

New Program Protects Dairy Farmers from Shifts in Feed Costs and Milk Prices

USDA has announced a new voluntary program that protects dairy producers when the difference between milk price and feed costs (the "margin") falls below an amount selected by the producer.

The Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) is available to operations that produce and commercially market milk from cows located in the United States. Producers must provide proof of milk production at the time of registration and not be enrolled in the Risk Management Agency's Livestock Gross Margin for Dairy Program (LGM-Dairy). The program has been authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill through December 31, 2018.

The USDA Farm Service Agency and UNH Cooperative Extension have scheduled informational meetings on how the new dairy program works and how to register for it at the following locations. All dairy farmers and producers are invited and encouraged to attend.

Southeastern New Hampshire Region: Merrimack, Hillsboro, and Belknap Counties: Monday, October 13, Merrimack County Cooperative Extension Office, 315 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscaawen, NH

Grafton County Region: Tuesday, October 14, Grafton County Cooperative Extension Office, 3855 Dartmouth College Highway, North Haverhill, NH

Southwestern New Hampshire Region, Sullivan and Cheshire Counties: October 15, Stuart and John's Sugarhouse, Junction Routes 12 and 63, Westmoreland, NH

The North Country Region, Coos and Carroll Counties: Thursday, October 16, Coos County Cooperative Extension Office, 629A Main St., Lancaster, NH

The Seacoast Region, Rockingham and Strafford Counties: Friday, October 17, Rockingham County Nursing Home Auditorium, William Sturtevant Way off North Road, Brentwood, NH

These sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The formal part of the program will run from 10 a.m. to noon. Individual questions and assistance will be offered from noon to 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. Attendees may bring a bag lunch.

Note: The former MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) program is no longer available. The MPP-Dairy program registration period for 2014 and 2015 coverage began on September 2, 2014 and will end on November 28, 2014.

For further information or questions, please call or email:

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact the Federal Relay Service at 1-877-387-2001 by Oct. 8, 2014.