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Federal Order No. 30

Agricultural Marketing Service
Dairy Programs

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October 31, 2025

TO: Handlers, Cooperatives and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Expiration of Dairy Forward Pricing Program

The American Relief Act of 2025, signed into law on December 20, 2024, extended the authorization of the Dairy Forward Pricing Program contained in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill), through September 30, 2025. Handlers had the ability to enter new forward price contracts with producers or cooperative associations of producers through September 30, 2025, for milk marketed on or after April 24, 2025. Contracts were allowed to extend through September 30, 2028. All other provisions of the Dairy Forward Pricing Program remained the same.

As of October 1, 2025, Congress has not passed a Farm Bill or other legislation extending the authority for USDA to carry out this program, and USDA cannot make new commitments to the program.

Therefore, proprietary handlers establishing **new** forward contracts on or after October 1, 2025, will not be exempt from paying minimum Federal order prices. Previously established contracts that expire on or before September 30, 2028, are not impacted.

With the expiration of the Dairy Forward Pricing Program, all producers may still choose to (but are not required to) have forward pricing contracts. For producers being paid by proprietary plants, however, such contracts do not exempt the proprietary plant from its obligation to pay the producer Federal order minimum prices on milk pooled on the order.

Any questions pertaining to the above should be directed to our office. You may contact Corey Freije at (952) 277-2355, Mike Gustello at (630) 437-5028, or me at (952) 277-2335.

/s/ Victor J. Halverson
Market Administrator