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## **FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative Applauds Deadline Extension for MPP**

*Extension and new payment plan provides flexible planning for U.S. dairy farmers*

Madison, Wis. [September 9, 2015] – FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative applauds the USDA for recently extending the 2016 sign-up for the Margin Protection Program from September 30<sup>th</sup> to now November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This extension will provide valuable time for dairy farmers to focus on getting their harvest in from the fields before evaluating next year’s margins.

“As a new program that has only been in place for a year, this extension will allow farmers a chance to truly evaluate what value it has for their farming operation in 2016,” says David Cooper. “There are still improvements to be made to the program, but it has the potential to provide relief to dairy farmers in times of disastrously low margins, like that of 2009 and 2012.”

FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative is also pleased to see new payment options have become available for producers. Previously, 25% of the calculated premium was due by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year coverage and the balance was due by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Today, the new enhancement allows producers to pay 100% of the premium by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year coverage. In this case, for 2016, the payment is due by September 1, 2016. Also, producers may work with their dairy plants to take and apply the calculated premium on a monthly basis.

These two particular items have been a goal among many of FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative recently, so we are glad that these positive changes have been made to the Margin Protection Program.

FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative was established in 2013 and is based in Madison, Wis. Dedicated to its family farm members, the cooperative represents farms in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana through policy bargaining, dairy marketing services, laboratory testing opportunities and industry promotion. Learn more about FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative by visiting: [www.FarmFirstDairyCooperative.com](http://www.FarmFirstDairyCooperative.com).

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