

## Co-ops Pledge Continued Commitment To Producers

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. — After discontinuing merger discussions earlier this month, Advantage Dairy Group representatives promised to continue working together to benefit members of the five cooperatives in the group.

Four of the five Advantage Dairy Group cooperatives — Land O'Lakes, Inc.; Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc.; Lone Star Milk Producers, Inc.; and Arkansas Dairy Cooperative Association — in August had approved the signing of letters of intent to develop a merger plan.

Representatives cited a significant level of concern regarding the merger in feedback from members of the Maryland and Virginia cooperative as reason for discontinuing the merger discussions.

"The feedback we were receiving from Maryland and Virginia members indicated it would be counterproductive to continue merger discussions," Land O'Lakes President and Chief Executive Officer John E. Gherty said.

Officials of the four cooperatives voiced a commitment to continuing the the work of Advantage Dairy Group.

"We will continue to explore ways our cooperatives can work together to benefit members," said Maryland and Virginia General Manager Robert Shore.

## Dairylea, DFA Voice Concerns Regarding Proposed EPA Regulations

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Dairylea Cooperative Inc. and Dairy Farmers of America's Northeast Council (DFA) recently took advantage of opportunities to voice concerns over proposed changes to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulations and Effluent Limitation Guidelines and Stand-

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