

February 6, 2024

Ms. Gloria Montañó Greene
Deputy Under Secretary, Farm Programs and Conservation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Mr. Zach Ducheneaux
Administrator, Farm Service Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Delayed 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage Enrollment

Dear Under Secretary Montañó Greene and Administrator Ducheneaux,

On behalf of Farm Bureau members across the country, we appreciate the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ongoing efforts to provide support to America's dairy farming families during ongoing market uncertainty.

The passage of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act of 2024 extended the Dairy Margin Coverage program through December of this year. Our members are thankful for the continuation of Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage, which has allowed dairy farmers to better tailor their DMC policy to the needs of their operation.

While enrollment for other important risk management programs such as Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage has been open since December 18, Dairy Margin Coverage enrollment remains delayed. Farm Bureau recognizes the regulatory challenges associated with implementing the 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage program in a timely fashion. We understand the need for a new regulation and for software updates to reflect updated production history data.

However, concerns related to delayed payments and their impact on farm cash flow are escalating among many of our dairy farmer members. DMC program payments are triggered when margins are at their worst; and timely payments are critical to helping farmers manage through those bad times. Delayed DMC payments jeopardize the resilience of many farms, especially the most vulnerable. The timely launch of DMC enrollment is also critical to the program fulfilling its intended role as a risk management program.

Though knowledge of guaranteed, retroactive coverage is comforting, timely administration of such farm bill programs is vital to ensuring a stable farm economy that provides food security to millions of consumers domestically and abroad. We urge the Farm Service Agency to do all in its power to publish necessary rules, make necessary software updates and open DMC enrollment as soon as possible.

Thank you for all you do for American agriculture.

Most respectfully,



Samuel A. Kieffer
Vice President, Public Policy