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PRESS RELEASE: Nearly 17,000 Dairy Operations Enrolled in Dairy Margin Coverage Program

Dairy Producers Must Sign up before Sept. 20 for 2019 Coverage

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, 2019 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that producers of nearly 17,000 dairy operations have signed up for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program since signup opened June 17. Producers interested in 2019 coverage must sign up before Sept. 20, 2019.

DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

“We’re encouraged by the number of dairy producers who have signed up for this new program, but we are hopeful that we will get more folks in the door,” said Bill Northey, USDA’s Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. “At this point in the signup process, we are well ahead of the number of producers covered at this time last year under the previous safety net program, with more producers enrolling every day. As we move into the homestretch, we expect more producers across the country to get coverage through DMC and our team at FSA is really going above and beyond to make sure we get the word out there, the returns this year to-date should speak for themselves.”

In June, when the DMC signup was announced, Secretary Perdue said, “For many smaller dairies, the choice is probably a no-brainer as the retroactive coverage through January has already assured them that the 2019 payments will exceed the required premiums.”

To date, more than 60 percent of dairies with established production histories have enrolled in the program. Wisconsin has seen the most participants with more than 4,832 dairy operations, followed by Minnesota (1,865), New York (1,779), Pennsylvania (1,511) and Michigan (702).

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) began issuing program payments to producers on July 11. DMC provides coverage retroactive to Jan. 1, 2019. The producers who have signed up to date will receive more than \$219.7 million in payments for January through June, when the income over feed cost margin was \$8.63 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the sixth payment for eligible dairy producers who purchased the \$9 and \$9.50 levels of coverage under DMC.

To view weekly enrollment, production and payment reports (posted each Monday at 2 p.m. Eastern), visit FSA’s DMC webpage.

AGRONOMY/SOILS FIELD DAY

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

UW-Arlington Agricultural Research Station



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

SPONSORED BY
College of Agricultural & Life Sciences
Division of Extension

PROGRAM

8:00 Registration (\$0), coffee

8:30 **FIELD TOURS**

10:30

12:00 Lunch
Lunch Speaker: Mark Stephenson
You can't change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust your sails—Navigating today's dairy industry
Lunch provided by Sigma Alpha Agricultural Sorority (\$5 donation)

1:00 Industrial Hemp Research Plot Tour

2:45 Have a safe trip home!

Visit exhibits at registration, between tours and during lunch: Nutrient & Pest Management Program, SnapPlus, UW Soil & Forage Analysis Lab and Pesticide Applicator Training



To help us organize a successful event, if you are considering attending please complete a RSVP!

<https://go.wisc.edu/n4yrl5>

Certified Crop Advisors: 6.5 CEU credits requested

The Arlington ARS is located on Hwy. 51, about 5 miles south of Arlington and 15 miles north of Madison.

N695 Hopkins Rd, Arlington, WI 53911

GPS coordinates: 43.300467, -89.345534

Watch for Field Day signs!

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences will make a reasonable effort to provide accommodations for participants with disabilities when notified in advance. To request a disability accommodation, please contact ais_accommodation@cals.wisc.edu or call 608-846-3761 ext.101 at least 10 days in advance of event. Efforts will be made to meet same day requests to the extent possible.

FIELD TOURS

8:30 10:30 Soil Fertility & Management

Can we conserve N from early fall manure applications? Carrie Laboski

Comparing tillage practices for corn: Is there a difference in early crop development? Francisco Arriaga

Fertilization on a budget Andrew Stammer

Cover crops and nitrogen Matt Ruark

8:30 10:30 Grain Production Systems

Corn plant population: The second most important management decision for moving off the yield curve Joe Lauer

Crop rotation, cover crops, planting green and the microbiome: A gaggle of Coolbean information! Shawn Conley

A small grains variety selector tool Madhav Bhatta

Kernza perennial grain: A new opportunity for Wisconsin farmers Valentin Picasso

8:30 10:30 Pest Management

Herbicide resistance in Wisconsin agronomic crops Rodrigo Werle, Mark Renz, Dave Stoltenberg

To Bt or not to Bt: Is that your question? Bryan Jensen

Soybean cyst nematode coalition: What's your number? Ann MacGuidwin

Disease management updates in Wisconsin agronomic crops Damon Smith

1:00 Industrial Hemp Research Plot Tour

UW researchers will share field observations and showcase organic weed management, conventional fertility, and variety trial studies focused on fiber and grain production. An update on cannabidiol (CBD) research will be provided. Rodrigo Werle, Carrie Laboski, Shawn Conley, Shelby Ellison, Erin Silva, Damon Smith

UW Organic Ag Field Day Aug. 29

Field Day to highlight cover crops and industrial hemp

In a growing season fraught with challenges including difficult planting conditions and low prices, farmers are increasingly looking for ways to increase the resilience of their farms. Organic agriculture offers a potential option to diversify markets and increase farm resilience, including through building soil health and exploring alternative new markets, such as perennial wheat and industrial hemp.

Organic production practices to build resilience will be a key focus of this year's UW Organic Agriculture Field Day, set for 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison's Arlington Agricultural Research Station.

Research at the station shows that integrating cover crops into the corn and soybean phases of rotations can help farmers build soil organic matter, while reducing the need for tillage and cultivation in organic systems. With the increasing occurrence of more extreme rainfall events, these cover crops can help keep soil in place and improve water infiltration in fields.

"We've been researching cover crop-based organic no-till at the Arlington station since 2008, but we're increasingly trying new approaches to expand options for organic farmers," says event organizer Erin Silva, UW–Madison assistant professor and extension organic production systems specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology. "New options include interseeding into standing corn and soybean, as well as integrating some high-biomass producing options after cereal grains."

The event will feature presentations on research linking various crop production practices—including cover cropping—to specific soil health indicators.

"Soil quality has always been a foundation of organic agriculture, and we are learning more and more about how to better assess and optimize the health of our soils," says Silva. "While there still remains much to understand, new tools are allowing both researchers and farmers to track the biological, physical and chemical aspects of their soils to provide a more holistic view of the progress they are making in improving their land."

Researchers will also give updates on: organic soil quality from a survey of organic farms across the state; organic no-till corn and soybeans using a variety of cover crop and planting options; organic wheat breeding efforts; and Kernza (perennial wheat).

All of the research projects featured during the field day are being conducted at Arlington station, which has more than 70 acres of certified organic land, or on working organic farms with input from organic producers.

"The organic market continues to grow, with demand outpacing domestic supply, so the need remains for more organic farmers and more organic acres," says Silva, who notes organic sales reached over \$50 billion in the U.S. in 2018. "Wisconsin, with the second highest number of organic farms in the nation, as well as a wealth of organic knowledge, expertise and infrastructure, is well-positioned to continue to help meet this expanding market opportunity."

The registration table at the UW Organic Agriculture Field Day will open at 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 29. A lunch will be available around noon. RSVPs are requested at <https://ograin.cals.wisc.edu/events/field-days/> and questions can be directed to Erin Silva at emsilva@wisc.edu.

The address for Arlington Agricultural Research Station is N695 Hopkins Road, Arlington, WI, 53911. The station is located just off Highway 51, about five miles south of Arlington and 15 miles north of Madison. A map is available at <http://arlington.ars.wisc.edu/facility/>.

Dairy Situation and Outlook, August 19, 2019

By Bob Cropp, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Milk prices have shown improvement since early in the year. Class III was a low of \$13.89 in February and increased \$3.66 by July to \$17.55. Class IV was \$15.48 in January and increased \$1.52 to \$16.90 in July. But, with small changes in dairy product prices August will see a small increase in the Class III price and a small decrease in the Class IV price. On the CME, barrel cheese was as high as \$1.78 per pound in July, started August at \$1.6925 and is now \$1.750. The 40-pound blocks were as high as \$1.86 per pound in July, started August at \$1.82 and are now \$1.9075. Butter will average lower in August. Butter was as high as \$1.435 per pound in July and is now \$2.33. Dry whey was \$0.32 per pound in July and has improved to \$0.370. Nonfat dry milk was as high as \$1.05 per pound in July, but has decreased to \$1.03. The little improvement in cheese and dry whey prices will put the August Class III price near \$17.60. Lower butter and nonfat dry milk prices will put the August Class IV price lower to near \$16.60.

Class III futures shows September peaking at about \$17.80 and then declining fourth quarter and ending in December about \$17.00. Class IV futures remain below \$17 for the remainder of the year. But, milk prices could do better than this for the fourth quarter for several reasons. Butter and cheese will be in the strong seasonal sales period thanksgiving through the holidays. Schools will be starting increasing fluid milk sales leaving less milk for dairy product production. Compared to a year ago, the June Dairy Product report showed butter production up some to 3.1%, but cheddar cheese 1.9% lower, dry whey 6.3% lower and nonfat dry milk just 2.7% higher. The dairy stock situation has tightened. Compared to June 30th a year ago, butter stocks were 2.6% lower, American cheese stocks declined May to June as did total cheese stocks and were 1.9% and 0.5% lower respectively. Dry whey stocks were 0.9% lower and nonfat dry milk stocks 4.8% lower. Milk production will show some seasonal strength but remain below year ago levels.

Lower dairy exports have dampened the increase in milk prices some. But, with lower milk production exports don't need to be as high to support milk prices. According to US Dairy Export Council loss of exports to China due to retaliatory tariffs and African swine fever, plus strong competition from European and New Zealand resulted in the volume of exports for the first half of the year to be down 14% from last year. Cheese exports have been the bright spot with exports 4% higher than a year ago for the first half of the year with record volumes to South Korea, Southeast Asia, and Central America. But, June cheese exports took a turn to 12% lower. For the first half of the year, nonfat dry milk exports were 15% lower, the result of losing market share to European suppliers and New Zealand. For the first half of the year dry whey exports were 25% lower due almost entirely to exports to China down 58%. On a total milk solids basis, U.S. Exports were equivalent to 14.1% of U.S. milk solids production for the first half of the year compared to 16.7% a year ago.

USDA's milk production report estimated July milk production to be down 0.2% from a year ago, the net result of almost one percent fewer milk cows and an increase in milk per cow of just 0.9%. Milk cow numbers continue to decline dropping 9,000 head June to July. Of the 24 reporting states 14 had fewer milk cows than a year ago and milk per cow was lower in 11 states. Relatively large production increase continued in Texas and Colorado with increases of 5.8% and 5.9% respectively. California and Idaho had increases of 2.5% and 2.1%. Production was down 6.7% in Arizona and 0.9% in New Mexico. In the Northeast New York's production was up just 0.3%, Michigan 0.6%, but down 7.6% in Pennsylvania and 6.0% in Ohio. In the Midwest production was down 1.0% in Wisconsin, 0.7% in Iowa and up just 1.0% in Minnesota. In the Southeast production was down 1.1% in Florida and 11.2% in Virginia with Georgia up 2.8%.

Milk prices in 2020 will depend a lot on the level of milk production. USDA's is forecasting milk production to be 1.6% higher due to milk cow numbers averaging 0.2% higher and milk per cow 1.4% higher. But, this level of milk production

could be on the higher side. There may be no increase in the number of milk cows. Dairy cow slaughter continues to run higher than a year ago. Dairy herds exiting the industry continues to run relatively high. Financial stress for more than four years will hinder dairy expansions. The number of dairy replacements are lower standing at 44.1 per 100 milk cows, the lowest since depressed milk price in 2009. There is concern about feed quality. Stocks of quality hay are tight. Corn and soybean meal prices will be average higher. The result may lower the increase in milk per cow. There is some concern as to whether the U.S. economy will slow and impact dairy product sales. There is also concern that the world economy could slow impacting dairy exports. USDA is still forecasting 2020 exports to be 5.3% higher on a milk fat basis than 2019 and 4.4% higher on a total milk solids basis. So there is a lot that can sway milk prices higher or lower. Dairy futures are currently not overly optimistic about 2020 milk prices. Class III futures stay below \$17 through July and only get to the low \$17's the remainder of the year. Class IV futures are in the high \$16's first quarter than the \$17's the remainder of the year. USDA likewise is not overly optimistic as to how much higher milk prices will be in 2020. USDA forecasts Class III to average \$16.55, just \$0.25 higher than the forecast for this year, and Class IV to average \$16.45, just \$0.15 higher. But, there still is a good probability milk prices could strengthen the last half of the year and end averaging better than this.

Robert Cropp

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University Of Wisconsin Madison

Top 8 Recommendations for Winter Wheat Establishment in 2019

Shawn Conley, State Soybean and Small Grains Specialist

John Gaska, Outreach Specialist

Damon Smith, State Field Crops Pathology Specialist

Top 8 winter wheat establishment recommendations:

1. Variety selection: please see the 2019 WI Winter Wheat Performance Test
2. Plant new seed (DO NOT plant saved seed).
3. A fungicide seed treatment is recommended for winter wheat in WI, especially for seed damaged by Fusarium head blight (FHB).
4. Wheat should be planted 1 to 1.5 inches deep regardless of planting date.
5. Plant between September 20 and October 10.
6. The target seeding rate for wheat planted from September 20th to October 1st is 1,750,000 seeds per acre.
7. The optimal seeding rate for wheat planted after October 1st should be incrementally increased as planting date is delayed to compensate for reduced fall tillering.
8. Crop rotation matters.

For the entire article, follow this link: https://coolbean.info/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/08/Top-8-Wheat-Recs_19.pdf

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin Is Now Available

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.jsp> [PRINT THIS ISSUE](#)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LOOKING AHEAD: Western bean cutworm flight ending across the state

FORAGES & GRAINS: Potato leafhopper and pea aphid counts for the week

CORN: Corn rootworm beetle survey results as of August 21

SOYBEAN: Japanese beetles still common in soybean fields

FRUITS: Large codling moth flights continue

VEGETABLES: Late blight cases confirmed in Adams and Vernon counties

NURSERY & FOREST: Assorted observations from recent inspections

DEGREE DAYS: Growing degree day accumulations as of August 21, 2019

Krista Hamilton

Entomologist I Bureau of Plant Industry | Division of Agricultural Resource Management

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

(608) 220-7378 Mobile | (866) 440-7523 Pest Hotline

[The Wisconsin Crop Manager](#)

August 22, 2019 issue is available at <http://bit.ly/2L6W9ij>

Alternatively, you can link to articles on the WCM blog at <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/wcm> or below.

On-farm Rye Forage Comparison: Progas Hybrid Forage Rye vs. VNS Rye

<http://bit.ly/2zhnx7S>

Cover Crops Workshop, September 4

<http://bit.ly/2KYN2jC>

Top 8 Recommendations for Winter Wheat Establishment in 2019

<http://bit.ly/2L2oXbM>

Vegetable Crop Updates Newsletter #19

<http://bit.ly/2NncDp4>

Wisconsin Fruit News, Vol. 4 Issue 10

<http://bit.ly/2My4VJ9>

Insect Updates in Wisconsin Field Crops

<http://bit.ly/33y3Zdj>

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin 17, August 17, 2019

<http://bit.ly/2NrlvdE>

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin 16, August 15, 2019

<http://bit.ly/2YRqwDc>

Results of Intensive Winter Wheat Management Trial

<http://bit.ly/2Z4FzEJ>

Integrated Wheat Management Selected Inputs Interaction Trial

<http://bit.ly/2OX5gHu>

Response of Four Oat Varieties to a Plant Growth Regulator and Foliar Fungicide Combination

<http://bit.ly/31DW8cc>

Vegetable Crop Updates Newsletter #18, Aug 11

<http://bit.ly/2Z5G41a>

UW Research on Industrial Hemp to be Highlighted at Agronomy/Soils Field Day on August 28th

<http://bit.ly/2QQmcMV>

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.