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## **FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative Approves of Latest CARES Legislation to Combat the Impacts of Coronavirus**

*Madison, Wis.* [March 27, 2020] – FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative applauds the House of Representatives, the Senate and the President in their quick response to approve and pass legislation as the coronavirus pandemic unfolds across the nation.

“These are unprecedented times for everyone, calling for unprecedented support from our nation’s leaders,” says John Rettler, dairy farmer from Neosho, Wis. and president of FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative. “We extend our appreciation to our Congressional leaders and the President for quickly passing this massive bill to begin overcoming the negative economic impact of this coronavirus pandemic.”

“The road ahead is uncertain, but this relief package proves that the nation’s leaders have listened to our concerns to support those providing food to households across America. The 9.5 billion agricultural disaster fund includes funding specifically for livestock and dairy producers, as well as critical assistance to small businesses that are key to the entire dairy supply chain,” says Jeff Lyon, general manager for FarmFirst.

“FarmFirst looks forward to working with the USDA in ensuring this financial support gets to dairy farmers facing severe market disruptions and in need of having their confidence restored,” says Rettler. “We encourage all Congressional leaders to continue to be receptive to new ideas that provide other means of support and relief to dairy farmers.”

“Most importantly, thank you to those working directly in the food supply chain – milk haulers, processors, cheesemakers, and of course, dairy farmers – to continue to make these nutritious food products available to consumers as this pandemic unfolds,” says Rettler.

*FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative, established in 2013 and based in Madison, Wis., represents farmers in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana by providing legislative and regulatory advocacy, dairy marketing services, disaster protection, laboratory testing opportunities and industry promotion. FarmFirst*

*Dairy Cooperative is a merger of three long-time prominent Wisconsin-based cooperatives. Learn more about FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative by visiting: [www.FarmFirstDairyCooperative.com](http://www.FarmFirstDairyCooperative.com).*

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