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FarmFirst Statement on Dairy Margin Coverage Program Enrollment for 2024

Madison, Wis. [February 23, 2024) – The USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced this afternoon that starting next Wednesday, February 28th, dairy producers will be able to enroll for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program for 2024.

The DMC Program is a safety net program for dairy farmers, which is a risk-management tool that addresses changes in the margin between milk prices and feed costs, has become a beneficial tool for producers since its implementation in the 2018 Farm Bill.

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has revised the regulations for DMC to allow eligible dairy operations to make a one-time adjustment to established production history. This adjustment will be accomplished by combining previously established supplemental production history with DMC production history for those dairy operations that participated in Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage during a prior coverage year. DMC has also been authorized through calendar year 2024. Congress passed a 2018 Farm Bill extension requiring these regulatory changes to the program.

“The DMC program is an essential program that has become a beneficial tool for producers since its inception in the 2018 Farm Bill, and we are pleased that the sign-up period will be opening soon,” said Jeff Lyon, FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative General Manager. “FarmFirst will continue to advocate for necessary enhancements to the DMC program in order to ensure that this program continues to be an efficient safety net for dairy producers.”

The sign-up period will end April 29, 2024. For those who sign up for 2024 DMC coverage, payments may begin as soon as March 4, 2024, for any payments that triggered in January, 2024.

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. Learn more about FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative by visiting: www.FarmFirstDairyCooperative.com.

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