WHEREAS; with 1.28 million cows and approximately 5,500 dairy farms, Wisconsin has a long and proud tradition as "America's Dairyland," and ensuring the long-term success of the industry is vital for the state's economic future and for the future of the farmers and farm families that have been the backbone of this state for generations; and

WHEREAS; according to the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2023 alone, Wisconsin's dairy farmers produced more than 32 billion pounds of milk—accounting for more than 14 percent of all milk produced in the United States—and the dairy industry contributes more than \$45 billion to the state's economy every year; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is also well known for its world-class cheese production, and the state's nearly 1,200 licensed cheesemakers produce a quarter of the nation's cheese, ranking Wisconsin as the nation's top cheese-producing state; and

WHEREAS; driven by a vast network of dairy farmers, equipment manufacturers and technicians, cooperatives, veterinarians, construction companies, milk haulers, processing plants, genetics and software companies, and more, Wisconsin's dairy industry creates a wave of economic impact that is felt in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS; the state's dedicated dairy farmers and their families, processors, and distributors play an important role in Wisconsin's collective heritage, culture, and identity, and it is essential that the state continues its work to make sure that dairy farmers and all those that make up the agricultural industry have the support and resources to thrive; and

WHEREAS; dairy farmers continue to show immense strength and resilience, and Wisconsin is proud to continue to support their success with investments in research to expand the industry, additional resources for dairy processors, and efforts to bolster dairy exports, ensuring Wisconsin continues to be well-positioned for future opportunities and to be a global leader in the dairy sector; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to serving as a steadfast partner to farmers, the agricultural industry, and rural communities and joins all Wisconsinites in honoring dairy farmers and all members of the state's dairy industry for their continued hard work and contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 2024 as

## JUNE DAIRY MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 24th day of May 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State