

## To All Ag Reporter Email Recipients:

Here is your weekly update for ag information. Click on the topic and it will take you directly to that article. In order of appearance:

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## Dairy Market Facilitation Program

Sonny Perdue, USDA Secretary of Agriculture, announced details of the 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP). These are payments to agricultural producers that have been harmed by the ongoing trade negotiations—certainly the case for U.S. milk producers. You may recall that we had such payments last year which were quite small. This year they will be a bit larger but still not enough to tip the scales for anyone who is truly having financial difficulties.

Any dairy farm who was selling milk as of June 1, 2019 is eligible for the MFP. Payments will be made through the Farm Service Agency and based on the farm's production history (the same one used in the Dairy Margin Coverage program). Eligible producers could receive as much as 20¢ per hundredweight of their production history. The payments will be made in 3 tranches with the first one coming in late August. The first payment will be for half of the production history and the additional payments may be made in November and early January if "conditions warrant."

Applications will be made with the local FSA office and, as usual, you must comply with the provisions of highly erodible and wetland conservation regulations. The MFP payments are further limited to a total \$250,000 and \$900,000 AGI limits are also in place. Signup begins July 29 and runs through December 6.

Just to put this into perspective, a 250 cow farm with a little over a 5 million pound production history will receive a first half-payment of about \$6,000.

Sincerely,

Mark Stephenson

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Mark Stephenson, PhD  
Director of Dairy Policy Analysis  
University of Wisconsin, Madison

## **PRESS RELEASE - USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program**

*Enrollment Now Open through Dec. 6*

**WASHINGTON, July 30, 2019**— Signup opened July 29, 2019 for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6.

“Our team at USDA reflected on what worked well and gathered feedback on last year’s program to make this one even stronger and more effective for farmers. Our farmers work hard, are the most productive in the world, and we aim to match their enthusiasm and patriotism as we support them,” said Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

### **Non-Specialty Crops**

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm’s total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer’s total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. [View payment rates by county.](#)

### **Dairy and Hogs**

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

### **Specialty Crops**

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

### **More Information**

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on [farmers.gov/mfp](https://farmers.gov/mfp), including payment information and a program application.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

## Columbia County MOO-DAY Brunch - 2020

Have you ever thought about being the Dairy Farm Host for Columbia County's MOO-Day Brunch? Well now is your chance!! The Dairy Promotion Board is looking for a host for 2020. If interested, contact Adam at 608.712.6387.

## Organic Cover Crop Field Day at Don Dahnert's Sustainable Acres - August 6

For Immediate Release from: Kirsten Jurcek, Grazing Educator, Glacierland RC&D (930) 342-9504  
[kjurcek1@centurytel.net](mailto:kjurcek1@centurytel.net)

Join the conservation farming conversation!

Tuesday August 6, Don Dahnert's Sustainable Acres, W5227 Bark River Road, Fort Atkinson, WI 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Don Dahnert farms 320 acres of certified organic land long the Bark River just east of Fort Atkinson. Don became interested in sustainable farming and started experimenting with alternative crops to diversify his farm in the late 1980s. Through his journey Don has worked hard to increase his soil health and decrease inputs. Don uses cover crops as a green manure in his crop rotation to build soil health and fertility. He's converted to using a rollover plow to increase water infiltration and decrease runoff; and is using a detassling machine to decrease corn moisture prior to harvest and will be using it to air seed cover crops into the corn.

Field day highlights include:

- ✓ Farm tour of cover crops
- ✓ Crop rotation discussion

- ✓ Grazing potential for cover crops vs nitrogen credits
- ✓ Viewing of roll over plow and detassling machine
- ✓ Lessons from Don's vast experience

Whether you are a beginning or experienced organic or conventional farmer you'll be sure to go home with knowledge that will better your farm! There will be lots of opportunity for questions, and good conversation so be sure to attend!

This event is open to the public and free of charge. Please contact Glacierland RC&D Grazing Educator Kirsten Jurcek at (920) 342-9504 or [kjurcek1@centurytel.net](mailto:kjurcek1@centurytel.net) to preregister so we can accommodate everyone. Event sponsored by: Don Dahnert and Glacierland RC&D with funds from Wisconsin Farmers Union.

## Wisconsin Pest Bulletin

Volume 64 Number 14 August 01 2019 of the Wisconsin Pest Bulletin is now available at:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.jsp>

## Wisconsin Crop Manager

[https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/wcm-pdf/WCM2019/WCM2019\\_15C.pdf](https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/wcm-pdf/WCM2019/WCM2019_15C.pdf)

Highlights for this week:

- ✓ WILL MY LATE PLANTED SOYBEANS MATURE BEFORE A KILLING FROST?
- ✓ WISCONSIN SOYBEAN WHITE MOLD UPDATE

## Organic Cover Crop Walk

Tuesday  
August 6, 2019  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Don Dahnert's Sustainable  
Acres, W5227 Bark River Road,  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538



Don Dahnert farms 320 acres of certified organic land along the Bark River just east of Fort Atkinson. Don became interested in sustainable farming and started experimenting with alternative crops to diversify his farm after recovering from chemical poisoning in the late 1980's. Through his journey Don has worked hard to increase soil health and decrease inputs. Don uses cover crops as a green manure in his crop rotation to build soil health and fertility. He's converted to using a Rollover Plow from Keverneland Equipment to increase water infiltration and decrease runoff; and is using a detassling machine to decrease corn moisture prior to harvest and will be using it to air seed cover crops into the corn.

### Cover Crop Walk Highlights include:

- Farm tour of cover crops
- Crop rotation discussion
- Grazing potential for cover crops vs nitrogen credits
- Viewing of roll over plow and detassling machine
- Lessons from Don's vast experiences



RSVP to: Kirsten Jurcek — Call or Text: (920) 342-9504 — [kjurcek1@centurytel.net](mailto:kjurcek1@centurytel.net)



## Weekly Emails Online!

<http://columbia.uwex.edu/ag-calendar-and-deadlines/>

The Ag Reporter "Snapshot" is presented to you each week by George Koepp, Columbia County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent. If you have any questions about these articles or need other ag-related information, please contact George at 608-742-9682 or by email [george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:george.koepp@ces.uwex.edu).