



News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NMPF Statement on USDA Decision to Purchase Cheese to Help Dairy Farmers
From Jim Mulhern, President and CEO of NMPF:

ARLINGTON, VA – “We appreciate the prompt action taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture today to purchase \$20 million worth of cheese products to donate to food assistance programs, following the request made to USDA by NMPF on August 12.

“This cheese purchase will provide some assistance to America’s dairy farmers through increased demand for their milk, while also serving the needs of Americans who patronize food banks and other charitable assistance organizations that will distribute the cheese purchased by USDA.

“We will continue to assess the economic situation facing dairy farmers, and suggest ways to help farmers endure this lengthy period of low prices.

“We also appreciate the USDA extending the sign-up deadline for enrollment decisions in the dairy Margin Protection Program. Giving farmers until December 16 to adjust their coverage levels for calendar year 2017 will help increase the opportunity for dairy farmers to utilize this crucial risk management tool.

“We will continue to work with USDA and Congress to find ways to further improve the Margin Protection Program for dairy farmers.”

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The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), 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 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. For more on NMPF’s activities, visit our website at www.nmpf.org.