



milk is  
getting  
greener

13<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## HIGH LEVEL DAIRY UK DELEGATION MEETS DEFRA TO DISCUSS EXPERTS GROUP

A high level industry delegation from Dairy UK has met senior Defra officials to raise industry concerns over the issues arising from the High Level Experts Group on Milk.

The delegation included leading farming representatives. Commenting on the meeting, Dairy UK Director General, Jim Begg, said: "The industry is very proud of what it has achieved in the past five years. Our contractual arrangements and integrated supply chains are the envy of Europe in their ability to take the industry forward to meet the challenges of the future.

"The work of the High Level Experts Group is a necessary exercise to ensure fairness and efficiency in the European dairy industry supply chain after quotas go in 2015. But in nearly all the key areas that Member States are trying to address the UK is already leading in terms of:

- Supply chain collaboration
- Communication of market signals up and down the supply chain
- Understanding of consumer needs

"We are very keen to ensure that we don't take a step backwards because Brussels feels it has to address challenges in other Member States. We don't want disruption to the investment made by dairy companies and farmers in the future of our industry and it is important that we have Defra on our side in this debate.

"We are seeking to create stable relationships which will deliver a confident investment platform, which in turn will continue to deliver price premiums from

farmers meeting consumer needs. That's what this meeting was all about and we're hopeful that Defra has a full understanding of our position."

Dairy UK Delegation:

Johnathan Ovens, Chairman of Arla Foods Milk Partnership  
David Herdman, Chairman of Dairy Crest Direct  
Michael Masters, Secretary of Dairy Crest Direct  
Mark Taylor, Group Milk Procurement Director, Dairy Crest  
Mike Gorton, First Milk Main Board Farmer Director  
Peter Nicholson, Milk Procurement Director, Robert Wiseman Dairies  
Rex Ward, Vice Chairman of Dairy UK's Farmers' Forum  
Peter Dawson, Policy Director, Dairy UK

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#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

*Dairy UK is a trade association that represents the interests of dairy farmers, producer co-ops, milk processors and doorstep deliverymen. For more information visit [www.dairyUK.org](http://www.dairyUK.org).*



*Proud of Dairy is a Dairy UK campaign to raise the profile of the dairy industry. Are you Proud of Dairy too? If so, why not support the campaign by clicking onto [www.proudofdairy.com](http://www.proudofdairy.com) where you can find more details.*