

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself,

Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. BROWN):
S. 1783. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for country of origin labeling for dairy products; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, all across the country, family dairy farms are in dire straits. In Minnesota alone, 200 dairy farms have closed this year. There is no single cause for this crisis. Family dairy farmers are confronting an unprecedented global recession, consolidation in the market, high feed prices, and unpredictable price swings—all at the same time.

Since arriving in Washington, I have been proud to work with my dairy State colleagues in order to give our family farmers the tools they need to weather this storm. In July, Senators from the midwest, the northeast, and the southwest worked together with Secretary Vilsack to raise price supports. Just last week we provided the Department of Agriculture with another \$350 million for price supports in the annual agriculture spending bill. Unfortunately, raising price supports alone won't calm the economic storm.

Just as there is no single cause for this, there is no single solution. Our family farmers need multiple tools in their shed. Today, I am introducing a bill with Senator FEINGOLD and Senator BROWN to give our family farmers another tool.

The Dairy Country Of Origin Labeling Act, or Dairy COOL, is really pretty simple—it would extend mandatory country of origin labeling to dairy products. The current country of origin labeling law, which went into effect last year, applies to meats, produce, and nuts, but it doesn't include dairy products. Our bill would simply add dairy products—such as milk, ice cream and cheese—to the list.

Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ohio dairy farmers, as well as family farmers across the Nation, have the right to distinguish their products from imported products. As families do their weekly grocery shopping, they should have the option of putting milk, cheese, and ice cream from our own family farms into their cart. It is more than “from farm to table”—it's really “from one family to another.”

Families are what this is about. Hardly a week goes by where you don't hear another story of contaminated food and toys coming in from foreign shores. Labeling our dairy products lets parents make smarter choices at the grocery store.

This bill isn't a silver bullet, but it does give family farms another tool that will help them weather the current storm, grow a little stronger, and keep our families a little safer.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1783

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Dairy COOL Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 281 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—
(A) in subparagraph (A)—
(i) in clause (x), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (xi), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:
“(xii) dairy products.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “(other than clause (xii) of that subparagraph)” after “subparagraph (A)”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (9) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) DAIRY PRODUCT.—The term ‘dairy product’ means—

“(A) fluid milk;

“(B) cheese, including cottage cheese and cream cheese;

“(C) yogurt;

“(D) ice cream;

“(E) butter; and

“(F) any other dairy product.”.

(b) NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—Section 282(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) DESIGNATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A retailer of a covered commodity that is a dairy product shall designate the origin of the covered commodity as—

“(i) each country in which or from the 1 or more dairy ingredients or dairy components of the covered commodity were produced, originated, or sourced; and

“(ii) each country in which the covered commodity was processed.

“(B) STATE, REGION, LOCALITY OF THE UNITED STATES.—With respect to a covered commodity that is a dairy product produced exclusively in the United States, designation by a retailer of the State, region, or locality of the United States where the covered commodity was produced shall be sufficient to identify the United States as the country of origin.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 14, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Examining the State of the Banking Industry.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate, on October 14, at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 14, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 14, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Prohibiting Price Fixing and Other Anticompetitive Conduct in the Health Insurance Industry.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging and the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 14, 2009, from 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Shauna Agan and Amber Oldham of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for Preston Rutledge, Carolyn Coda, Chantal Matin, and Stephen Theulen be granted the privileges of the floor for the duration of the 111th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 472 and 473; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to