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Dairy Margin Coverage Update from Mark Stephenson

I have a bit of Dairy Margin Coverage news that I should pass on to you that I've recently received. Many producers have wanted to know if their production history could be revised upward to reflect growth over time. The short answer is probably "no", a producer's production history is the highest amount of milk produced in 2011, 2012 or 2013 and would include any of the "bumps" they received for the small national increases in production over their participation in the Margin Protection Program. But, **if a dairy operation has officially brought a family member into the dairy operation as a new entity**, the production added from cows purchased within 60 days is eligible for an increase.

There are a few qualifiers to this rule including:

- the dairy operation will be their principal source of non-investment earned income
- the member is a lineal descendant of a current member of the participating dairy operation
- there is a significant equity ownership in the dairy operation of at least 10 percent individually or 25 percent collectively for multiple members
- the member will contribute labor in the dairy operation at a minimum of 35 hours per week or have a plan for transition to full-time
- this is a one-time increase of production history for the term of the program
- maximum increased quantity of up to 5 million pounds

USDA is allowing eligible dairy operations to go back retroactively one time and this can be done until December 6, 2019.

If farms chose to enroll annually for the program, the 2020 signup will run from October 7, 2019 through December 6, 2019 at the county FSA offices.

Sincerely,

Mark Stephenson

[Wisconsin Pest Bulletin](#)

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/pb/pests.jsp?categoryid=32&articleid=3234&issueid=336>

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Wisconsin Crop Manager

https://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/wcm-pdf/WCM2019/WCM2019_19A.pdf

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.