



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Dairy Business Association, Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative applaud Farmers to Families Food Box Program**

Midwest dairy groups: USDA helps farmers continue mission to assist during crisis

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Dairy Business Association and Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative today applauded the Agriculture Department for awarding \$317 million in contracts to purchase milk and other dairy foods for struggling Americans.

The partner organizations, which represent farmers and dairy businesses in Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest, advocated for the purchases as part of the federal government's response to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The dairy products were among \$1.2 billion in contracts for distributors, processors and non-profit organizations to deliver food that also included produce, pork and chicken directly to people in need due to school closures and job losses. Under the [Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#), the items will be packaged in family-size boxes for distribution at pickup sites starting as early as this week.

## **Statement from the Dairy Business Association and Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative**

Our dairy farmers and processors are pleased to see the USDA getting dairy products to those who have suddenly found themselves without enough food for their families. This action also helps offset the collapse of the foodservice market by redirecting the milk, cheese, butter and yogurt that typically goes to schools and restaurants to the surging food aid efforts. People in need will benefit and our farmers will benefit.

We applaud the USDA for answering the call from our members, those of other Midwest dairy groups and nonprofit organizations by connecting food producers with people most in need through this innovative and unprecedented program.

Farmers have always had an essential mission — to keep people in our communities, nation and world healthy and strong. Despite their own hardships during this crisis, farmers continue this mission every day. We look forward to seeing the Farmers to Families Food Box Program in action.

## **Tweet about this:**

#Dairy purchases for Farmers to Families Food Box Program @USDA draw praise of @VoiceOfMilk and @DairyForward <https://bit.ly/2SVCBCm>

## **About DBA:**

The Dairy Business Association is the leading dairy lobby group in Wisconsin, focused on advocating for sensible state laws and regulations that affect the dairy community. The nonprofit organization is comprised of dairy farmers, milk processors, vendors and other business partners who work collaboratively to ensure that dairy farms of all sizes have the support they need to keep America's Dairyland strong. More information: [www.dairyforward.com](http://www.dairyforward.com)

**About Edge:**

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative provides dairy farmers throughout the Midwest with a powerful voice — the voice of milk — in Congress, with customers and within their communities. Edge, based in Green Bay, Wis., is one of the top cooperatives in the country based on milk volume. More information: [www.voiceofmilk.com](http://www.voiceofmilk.com).

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