

First Speaker, Mary Knigge, Dairy Farmers of America, mknigge@dfamilk.com

****Current updates from DC:**

March 6:

ETWORK

- First phase of COVID stimulus bill (CDC, FDA) \$7 billion for disaster loans.
- Family First Bill- required employers with 500 employees or less to provide sick leave.

March 10-11:

- National Milk board meeting. Pushing senate on immigration reform, gives dairy access to have visa program for workers. Major shutdown that day due to COVID-19, teleconferences were offered to farmers who had flown across the country to visit DC for this advocacy opportunity.
- \$2 trillion CARES Act- USDA funds with little to no guidance on how to use them.
- Paycheck Protection Program- forgivable loan for small businesses.
 - Agriculture is able to participate, but rocky roll out
 - o \$349 billion across the country, already run out
 - Capitol Hill is working on more funding currently. We are concerned that not much \$\$ will go to rural America.

CALL TO ACTION FOR EVERYONE

- Weigh in with your elected officials.
 - Prioritize funding for the dairy industry; ask via phone call to state and federal officials, email, letter

Main Speaker, Paul Bleiberg, Governmental Relations for National Milk Producers Federation, pbleiberg@nmpf.org

Proposed NMPF-IDFA milk crisis plan for USDA

Wvcoder

"Estimate that supply exceeds demand by at least 10%- gap could widen as supply increases to seasonal peaks and as "shelter in place" conditions endure"

Producer Initiatives:

• Producer Market Balancing Assistance- encourage producers to cut production by 10% from March 2020 baseline. Program run for 6 months (April- Sept). Payments during these months could be suspended if the average of Class III and IV prices for that month

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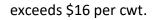
Dairy Herd

Sustaining Sponsors

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 Temporary Milk Disposal Reimbursement- provide coverage of milk at the USDA class IV (or lowest value class) price. Program runs for three months- April to June (peak production)

Processor Initiatives:

IETWORK

- Recourse Loan Program to Support Working Capital
- Forgivable Loan Program to Support Processor Operations

Consumer Initiatives:

- Dairy Product Purchases for Food Banks
- Eliminate restrictions that limit consumer choice including WIC and School Lunch program

Other Initiatives:

- Re-open DMC Program- to extend dairy producer financial safety net support
- Improve Existing Nutrition Programs to Address Food Insecurity
 - SNAP, Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Program (HFMIP)
- Maximize International Food Aid

Questions asked:

DMC Program?

- Believe that there will be pressure from congress to reopen. Could be Perdue or Congress's call.
- If this is a priority for you, please let your representatives know.

Nutrition?

- Pushing USDA to add flexibility to food choices- especially when food recommendations change often
- USDA call-to-action: http://cqrcengage.com/nmpf/app/takeaction?engagementId=507597

Both speakers also emphasized for farmers to 'keep doing the amazing work you are doing!"

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