

USDA News

USDA HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS OF IMPROVED DAIRY SAFETY NET TOOL

More than 21,400 dairy producers opted for coverage through the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) in 2018, up by more than 2,000 producers from the previous year. This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program was significantly updated in February by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said those changes attracted more producers to enroll in the safety net program or to increase their coverage.

MPP-Dairy, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency, protects dairy producers by paying them when the difference between the national all-milk price and the national average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount elected by the producer.

Many producers received their first MPP-Dairy payments in February 2018, and most producers who have chosen premium coverage levels of \$7, \$7.50, or \$8 have seen a payment for every month since February. For these seven months, over \$253 million in payments have been made to dairy operators.

While enrollment for MPP-Dairy has closed, USDA encourages dairy producers to consider other programs, including the [Dairy Revenue Protection Program](#), [Livestock Gross Margin Insurance for Dairy Cattle](#), [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#), and [Conservation Stewardship Program](#). 🐄

Source: USDA. Press Release No. 0247.18. December 2018.

USDA SEEKS NOMINEES FOR NATIONAL FLUID MILK PROCESSOR PROMOTION BOARD

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) asks fluid milk processors and other interested parties to nominate candidates to serve on the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board. The deadline for nominations is December 28, 2018.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue will appoint six individuals to succeed members whose terms expire on June 30, 2019. Newly appointed members will serve three-year terms from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022. Fluid milk processors and interested parties may submit nominations for regions in which they are located or regions in which they market fluid milk, and for the two at-large members.

To nominate an individual, please submit a copy of the nomination form and a signed background form for each nominee by December 28, 2018, to: Emily DeBord, Promotion, Research, and Planning Division, Dairy Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 0233, Room 2958-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-0233, or via email to emily.debord@ams.usda.gov. Nominating forms and more information is available on the [AMS website](#) or by calling (202) 720-5567. 🐄

Source: USDA. Agriculture Marketing Service. November 2018.

