



DFWT Hosts Call In to Promote Dairy Price Stabilization Program

BERKSHIRE/HARDWICK, VT AND CHINO, CA, - July 1, 2009- Dairy Farmers Working Together capped National Dairy Month with a Teleconference promoting the Dairy Price Stabilization Plan. This program offers a growth management mechanism that balances supply to the demands of the market with financial incentives to stay within an allowable growth percentage as well as market access fees for those producers who go over. This program was created by the Holstein Association, USA and Milk Producers Council of California, and has since been endorsed by Dairy Farmers Working Together, VT, Western United, CA and Lanco-Pennland Milk Producers, PA and Washington State Dairy Federation to name a few. The groups have been traveling around the country presenting this plan and answering questions. Two major obstacles hinder those efforts, time and money. DFWT decided to try to implement modern telecommunications tools as a way to offset those obstacles, and to get the information on this program to those who need to understand it the most, the dairy farmers. Dairy farmers responded well to the limited advertisement done on the event. Hundreds of calls were logged from coast to coast; including calls from New Mexico, CA, Washington State, Florida, PA, Minnesota, VT and Wisconsin.

Geoffery Vanden Heuvel of Chino California hosted the call and presented the plan in detail as well as describing the studies done on the cycle of volatility that the dairy industry experiences every 36 months. The next forecasted down turn will be in 2012. Studies can be seen on the Cornell Program Dairy Markets and Policy website which show this cycle. (www.cpdmp.cornell.edu/CPDMP/Pages/Publications/Pubs/Intro.pdf) Information was also provided on how to get involved and promote such legislation in Washington by Margaret Laggis. She was a former aid to Senator Jim Jeffords, who in his tenure as Senator was a long time champion of the dairy farmer. Currently Ms. Laggis is a VT state Lobbyist and DFWT member.

DFWT has plans to continue their efforts and will look to use technology (webinar, internet chats, and conference calls) as much as possible as they set up meetings around the country with various dairy groups. Members of Dairy Farmers Working Together, Milk Producers Council, and Holstein Association, USA will join together to present their thoughts to the CWT Task Force Meeting in Chicago on July 20.

More information on this call can be found at www.dfwf.org or by calling 1-802-848-7446.