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Dairy Forward Pricing Program Reauthorized with 2018 Farm Bill Passage

Madison, Wis. [December 20, 2018] – With the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, the Dairy Forward Pricing Program is reauthorized, once again allowing proprietary plants who offer forward pricing to not pay minimum Federal Order prices for farmers’ pooled milk.

“The Dairy Forward Pricing Program is a valuable program, providing dairy farmers the opportunity to mitigate their risk with forward contracts. This program allows proprietary plants to do this the same as a cooperative except for Class I milk handlers,” says Jeff Lyon, general manager of FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative.

With the president’s signature today, the Dairy Forward Pricing Program is in effect beginning January 1, 2019. Forward contracts made during the life of this new Farm Bill cannot extend beyond September 30, 2026.

No reforms were made in the 2018 Farm Bill to the original program under this reauthorization. With the expiration of the 2014 Farm Bill, and the Forward Pricing Program, a producer could still participate by having forward pricing contracts, however, the proprietary plant would not be exempt from its obligation to pay the producer the Federal Order minimum price on milk pooled on the order.

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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 cooperatives.

View the Full Press Release online, [here](#). Access cooperative logos and photos, [here](#).