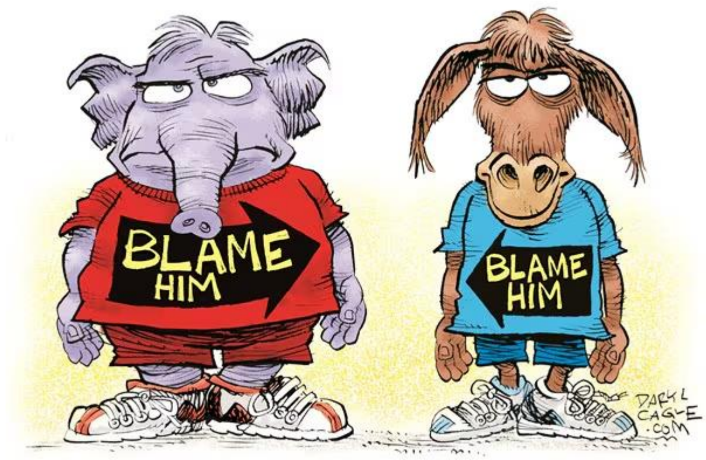
NORTHEAST DAIRY FARMERS COOPERATIVES
Representing dairy farm families in New York and New England

Michael T. Oscar
Policy Advisor
(202) 527-9910 o
(215) 528-0268 c
Mike@NortheastDairyFarmerCoops.com

1335 Fairmont Street, NW
Suite 1
Washington, D.C. 20009
www.NortheastDairyFarmerCoops.com



10/10/25

This Week in Congress!

The government shutdown continued, and the Senate returned to session this week; however, Speaker Johnson (R-LA) announced his intention to keep the House in recess until the government reopens, but House Minority Leader Jeffries (D-NY) asked his caucus to return to D.C. again this week.

The Senate continued taking votes on the House-passed and Democrat continuing resolutions (CRs), and leadership considered more administration nominees for confirmation votes. The chamber voted on a resolution (S.J. Res. 71) from Sen. Kaine (D-VA) to terminate the president's national energy emergency, along with votes on a resolution (S.J. Res. 83) offered by Sen. Schiff (D-CA), that would invoke the War Powers Resolution to block military action, including strikes against boats in the Caribbean, against designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Notable committee action this week included:

- Wednesday, October 8, 10:30 am
  - Senate Commerce Committee
  - **Hearing: "Shut Your App: How Uncle Sam Jawboned Big Tech Into Silencing Americans"**
- Wednesday, October 8, 10:00 am
  - Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
  - **Hearing: "Labor Law Reform Part 1: Diagnosing the Issues, Exploring Current Proposals"**

The House will not hold any committee hearings this week.

The Government Shutdown Continues!!!

On the evening preceding the government shutdown (Tuesday, September 30), the Senate conducted a second round of votes on both the House-passed continuing resolution (CR) and the alternative proposed by Senate Democrats; however, neither measure attained the requisite 60 votes to advance past a filibuster and move to consideration of the underlying legislation. The House bill received a 55-45 vote, with Democratic Senators Cortez-Masto (D-NV), Fetterman (D-PA), and King (I-ME) (who is an Independent but caucuses with the Democrats) voting in favor, while Republican Senator Paul (R-KY) opposed it. The Democrats' CR failed along party lines with a 47-53 vote.

The Senate revisited both measures for a third time on the initial day of the shutdown (Wednesday, October 1) and a fourth time on the subsequent Friday, with the same three Democrats maintaining their support for the House-passed CR. Both pieces of legislation are scheduled for additional votes this week.

A number of centrist Senators from both parties have initiated informal discussions aimed at resolving the impasse. Nevertheless, party leadership remains steadfast in their respective positions. The Democrats have indicated that, at a minimum, they seek assurances from Republicans regarding consideration of a bill to extend enhanced ACA premium tax credits, as well as a commitment from the administration not to rescind fiscal year 2026 bipartisan spending agreements. Conversely, Republican congressional leaders maintain that the only viable solution is enactment of the House-passed CR, proposing that discussions concerning tax credits may occur later in the year.

Recent administrative actions have added complexity to efforts to resolve the deadlock. Following the commencement of the shutdown, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced the cancellation of billions of dollars in infrastructure and energy project funding, predominantly affecting Democratic constituencies. To that end, OMB froze $18 billion in federal funds for New York City's mass transit system due to "discriminatory, unconstitutional contracting processes." Additionally, OBM froze $8 billion in climate projects across 16 blue and purple states.

President Trump and members of his administration have indicated intentions to pursue permanent funding reductions for agencies perceived as supportive of Democratic policies and to initiate substantial layoffs of federal employees, potentially beginning within the week. The President has asserted that Senate Democrats enabled him to advance his agenda of significant federal cutbacks by declining to support the House CR. These developments have complicated the Republican message regarding their opposition to a government shutdown and appear, at least temporarily, to have reinforced Democratic resolve.

Partisan communications and polling on public sentiment continue. Since last Monday, there has been no direct communication between Democratic congressional leadership, their Republican counterparts, or the President. However, forthcoming deadlines may influence negotiations: a major federal nutrition program (Women, Infants and Children, or WIC) is projected to exhaust its funds as early as this week, most federal employees will miss their first paycheck on Friday, and active-duty military personnel are slated to miss their first paycheck on October 15.

The Trump Administration to Distribute $13 Billion to Farmers?

The Trump administration is preparing to distribute financial aid to farmers that "could be a little less" than $13 billion, but the government shutdown may delay its rollout. President Trump has yet to announce the full scope and cost of a farm aid package he, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, have said is on the way. Producers and a growing number of members of Congress are clamoring for an economic boost as farmers face a combination of falling crop prices, rising production expenses, and export markets narrowed by President Trump's tariffs. On September 28, the White House's Office of Budget and Management apportioned $13 billion from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), an Agriculture Department financing mechanism. The first Trump administration sent farmers a total of $28 billion in trade aid drawn from the CCC between 2018 and 2019. The financing mechanism has an annual borrowing authority of $30 billion that's typically replenished near the start of a new fiscal year.

IRS Announcements!

The Treasury Department has announced that Frank Bisignano, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (SSA), will take on the newly established role of Chief Executive Officer of the IRS while continuing his responsibilities at SSA. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will retain his position as IRS Commissioner.