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## Nearly 17,000 Dairy Operations Enrolled in Dairy Margin Coverage Program

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

**WASHINGTON, Aug. 19, 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](#).

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