

DAIRY CHECKOFFS: Farm Action, an anti-monopoly group, and the National Dairy Producers Union [sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack](#) urging USDA to complete and send its reports on the dairy checkoff to Congress. The reports required by Congress, the group writes, are missing for years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Checkoffs, which require farmers to pay into general funds for commodities for everything from raisins to milk to eggs, use the funding for research and promotion of the commodity. According to Farm Action's letter, dairy farmers have paid nearly \$1 billion in checkoff fees since USDA released the last report.

Context: Checkoffs are a common source of tension because many farmers say that there is not enough transparency about how the funds are spent. Advocates, including Farm Action, have pushed for the OFF Act in the farm bill, legislation that proponents say will require more transparency for the funds.

It's not the first time reports to Congress on the dairy checkoffs have been late. In 2017, [POLITICO reported that the annual financial reports](#) for the dairy checkoff were MIA for four years.