling in the face of many factors,” Senator Jacque said. *“After a year of record rainfall and a USDA disaster designation, the last thing Wisconsin farmers need are state regulations that don’t make sense getting in the way. That’s why I’m happy to help by authoring these bipartisan solutions that cut red tape for farmers with no impact on consumers.”*

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin’s First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.

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