



SD DAIRY PRODUCERS NEWS

Board of Directors:

- Marv Post, Chair:
605.695.4227
- Greg Moes, V Chair:
605.882.8935
- Doug Ode, Secretary:
605.334.0033
- Mike Cypher, Treas:
605.941.5595
- Michael Crinion,
605.873.2004
- Randy Gross,
605.864.1422
- Allen Merrill,
605.929.6406
- Deb Wehde,
712.578.8877
- Darrel Rennich,
605.695.3676
- SDDP Staff, Tom
Peterson, 605.251.2439

Storm Relief Efforts

SDDP expresses need for relief after April storms to State and Federal officials



SDDP communicated impacts of the April blizzard to the SD Governors office, the SD Department of Agriculture, and the state FSA office. In addition, dialogue was had with South Dakota's two Senators and lone Representative in Washington DC.

Secretary of Agriculture Kim Vanneman toured a South Dakota dairy hosted by SDDP Board Member Michael Crinion and staff person Tom Peterson to get a sense of storm impact and also better understand the dairy industry itself.

Significant communication continues to take place with the most recent being Representative Dusty Johnson's office indicating that they pressed USDA to include language in a Disaster Supplemental that would include milk losses and milk dumping forced upon producers due to road closures from the blizzard.

We will continue to follow and communicate updates. Please continue to be in contact with your local FSA office for additional information as well.

Producers Urged to visit local FSA office to sign up for Dairy Margin Coverage:

Exerpt below from Jim Mulhern at NMPF:

March Marks Third Straight Month of Potential DMC Payments, USDA Confirms – The USDA this week confirming that farmers enrolling in the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program will be eligible for a third consecutive monthly payment because the March margin is \$8.85/cwt. That margin level will generate a 65-cent payment if producers enroll at the maximum \$9.50 coverage threshold. The USDA says the sign-up period will open in mid-June and run for 90 days, at which point farmers will have a clear picture of what their monthly payouts will be through the first half of the year. The agency that farmers are now receiving information in the mail about repayment options if they used the Margin Protection Program during any calendar year from 2014 through 2017. A dairy farm can either elect to receive 50% of the repayment amount as a cash refund, or take 75% of the amount as a credit that can be used toward premiums for the new DMC Program.



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SDDP invited to address Chief Matt Lohr from NRCS on trip to South Dakota

On a recent visit to South Dakota, Chief Matt Lohr of NRCS met with several commodity groups including SDDP to collect feedback and perspective from farmers on programs administered through the agency. Chief Lohr provided opportunity for each group to give input on what is working, perspective on cumbersome processes and regulations, and also to express future needs of farmers.

SDDP Board member Michael Crinion provided Chief Lohr input on utilization of existing programs, effectiveness of local program administrators, and insight to the future including technologies being introduced by companies on manure management and opportunities that come with. NRCS Regional Conservationist in the Central Region Kevin Wickey indicated a new Innovation Grant will be offered in the near future for such projects.



NRCS Chief Matt Lohr (3rd from left) joined with SDARL graduates including Secretary of Agriculture Kim Vanneman (3rd from right) and dairy farmer Michael Crinion (2nd from right).

Dairy Fest:

Dairy Good Fun for Everyone at Dairy Fest

BROOKINGS, SD. – Three days of dairy-filled fun are in store at the 2019 Dairy Fest on May 30th – June 1st in Brookings, SD. The event kicks off with the “Got Milk Gala” on Thursday, May 30th, followed by a Leadership Training event on Friday, May 31st, and will end with the Dairy Fest Carnival & Tours on Saturday, June 1st.

The featured farm for the Saturday tour is: Crosswind Jerseys rural Elkton, SD and the Temperli family.

To learn more visit www.dairy-fest.com



A complete schedule of Saturday events is attached in this e-mail.



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