

Today's Topic
Administration Division and
Vermont Dairy Farms and Data

Administration Division at the Agency of Agriculture

- Secretary, Deputy Secretary and other leadership positions
- Responsible for all activities of the Agency.
 - Budget, Business Office,
 - Human Resources,
 - Legal,
 - Land Use (Act 250 and Section 248),
 - Climate
 - Any Special Projects

Vermont Cow Dairy Data

Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4
Ave. Milk Price	\$17.98	\$19.60	\$23.63	\$16.49	\$15.25	\$16.78	\$15.44	\$17.46	\$16.45	\$17.23	\$23.06	\$25.89	\$24.88	\$23.87
# of VT Cow Dairy Farms	972	939	880	853	838	796	725	677	636	583	564	562	543	530
Milk Production USDA	2.56 b lbs.	2.65 b lbs.	2.67 b lbs.	2.67 b lbs.	2.72 b lbs.	2.73 b lbs.	2.68 b lbs.	2.70 b lbs	2.60 b lbs	2.56 b lbs	212 mil. Ave/mo	216 mil. Ave/mo.	212 mil. Ave/mo.	209 mil, ave./mo
Ave. # of cows in VT USDA	133,000	133,000	132,000	132,000	130,000	128,667	126,833	125,583	122,167	119,667	119,000	117,667	117,000	117,500
Ave. # of cows/ farm	138	142	150	155	155	162	175	185	192	205	211	209	215	221
Certified Organic Cow Dairy Farms	205	198	184	184	203	199	190	187	169	162	157	155	154	141

Vermont Sheep and Goat Dairies

- 6 commercial sheep's milk dairies
- 49 commercial goat's milk dairies

Dairy Margin Coverage Program – Premium Assistance

- Passed by Vermont Legislature in 2022 with \$2.6 million in funding
 - Utilize until depleted – more than one year of support allowed
- Reimbursement of USDA Dairy Margin Coverage Program Tier 1 Premiums
- Reimbursed for exact amount with a maximum of \$7,500
 - \$7,500 represents 5 million pounds of milk at the highest margin level of \$9.50
- Agency began reimbursement program in August of 2022
 - Very low rate of payment by farmers for premium 12% paid in full
- Partnership with USDA Farm Services Agency
 - Farmers sign waiver for USDA to share premium payment information with Agency
 - Once information received from USDA – Agency send application to specific farmers

- 3 largest counties – by dollar & contracts – 52% of contracts
 - Franklin - \$407,495.12 96 contracts
 - Addison - \$342,504.61 66 contracts
 - Orleans - \$173,620.78 65 contracts
- Maximum amount to cover in Tier 1 – 5 million pounds per year
 - 250 cow farm making 20,000 pounds per cow – just over the MFO (200 to 699) cows
- As of Jan. 6 – 26 more contracts appx \$82,000 remaining
- 106 Organic Farms

County	# of Contracts	smallest \$	largest \$	# at Max	average	total by county
Addison	66	\$69.00	\$7,500	26	\$5,195.43	\$342,504.61
Bennington	6	\$295.83	\$7,500	2	\$3,165.70	\$18,994.22
Caledonia	42	\$347.37	\$7,500	3	\$2,373.42	\$99,683.82
Chittenden	18	\$356.18	\$7,500	3	\$3,768.86	\$67,839.43
Essex	8	\$417.16	\$7,500	1	\$2,964.68	\$23,717.46
Franklin	96	\$366.47	\$7,500	27	\$4,244.74	\$407,495.12
Grand Isle	7	\$1,532.18	\$7,500	2	\$4,045.32	\$28,317.27
Lamoille	19	\$192.33	\$7,500	1	\$2,422.15	\$46,020.85
Orange	30	\$507.25	\$7,500	5	\$3,036.32	\$91,089.66
Orleans	65	\$365.02	\$7,500	5	\$2,671.09	\$173,620.78
Rutland	28	\$236.81	\$7,500	1	\$2,623.99	\$73,471.79
Washington	15	\$181.70	\$7,500	3	\$2,942.20	\$44,133.00
Windham	14	\$574.10	\$7,500	2	\$2,855.37	\$39,975.14
Windsor	18	\$255.37	\$7,500	1	\$1,981.00	\$35,657.96
Total	432			82	\$3,163.59	\$1,492,521.11

Information from USDA on 2023 sign up through January 6, 2023

- 399 contracts
- Dairy Farm number as of December 2022 - 527 - 76% enrolled
- \$1,400,885 Tier 1 premiums and with 46.8% paid in full
- USDA does not expect many more farms to enroll.
- **Sign up ends January 31, 2023**

Dairy Margin Coverage Premium Assistance

- Agency began reimbursement process for 2023 on December 15, 2022
- Applications to dairy farmers that have paid USDA in full – sign up ends January 31, 2023
 - Applications will be sent out based on the date of when USDA was paid in full
 - January 2023 – until funds are exhausted: State of Vermont continues to provide applications as farmers pay USDA DMC Tier 1 premium in full.
 - Agency will process administratively complete applications to establish an account with the farm to allow a check to be processed (completion of W-9 form is required).
- First come, first served will be established by receipt of an administratively complete application form and W-9 form at the Agency of Agriculture.
- September 1, 2023, USDA must be paid in full.

Dairy Margin Coverage Premium Assistance

- Ways that Dairy Farmers can pay USDA Farm Services Agency in Full
 - When signing up for the program – pay in full
 - Sign up for the program and select when payments made – deducted from amount owed
 - ❖ Margin drops below selected amount (\$9.50) and a payment from the program is made
 - ❖ Payment used toward premium amount until premium is paid
 - Farmer waits until September 1 to pay USDA in full – required if no payments occur
- Farmer ceases operation during the calendar year – work with USDA
 - Premium amount is pro rated based on number of days in the program
 - Reimbursement from state is on the pro rated amount
 - If overpaid by the state – need to repay the state

Dairy Margin Coverage Premium Assistance

- 2022 reimburse amount \$1,492,521.11
- Amount appropriated \$2,600,000
- Remainder \$1,107,478.89
- Tier 1 premiums as of January 6, 2023 - \$1,400,885
- Over by \$293,406.11
- All 2023 applications will be first come/first served based on full payment to USDA and an administratively complete application

Senate Agriculture Committee

Dairy Farm Data

Questions