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FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative Urges Farm Bill Be A Priority as Government Reopens

Madison, Wis. [January 25, 2019] – After 35 days of the government shutdown, FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative welcomes its reopening and for immediate implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill.

“The passage of the 2018 Farm Bill provided much needed certainty during these challenging times for U.S. dairy farmers, and the shutdown of the government halted any progress on putting the new Farm Bill into motion,” says Jeff Lyon, General Manager of FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative. “Our efforts on reforming the dairy title will prove to be valuable for many dairy farmers – but the USDA needs to make these same dairy programs a priority and available soon.”

“Low margins have been affecting dairy farmers for more than four years now, and for the Dairy Margin Coverage program to be effective, FSA offices need to be open and dairy farmers need the ability to sign up for the program,” says John Rettler, President. “With the government reopen, FarmFirst urges the USDA to keep the 2018 Farm Bill as a priority and expedite implementation. Fortunately, the Dairy Margin Coverage program mirrors much of the original program, so we are hopeful that there won’t be a need for formal rulemaking process.”

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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](#).