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Farmers Union to hold webinar on dairy base/excess plans

MADISON – On Thurs., July 19 at 11:30am, Wisconsin Farmers Union will hold an educational webinar sharing ways several dairy cooperatives are adopting base/excess plans to prevent taking more milk from producers than they have the capacity to process or market.

A base/excess plan, often referred to as two-tiered pricing, works by determining each co-op member's level of milk production, based on their historic average. The farmer is paid for milk produced up to their base, but any excess milk receives no compensation. WFU says more cooperatives should consider this option as a way to discourage rapid dairy expansions that drive milk prices down.

“While these internal programs alone will not bring up farmers' milk price, they reduce the financial incentive to overproduce milk,” said Wisconsin Farmers Union Government Relations Associate Bobbi Wilson. “They also cut costs incurred by having to haul or even dump excess milk.”

The webinar will feature a panel of members from Land O' Lakes, Dairy Farmers of America, and Scenic Central, three cooperatives that already have base/excess plans in place. Panelists will describe what prompted their co-op to implement these plans and the challenges and benefits. They will also respond to questions about how other co-ops can start their own plan.

The webinar is open to anyone affiliated with the dairy industry, but will be especially useful to members, board members, and management of dairy cooperatives who are considering whether a base/excess plan is right for them.

Contact Bobbi Wilson at 608 234-3741 or bwilson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com for more information and to register for the webinar.

Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member-driven organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities and all citizens through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors and civic engagement. Learn more at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com. Wisconsin Farmers Union is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin.

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