

USDA News

USDA STATEMENT TO INDUSTRY

The following is an excerpt from a statement to the industry released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on March 16. "The USDA is rising to meet the challenges associated with the new coronavirus disease, Covid-19. The leaders of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Agricultural Marketing Service, state that their agencies are committed to ensuring the health and safety of employees while still providing the timely delivery of the services to maintain the movement of America's food supply from farm to fork.

As the country comes together to address this public health threat, know that USDA remains committed to working closely with industry to fulfill our mission of ensuring the safety of the U.S. food supply and protecting agricultural health."

The full statement is available at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/statement-industry>. 

USDA SEEKS NOMINEES FOR NATIONAL DAIRY PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is asking dairy producers, dairy importers and other interested parties to nominate candidates to serve on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. The deadline for nominations is April 17, 2020.

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue will appoint thirteen individuals to succeed members whose terms expire on October 31, 2020.

USDA will accept nominations for board positions representing ten geographic regions and one importer position. Nominees for the regional positions must be dairy producers and nominees for the importer position must be a dairy importer.

The geographic regions with vacancies are: Region 1 (Alaska, Oregon and Washington); Region 3 (Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming); Region 4 (Arkansas, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas); Region 5 (Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota); Region 6 (Wisconsin); Region 7 (Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska); Region 8 (Idaho); Region 9 (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia); Region 10 (Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia); Region 12 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont); and an importer.

Newly appointed members will serve three-year terms beginning November 1, 2020, through October 31, 2023.

To nominate an individual, please submit a copy of the nomination form and a signed background form for each nominee by April 17, 2020, to: Jill Hoover, Deputy Director, Promotion, Research and Planning Division, Dairy Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 0233, Room 2958-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-0233, or via email at jill.hoover@usda.gov. For nominating forms and information, visit the AMS website <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations>. 