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NJ Milk Quality Program

New Jersey dairy producers are eligible to participate in the newly redesigned Milk Quality Program for the state. Participation is voluntary and funding is limited so enrollment will be a first-come, first-served basis.

The program will be conducted by monitoring bulk tank milk for bacteria that affect milk quality. Since all saleable milk goes to the bulk tank, this is the first place to look to find out if there are any issues with milk quality. Aseptic milk samples must be taken from the bulk tank on three consecutive pick up days. The milk must be agitated for at least ten minutes prior to taking each sample. The results obtained from these samples will show what bacteria are present in the milk. Since samples are from three different milk loads within a week, patterns can be detected and if undesirable microorganisms are discovered, future steps may be taken to eliminate problems and increase overall milk quality.

If you would like to enroll or have questions about the milk quality program, contact Dave Lee, Jasen Berkowitz or Penny Rammel at (856) 769-0090.

NJ & Secure Milk Supply

The staff at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County will be serving the New Jersey dairy industry as consultants to help with voluntary compliance for the Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Program. (See page 3 to learn about SMS)

The SMS program should not be taken lightly because if there were ever to be an outbreak of hoof-and-mouth disease (HMD), only farms meeting the requirements and receiving a pre-event audit and certification from the NJDA state veterinarian will be eligible to continue selling milk. If your farm is not pre-event certified and you are located within a restricted area, you will not be able to sell your milk!

If you would like to pursue a pre-event certification or would like more information about what parameters must be met, please feel free to contact Dave Lee, Jasen Berkowitz or Kelly Steimle at (856) 769-0090.

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If you have any questions, give us a call at:

(856) 769-0090
Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers (MPP-Dairy) Transition Period From the LGM-Dairy Program

Background:
On February 7, 2014, the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) was signed into law. The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes MPP-Dairy, a new margin-based dairy program, to replace the MILC program no later than September 1, 2014. The MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers against extremely low margins when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost falls below a certain, producer selected, dollar amount.

RMA administers a similar protection for dairy producers under the LGM-Dairy insurance program. However, the 2014 Farm Bill specifically provides that in a relation to the LGM-Dairy program, a participating dairy operation under the MPP-Dairy may not participate in both programs, thus multiple benefits will not be allowed.

FSA has been working with RMA to facilitate an appropriate transition process that will allow LGM-Dairy participants with active target marketings insured into 2015, maximum flexibility if they choose to participate in MPP-Dairy.

LGM-Dairy to MPP-Dairy Preliminary Transition Process:
During a transition period announced by FSA, dairy producers with an active policy under LGM-Dairy who have target marketings insured into 2015, will be allowed to register to participate in MPP-Dairy while still meeting the contractual requirements of the LGM-Dairy insurance contract. The LGM-Dairy policy requirement for completing the active target marketings will conclude the producer’s coverage under LGM-Dairy to ensure transition to MPP-Dairy.

Transition to MPP-Dairy may occur in the next available month after all target marketings under LGM-Dairy are completed. Under MPP-Dairy, a 2-month consecutive period cannot be split. Therefore, the next available month following completion of the target marketings would be the first month of the following consecutive 2-month period according to the following:

- January/February
- March/April
- May/June
- July/August
- September/October
- November/December

Note: Development and clearance of MPP-Dairy final regulations are currently underway. FSA will announce full details of the transition period process upon publication of the MPP-Dairy final rule in the FR.

Source: USDA FSA Notice LD-637

Have Crop Damage? Report It Promptly!

If your crop is damaged, you are responsible to file notice with your agent within 72 hours. The policy requires that such notices should be in writing. Therefore, if you file a notice of damage by phone, ask your crop insurance agent for a copy of the notice that they file with the insurance company because it is critical that a paper trail exists. Also, remember the evidence of damage must be viewed by an adjuster or you may lose policy benefits.
Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan for the Mid-Atlantic Region

The Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan is a national effort funded by USDA APHIS with the goal of maintaining business continuity for dairy producers and processors during a hoof-and-mouth disease (HMD) outbreak while minimizing disease spread and assuring a continuous supply of milk and milk products to consumers. There are a variety of regional plans in development throughout the U.S. that take into account milk movement patterns and regulatory issues.

In the event HMD is diagnosed in the United States, a national animal health emergency will be declared and livestock as well as allied industries will feel the immediate impact of animal and animal product quarantine and movement restrictions. Quarantine, managed movement and mandatory biosecurity protocols are designed to contain and control the disease and minimize virus spread. In the dairy industry, the just-in-time supply practices of milk movement in the U.S. could be significantly impacted by managed movement and the need for additional biosecurity at farms and processing facilities. This could lead to a disruption of the provision of milk and milk products to consumers impacting normal business. Additionally, there could be significant milk disposal and animal welfare issues on dairies. Most dairy operations and processing plants do not have the capacity to store milk for more than 48 hours; some have less than 24 hours storage capacity. Hence, pre-planning for safe, timely, risk-based, permitted movement of animals and animal products will be critical to maintaining the business continuity (survival) of the dairy industry while controlling and containing the outbreak. The SMS Plan is working to develop the pre-event plan to minimize the impact of an HMD outbreak in the United States.

The overall goal of the SMS Plan is “to maintain milk movement form dairy farms with no evidence of infection a Hoof-and-Mouth (HMD) outbreak and to provide a continuous supply of wholesome milk and milk products for consumers.” Accomplishing this goal requires a partnership between industry (producers, haulers and processors), states (animal health officials, regulatory officials), the federal government (animal health officials, planners, policy makers), and academia (subject matter experts, communication facilitators). Participation in the SMS is strictly VOLUNTARY. For those that choose to participate in pre-event planning, the goal is less disruptions for their milk to reach processing plants.

New Jersey is part of the Mid-Atlantic States Projects along with Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. In this region, the SMS Plan concepts, including the Biosecurity Performance Standards, will be introduced to producers, milk haulers and processors at meetings to be held in the coming months. Be on the lookout for notifications of these meetings. If you have any questions, give Dave Lee, Jasen Berkowitz or Kelly Steimle at the Salem County Extension Office a call at (856) 769-0090.
Managing Heat Stress

As summer temperatures and humidity rise on dairy farms, it is common for cows to experience heat stress. Cow comfort is key to attaining maximum production. Whenever the temperature rises above the mid-70s and humidity is high (85%), the cow will be under stress.

Now that the dog days of summer are here, don’t forget these keys to maintaining cow comfort:

- Provide unlimited supplies of fresh, cool water (55–65°F) for drinking
- Provide ample shade
- Consider fans and sprinklers
- Maintain clean, dry bedding
- Adjust feeding schedules to feed more frequently during the cool of night

Upcoming Event: NJ State Holstein Show

The 2014 NJ State 4-H and NJ State Holstein show dates are August 25-27. This year the event is taking place at the NJ State Fairgrounds in Augusta, Sussex County. The event schedule is as follows:

- Monday, Aug. 25th - Move in
- Tuesday, Aug. 26th - State 4-H Show
- Wednesday, Aug. 27th - State Holstein Show

All entries are due by August 18th and are to be sent to:

Salem County Extension Office
51 Cheney Road, Suite 1
Woodstown, NJ 08098

Questions about crop insurance? Call a crop insurance agent or our toll free information line 800-308-2449
Or visit us online at http://salem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance

Dave Lee
Jasen Berkowitz
Kelly Steimle
Bob Bruch

This newsletter is brought to you by the Garden State Crop Insurance Education Initiative, a partnership between the USDA Risk Management Agency, New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County. For additional information about crop insurance, contact your crop insurance agent, locate a crop insurance agent at www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html, visit our website http://salem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance or call our toll free hotline 1-800-308-2449.

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