

JOINT STATEMENT RE THE CO-OPERATIVE MILK SUPPLIES

Issued on behalf of

**The Co-operative Group, Dairy Farmers of Britain,
Robert Wiseman Dairies, Dairy Crest and Yeo Valley**

The Co-operative Group has today confirmed that it has awarded contracts to supply fresh milk to its food stores to Wiseman, Dairy Crest and Yeo Valley.

The Group and Dairy Farmers of Britain (DFB), which currently fulfils a number of the Group's milk contracts, have confirmed that they are working with the three chosen suppliers to ensure that the migration of milk supply is managed with customers' and farmers' interests in mind.

This co-ordinated approach will ensure that as much milk as possible for the contracts, which are effective from 1 August, 2009, is supplied from DFB farming members.

- ends -

Notes to Editors:

The Group's milk contracts, covering the supply of 74.6m gallons (339m litres) of fresh own-brand milk, were put out to tender in January this year, seeking bids from businesses to supply Co-operative food stores from 1 August this year until 31 July, 2010.

As a result of the tendering process:

- Wiseman will retain its existing business to supply the Group with 31.2m gallons (142m litres) of milk servicing stores in the South East/South West of England and Scotland. It will now supply an additional 25.5m gallons (116m litres) for stores across the whole of the North of England.

- Dairy Crest, which currently supplies the Group with 9.7m gallons (44m litres) of milk in the Midlands region, has picked up the whole contract to supply milk across middle England and Wales, giving it an additional 6.3m gallons (29m litres).

- Yeo Valley, which already supplies the Group with branded organic milk, will now supply 1.7m gallons (8m litres) of own-brand organic milk.

For further information, please contact:

**The Co-operative Group: Michelle Henderson
Tel: 0161 827 5290 Mob: 07770 925958**

**Dairy Farmers of Britain: Philip Gibson (Reverberate PR)
Tel: 01270 811093 Mob: 07792 205956**

**Wiseman: Graeme Jack
Tel: 01355 598585 Mob: 07900 40269**

**Dairy Crest: Arthur Reeves
Tel: 01372 472236 Mob: 07831 211507**

**Yeo Valley:
Tel: Mob:**