



December 10, 2020

Member Organizations:

Associated Milk Producers Inc.

Bongards' Creameries

Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery

FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative

First District Association

Midwest Dairymen's Company

Rolling Hills Dairy Producers Cooperative

Coordinator:

Steve Etk
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703-519-7772

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Midwest Dairy Coalition, I am writing to urge you to extend the sign-up deadline for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program until January 30, 2021.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in implementing the DMC program, which has been a critical safety net for the dairy farmers who have chosen to participate. However, we want to ensure that all dairy farmers have the maximum opportunity to participate in the program.

For several reasons related to the disruption to the pandemic, we believe that extending the DMC sign-up deadline could be very meaningful in terms of expanding enrollment in the program. Current forecasts predict that pandemic-related market disruptions will continue well into 2021, resulting in milk margins well below the \$9.50 per hundredweight maximum coverage level of the DMC. Therefore, expanding participation in the DMC program for 2021 is in the best interest of America's rural economy, especially during these turbulent times.

We thank you for your consideration this request.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steven D. Etk'.

Steven D. Etk
Coordinator