



December 5 Update

Dairy Margin Protection Program (DMPP) sign up deadline extended to December

19th. Just one day prior to the previously announced sign up deadline, USDA Farm Service Agency announced that it will extend the DMPP sign up deadline until Friday, December 19, 2014. USDA Secretary Vilsack explained, "Those who apply this year will receive a slight increase in production protection that will not be available in the future. Farmers who do not sign up for the Margin Protection Program for 2015 will forfeit the 1 percent base production increase. For a 400 cow operation, this would equate to an additional 80,000 pounds of milk that are eligible for coverage. It's a small step to take to ensure your business is covered." USDA continues to encourage dairy producers to go to the USDA web site to get more information about how the DMPP would work for their dairy operation. The web site provides historical data about the premiums and the payouts that would have occurred since 2008 and is located online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool>. The latest margin forecast graph is available on the USDA web site and shows expected margins based on futures market data updated each day until the new **sign up deadline of December 19th.** *For more information contact your local USDA FSA office or the CDC office at 209-632-0885.*

Rep. Valadao Introduces Water Legislation: On Tuesday, Rep. David Valadao, R-21, introduced H.R. 5781, a bill that would provide short-term water supplies to drought stricken parts of California. Original cosponsors include: Valadao, Kevin McCarthy, R-23, Ken Calvert, R-42, Jim Costa, D-16, Doug LaMalfa, R-01, Tom McClintock, R-4, and Devin Nunes, R-22. The bill contains many provisions in water legislation introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein including a mandate to keep the "Delta Cross Channel gates" open as much as possible and expedites the processing of applications for water transfers. It also includes language that would allow increased pumping from the Delta during the early winter storms. The legislation will be taken up for a vote in the U.S. House next week and is likely to pass. However, Senator Barbara Boxer, chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, where the bill would be referred in the Senate has stated her opposition to the measure. **Contact your member of Congress and Senator Boxer to let them know the importance of taking immediate action to address the ongoing statewide drought that, according to a UC Davis study, will result in the loss of more than 17,000 jobs and a \$1.5 billion loss to the state's agricultural economy. Call the Capital Hill switchboard at 202-225-3121.**

Action Alert: USDA is seeking public comments on the beef checkoff program and the deadline for comment is December 10th - As of today, there are only 135 comments (of those 98 have been published) and at least 75% of the comments support the current checkoff. All are urged to submit comments here: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=AMS-LPS-14-0081-0001>.

NFU Calls for a New Direction for the Beef Checkoff; Praises Secretary Vilsack for Seeking Public Comments – NFU President Johnson stated, "The checkoff program as we know it today has remained virtually unchanged for three decades while the world around it has morphed dramatically," said Johnson. "This has raised serious doubts about the structure of the checkoff and whether it is capable of appropriately funding the much-needed research and exploring the new markets and new opportunities that the American beef industry so desperately needs. Clearly, the beef checkoff is in dire need of a major course correction."

Upcoming CDC / CFU Annual Meeting:

Joint annual meeting to be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 in Hanford

Our Guest speaker will be U.S. Representative David Valadao, R-21

For more information and to RSVP contact Bertha Medina in the CDC office at 209-632-0885