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**Dairy LGM for September**

Dairy producers should give the LGM for dairy program consideration based on some very positive RMA margins that are expected to be available during the September enrollment period.

Today’s futures markets are offering an uncommon opportunity for producers to cost effectively protect an unusually high margin for next fall and winter.

It has been determined that dairy producers may not participate in both the Dairy LGM program and the Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP) at the same time. For those that are currently enrolled in Dairy LGM, they must wait until the conclusion of their contract period to enroll in MPP, if desired.

If you feel that dairy LGM may benefit you, contact your crop insurance agent as soon as possible to get details for your farm and to take care of pre-enrollment issues. Sign-ups will begin on Friday, September 26 and continue through September 27, if funds are not exhausted.

Source of some content: Center For Dairy Excellence

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**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 2 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.
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 USDA-APHIS has developed the HMD Response Plan in the event the disease occurs in the U.S. The response goals are to following:

- Detect, control and contain HMD in animals as quickly as possible
- Eradicate HMD using strategies that stabilize animal agriculture, food supply, economy, protect human health, and
- Provide science- and risk-based approaches and systems that facilitate continuity of business of non-infected animals and non-contaminated animal products

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.” Achieving 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.
Farmers can now enroll in the new dairy Margin Protection Program. The voluntary program, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin—the difference between the price of milk and feed costs—falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also launched a new Web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the Margin Protection Program that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The online resource, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections.

The Margin Protection Program, which replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract program, gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment ends on Nov. 28, 2014, for 2014 and 2015. Participating farmers must remain in the program through 2018 and pay a minimum $100 administrative fee each year. Producers have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year.

Dairy operations enrolling in the new program must comply with conservation compliance provisions and cannot participate in the Livestock Gross Margin dairy insurance program. Farmers already participating in the Livestock Gross Margin program may register for the Margin Protection Program, but the new margin program will only begin once their Livestock Gross Margin coverage has ended.

The 2014 Farm Bill also established the Dairy Product Donation Program. The program authorizes USDA to purchase and donate dairy products to nonprofit organizations that provide nutrition assistance to low-income families. Purchases only occur during periods of low dairy margins. Dairy operators do not need to enroll to benefit from the Dairy Product Donation Program.

Visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets, or stop by a local FSA office to learn more about the Margin Protection Program or the Dairy Product Donation Program.

Questions?
Please contact your local FSA Service Center:
Columbus: Nick Morolda: (609) 267-1639 or nick.morolda@nj.usda.gov
Freehold: Gabi Grunstein: (732) 462-0075 or gabor.grunstein@nj.usda.gov
Frenchtown: Doreen Beruck: (908) 782-4614 or doreen.beruck@nj.usda.gov
Hackettstown: Lindsay Caragher: (908) 852-2576 or lindsay.caragher@nj.usda.gov
Vineland: Angela Andreoli: (856) 205-1225 or angela.andreoli@nj.usda.gov
Woodstown: Al DiBella: (856) 769-1126 or al.dibella@nj.usda.gov

Support for NJ Dairy Producers Regarding MPP
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County along with FSA state offices will be providing any support needed to New Jersey dairy producers regarding the newly implemented Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP). Be on the look out for notification of upcoming meetings regarding MPP. With the closing date for 2014 and 2015 sign ups being November 28, it is planned to have informational meetings in both the north and south of the state to help educate dairy producers and answer any questions they may have in the near future.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, issues or concerns, feel free to contact your local FSA office (contact info found above) or staff at the Salem County Extension office at (856) 769-0090.
**NJ Milk Quality Program**

New Jersey dairy producers are eligible to participate in the newly re-designed 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 an 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.

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**Upcoming Event: 2014 World Dairy Expo**

World Dairy Expo is the international dairy meeting place, a five day event showcasing the finest in dairy genetics and the newest technologies available to the dairy industry. We look forward to hosting the dairy industry in Madison, Wisconsin this October!

For more information, go to www.worlddairyexpo.com.

2014 World Dairy Expo
“Designer Dairy”
Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2014

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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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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

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Kelly Steimle
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