Steve Connelly
Marketing Specialist- Crop Insurance
Maryland Department of Agriculture
410-841-5824
steve.connelly@maryland.gov



2014 Farm Bill Dairy Provisions

- On February 7, 2014, the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) was signed into law.
- The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes MPP-Dairy, a new margin-based dairy program, to replace the MILC program no later than September 1, 2014.
- The MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers against extremely low margins when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost falls below a certain, producer selected, dollar amount.

The programs that are repealed are those that have represented the milk price and dairy farm income safety net:

- The Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP), effective immediately,
- The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC), effective once the new Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers becomes operational or 1 September 2014, whichever is earlier.
- The Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP), effective immediately.

Source: Information Letter 14-01 by Marin Bozic, John Newton, Andrew M. Novaković, Mark W. Stephenson, and Cameron S.Thraen

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Certain other authorities are continued, including extensions of:

- The Dairy Forward Pricing Program which allows non-Cooperative buyers of milk who are regulated under Federal Milk Marketing Orders to offer farmers forward pricing on Class II, III, or IV milk
- The Dairy Indemnity Program which provides payments to dairy producers in the unlikely event that a public regulatory agency directs them to remove their raw milk from the commercial market because it has been contaminated by pesticides, nuclear radiation or fallout, or toxic substances and chemical residues other than pesticides.
- Certain provisions to augment the development of export markets under the National Dairy Promotion and Research Program.

The new programs are:

- The Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers (MPP)— a voluntary program that pays participating farmers an indemnity when a national benchmark for milk income over feed costs (the actual dairy production margin or ADPM) falls below an insured level that can vary over a \$4 per cwt range.
- The **Dairy Product Donation Program** (**DPDP**) a program that requires the Secretary of Agriculture to immediately procure and distribute certain dairy products when the ADPM falls below a the lowest margin level specified for the MPP. These products would be targeted for use in domestic, low-income family, food assistance programs, such as, but not limited to, The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Source: Information Letter 14-01 by Marin Bozic, John Newton, Andrew M. Novaković, Mark W. Stephenson, and Cameron S.Thraen

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The dairy production margin used to trigger MPP-Dairy payments uses the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced all-milk price per hundredweight, the USDA NASS announced corn price per bushel, the USDA NASS announced alfalfa hay price per ton, and the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service announced central Illinois high protein soybean meal price per ton.

Margin Protection Elements

- Actual Dairy Production Margin
 - All-milk price minus feed ration value
 - National average formula, cannot be customized
- Actual Dairy Production History
 - Max calendar year production 2011, 2012, 2013
 - Revised annually by USDA based on U.S. growth in milk production
 - Payment made on production history not based on actual milk production

Source: Information Letter 14-01 by Marin Bozic, John Newton, Andrew M. Novaković, Mark W. Stephenson, and Cameron S.Thraen

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Key Farmer Decisions

Each year a farm must choose:

- Coverage Percentage
 - 25% to 90% of production history in5% increments
- Coverage Level
 - \$4 to \$8 per hundredweight in \$0.50 increments

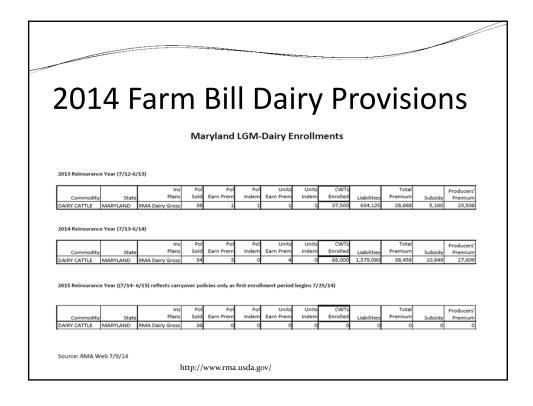
Margin Protection Program premiums

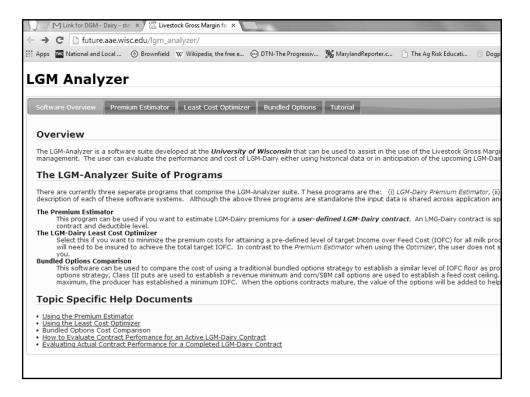
| Margin coverage (per cwt) | Premium for milk production up to 4 million pounds (per cwt) | Premium for milk production above 4 million pounds (per cwt) |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| \$4.00 | None | None |
| \$4.50 | \$0.010 | \$0.020 |
| \$5.00 | \$0.025 | \$0.040 |
| \$5.50 | \$0.040 | \$0.100 |
| \$6.00 | \$0.055 | \$0.155 |
| \$6.50 | \$0.090 | \$0.290 |
| \$7.00 | \$0.217 | \$0.830 |
| \$7.50 | \$0.300 | \$1.060 |
| \$8.00 | \$0.475 | \$1.360 |

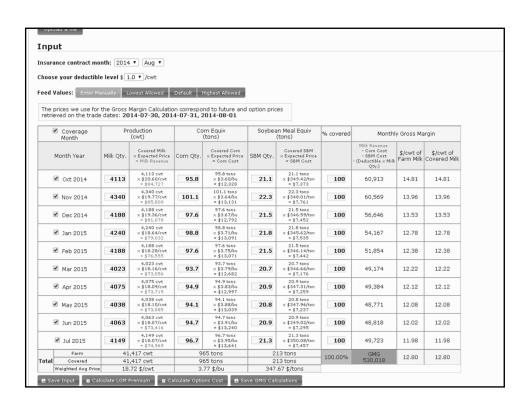
Note: Premiums for milk production up to 4 million pounds are reduced by 25 percent during both 2014 and 2015. Source: Agricultural Act of 2014, Title I.

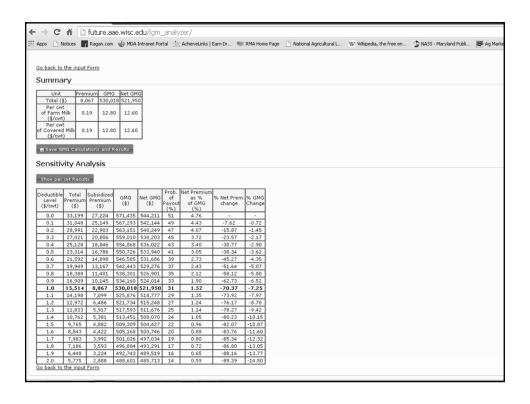
2014 Farm Bill Dairy Provisions

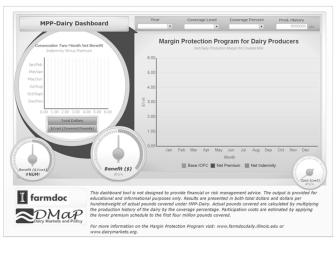
| | MPP | LGM-Dairy |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Coverage Level | Coverage is available each year from \$4 to \$8 per cwt in \$0.50 increments on up to 90% of the maximum production over the 2011, 2012, and 2013 calendar years. The same percentage of milk covered is the same over all months of the contract. | Coverage is available at prevailing market prices. Insurable milk marketings are certified by the producer and subject to inspection from the insurance company. The percentage of milk covered can vary from month to month. Multiple contracts can be used to cover a month's production until 100% of a month's production is insured. |
| Sales Period | Farmer may change coverage options annually and coverage lasts one calendar year. | LGM-Dairy is available for purchase each month. Farmers may sign up 12 times per year. LGM-Dairy is offered on a first come, first serve basis and is subject to underwriting capacity. |
| Indemnity Payments | Payments made for consecutive two-month periods of Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr,,Nov/Dec. | Payments made at the end of the coverage period. |
| Premium Rates | Fixed for the life of the Farm Bill (25% discount applied to 2014 and 2015 calendar year premium rates). | Designed to be actuarially fair. Sets the policy premium equal to 1.03 times the expected indemnity less the declared deductible. |
| Government Subsidy | No direct subsidy. There may exist significant indirect subsidies given the fixed premiums. | Premium subsidy up to 50% depending on a farmers declared deductible. |
| Farmer Customization | Fixed contract design with respect to feed ration and percent of milk covered. Dairy production margin formula is fixed. Feed quantities do not change. | LGM-Dairy can be tailored to farm size and feed usage (includes feed equivalent conversion) and to reflect actual feed market risk. Ration quantities are not fixed. |
| Agricultural Prices Used | Uses USDA announced prices for all-milk, corn, soybean meal, and alfalfa hay. | Uses simple average of futures prices for class III milk, corn, and soybean meal. |











2014 Farm Bill Dairy Provisions



The members of the Dairy Markets and Policy Team has been tasked by the Farm Services Agency of USDA to partner with them in developing a web-based tool that will assist farmers in making their decisions about participating in the new Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers (MPP).

www.dairymarkets.org

2014 MD Farm Bill Workshops

The 2014 Farm Bill is complex and details of how the bill will be implemented are not expected to be available until early August. The purpose of the workshops is to provide farmers with a better understanding of the new programs in the farm bill and how these programs could potentially affect their operations. The workshops will also provide grain and dairy producers with details about the decisions they will need to make and provide them with decision tools .

Each workshop costs \$10 and covers the cost of lunch. The following workshop schedule includes topics to be covered at each session:

- Lower Shore August 12 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Rockawalkin Community Center, commodity programs;
- Upper Shore August 13 (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Queen Anne's County Fairgrounds, commodity
- Southern Maryland August 15 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), St. Mary's Agricultural Service Center, 26737 Radio Station Way, Leonardtown, MD 20650, commodity programs;

 Northern Maryland August 18 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Baltimore County Ag Center, 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030, commodity and dairy programs;
- Central Maryland August 19 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Dutch's Daughter Restaurant, 581 Himes Avenue, Frederick, MD 21703, dairy programs; and
- Western Maryland August 21 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), location TBA, dairy programs.

For more information on the workshops, contact the local University of Maryland Extension office .

https://extension.umd.edu/