



## July 31 Update

**Dairy Margin Protection Program (DMPP):** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week announced the payout for the DMPP for the May/June period. USDA calculated the All Milk Price to be \$16.80 per cwt and average feed costs to be \$8.80 leading to a margin of \$7.99534 per cwt, or a payout of one half of one cent. But even that minimal amount will be reduced by 7.3 percent due to government spending sequestration requirements. Only those dairy operations that signed up for \$8.00 per cwt coverage will receive a payout for the most recent margin period. 261 dairies signed up for \$8 cwt coverage nationwide and no dairies in California signed up for this coverage level. Last year in California 794 dairies signed up for \$4 cwt; five for \$4.50; 70 for \$5.00 cwt; 14 for \$5.50 cwt; 168 for \$6.00; 42 for \$6.50; one for \$7.00 cwt; and 18 for \$7.50 cwt. The average level of production covered was 87.6%.

Sign up for the next DMPP year continues until September 30, 2015. For more information contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or the CDC office at 209-632-0885.

**Senator Feinstein Introduces Drought bill:** This week California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer introduced the “California Emergency Drought Relief Act.” Summary of the key provisions: assistance for drought-stricken communities; desalination; storage projects; water recycling; conservation and groundwater recharge; research and innovation; protecting endangered and threatened fish and wildlife; moving water to communities that need it most; requires pumping levels to be consistent with the *Endangered Species Act* and biological opinions. The provisions similar to the legislation introduced by Rep. David Valadao, R-21, include: monitoring for smelt; reviewing transfers and barriers; opening cross-channel gates; and water transfers. When the bill was introduced Rep. Valadao primary author of the “Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015” said, “Today the California Senators Introduced a drought bill that included some useful provisions while doing little to deliver more water to California farmers and families. While I cannot support the bill as written, I remain hopeful we can come to an agreement that can advance through the House and Senate.”

**CDFA TO DISCUSS INCENTIVES FOR GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS ON FARMS AND IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>** - Incentive programs available to farmers and local communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will be the focus of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture meeting on Tuesday, August 4th, 2015. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, 1220 ‘N’ Street – Main Auditorium, Sacramento, CA 95814.

*Thank you to everyone who participated in our  
CDC Board and Membership Meeting & Summer Social  
Earlier this week At Joe Vierra’s Place in Livingston*

*We had a great turnout and an excellent discussion about a federal order for California,  
the recent CDFA hearing decision, corn ethanol policy reform, water policy, and trade  
policy, meat labeling and other issues.  
We thank Joe Vierra for hosting this great event!*