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"Connecting Cows, Cooperatives, Capitol Hill, and Consumers"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, September 25, 2014 Contact: Christopher Galen (703) 243-6111 ext. 356 Email: CGalen@nmpf.org



NMPF Provides Narrated Slide Presentation Explaining How Farmers Can Take Advantage of New Dairy Safety Net

NMPF Also to Hold Seminar Next Week at World Dairy Expo

ARLINGTON, VA – The National Milk Producers Federation has posted a <u>slide presentation</u> on YouTube to help dairy farmers understand the new federal dairy safety net, known as the Margin Protection Program (MPP), as part of its ongoing effort to educate farmers about the new program.

There are links to the narrated presentation on both the NMPF <u>website</u>, and the Future for Dairy <u>website</u> serving as NMPF's information hub for the new MPP program, which was launched by the U.S. Department of Agriculture September 2nd.

The 21-minute, 34-slide presentation walks the viewer through the details of the program, including who is eligible, how to sign up, and what the fees and payments might look like under various scenarios. Also covered are the basic concept of the program, what it replaces, and how it compares to the previous dairy safety net. This narrated presentation is a video file to accompany a more basic, slides-only version already <u>available online</u>.

"Dairy farmers are now making their decisions on participation in the new program," said NMPF President and CEO Jim Mulhern, who narrates the slide presentation. "Along with other tools NMPF has developed, this presentation should help them make the best choices for their individual circumstances."

Meanwhile, dairy producers attending next week's World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin, can find out what they need to know about the new dairy safety net at a special, 90-minute briefing set for Thursday morning, October 2nd.

Sponsored by NMPF, the briefing will feature Mulhern along with noted University of Missouri dairy economist Scott Brown. It will start at 8:30 a.m. in Mendota Room No. 4, at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

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Held each fall, World Dairy Expo attracts more than 70,000 dairy producers and industry experts from 90 counties. The five-day event has long been recognized as the premier annual meeting for the global dairy industry.

The briefing is titled "Covering Your Assets: Why Farmers Need to Enroll in the Margin Protection Program." In addition to the briefing and the narrated slide presentation available through www.nmpf.org and www.futurefordairy.com, NMPF has produced a five-page written summary of the new program, and an online calculator to help farmers select their coverage levels.

The new dairy safety net was included in the 2014 farm bill. It allows producers to protect their margin – the difference between milk prices and feed costs – rather than supporting milk prices.

Producers have until November 28th to sign up for the program for the remainder of 2014, all of 2015, or both.

NMPF was instrumental in constructing the new safety net. The organization developed the program after extensive discussions with farmers in 2009 and 2010, and then worked with Congress to include the plan in the 2014 farm bill. More recently, NMPF worked closely with Agriculture Department on implementation issues.

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The National Milk Producers Federation, based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF's cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of more than 32,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. Visit www.nmpf.org for more information.