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Dairy Margin Coverage Program Provides Critical Support for Dairy Operations

The August milk margin triggered the eighth consecutive payment for dairy producers who obtained [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) for the 2023 program year. August's income over feed margin is \$6.46 per hundredweight (cwt.) with projected DMC payments totaling \$120 million. To date, including the projected August payments, dairy producers have received more than \$1.2 billion in much needed economic support for 2023 and margin forecasts indicate the likelihood of more to come before the end of the calendar year.



DMC is a voluntary risk management program administered by USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

Additional Dairy Assistance

DMC complements other assistance available to dairy producers, including the [Milk Loss Program](#) (MLP) and the [Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program](#) (ODMAP). MLP covers milk that was dumped or removed, without compensation, from the commercial milk market due to qualifying weather events and the consequences of those weather events that inhibited delivery or storage of milk (e.g., power outages, impassable roads, infrastructure losses, etc.) during calendar years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

USDA recently announced a second round of payments for dairy producers through ODMAP, providing an additional \$5 million to help dairy producers with marketing costs to mitigate market volatility, higher input and transportation costs and unstable feed supply and prices that have created

unique hardships in the organic dairy industry. FSA has already paid out \$15 million in the first round of payments for eligible producers, bringing total ODMAP payments to \$20 million.

To learn more about FSA programs, producers can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

2023 Maryland Department of Agriculture Deer Survey

In an effort to understand the ongoing deer problem Maryland farmers are facing, the Maryland Department of Agriculture has developed a survey to better assist with addressing the issue when developing policy.

The survey can be found on MDA's website at, https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScm-hzWm7QAmA9ysZkLA91mi_TEvhZdl3yCHhcToxCGLvbbXw/viewform .

If you're interested in taking the survey, MDA will appreciate your time and input.

Oyster Farmers Have More Coverage Options with USDA's New Shellfish Insurance Program: USDA Introduces Protection for Oyster Farmers

USDA is introducing the new Shellfish Pilot Crop Insurance Program, which offers oyster producers needed protection from environmental challenges they face, and it also allows them to insure for a higher price based on personal sales records. As an oyster producer, you are now eligible for protection against losses due to named storms, excessive heat during a low tide event, freeze during a low tide event, or low salinity due to excessive rainfall. [Learn more about the program](#).

October Interest Rates

[Click here for October 2023 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers](#).

Dates to Remember

October 31, 2023 - Application deadline for [Organic Certification Cost-Share Program](#)

November 6, 2023 - County Committee election ballots mailed for areas with elections.

November 20, 2023 - NAP closing date for perennial crops (other than those intended for forage), peaches, apples, cherries, grapes and berries.

December 1, 2023 - NAP closing date for honey

December 4, 2023 - Deadline to postmark COC ballots or return them to county office.

December 15, 2023 - Fall-seeded small grains included barley, wheat, rye, triticale, etc. for harvest, fall planted fruits and vegetables and cover crop can also be reported.

December 31, 2023 - NAP closing date for potatoes

January 13, 2024- Discrimination Financial Assistance Application deadline (*extended from original deadline of October 31st*)



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