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Dates to Remember

April 9, 2024: [Dane County USDA Office Visit: Intro to Federal Ag Programs](#)

April 29, 2024: [Dairy Margin Coverage \(DMC\)](#) Sign-Up Deadline

May 31, 2024: MAL Final Availability Date for Corn, Cotton, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seed

Farmers.gov Local Dashboard Now Available for Producers in Wisconsin

Farmers in Wisconsin can now access county specific farming data and USDA resources all in one place via the [new farmers.gov local dashboard](#). Your farmers.gov local dashboard includes farming data and USDA resources including USDA news, commodity pricing, weather forecasts, historical climate data, past storm events, USDA service center locator and additional state resources for Wisconsin and your county. The dashboard transforms complex data sets into easy-to-read charts and graphs to help you quickly find information that matters to you. [Farmers.gov](#)

Current FSA Loan Interest Rates

Current loan rates as of April 1, 2024.

Farm Loan Interest Rates:

Farm Operating - Direct	5.125%
Farm Operating - Microloan	5.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Farm Ownership - Microloan	5.375%
Farm Ownership - Direct, Joint Financing	3.375%
Farm Ownership - Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency - Amount of Actual Loss	3.750%

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL):

3-year FSFL	4.375%
5-year FSFL	4.250%
7-year FSFL	4.250%
10-year FSFL	4.250%
12-year FSFL	4.250%

Please visit the [Farm Loan Program](#) webpage for more information.

2024 DMC Enrollment ends April 29th

Dairy producers are now able to enroll for 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), an important safety net program offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides producers with price support to help offset milk and feed price differences. This year's DMC signup began Feb. 28, 2024, and ends April 29, 2024.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has revised the regulations for DMC to allow eligible dairy operations to make a one-time adjustment to established production history. This adjustment will be accomplished by combining previously established supplemental production history with DMC production history for those dairy operations that participated in Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage during a prior coverage year. DMC has also been authorized through calendar year 2024. Congress passed a 2018 Farm Bill extension requiring these regulatory changes to the program.

DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. In 2023, Dairy Margin Coverage payments triggered in 11 months including two months, June and July, where

the margin fell below the catastrophic level of \$4.00 per hundredweight, a first for Dairy Margin Coverage or its predecessor Margin Protection Program.

2024 DMC Coverage and Premium Fees

FSA has revised DMC regulations to extend coverage for calendar year 2024, which is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2024, and to provide an adjustment to the production history for dairy operations with less than 5 million pounds of production. In previous years, smaller dairy operations could establish a supplemental production history and receive Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage. For 2024, dairy producers can establish one adjusted base production history through DMC for each participating dairy operation to better reflect the operation's current production.

For 2024 DMC enrollment, dairy operations that established supplemental production history through Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage for coverage years 2021 through 2023, will combine the supplemental production history with established production history for one adjusted base production history.

For dairy operations enrolled in 2023 DMC under a multi-year lock-in contract, lock-in eligibility will be extended until Dec. 31, 2024. In addition, dairy operations enrolled in multi-year lock-in contracts are eligible for the discounted DMC premium rate during the 2024 coverage year. To confirm 2024 DMC lock-in coverage or opt out in favor of an annual contract for 2024, dairy operations having lock-in contracts must enroll during the 2024 DMC enrollment period.

DMC offers different levels of coverage, even an option that is free to producers, minus a \$100 administrative fee. The administrative fee is waived for dairy producers who are considered limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged or a military veteran. To determine the appropriate level of DMC coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can use the [online dairy decision tool](#).

DMC Payments

DMC payments are calculated using updated feed and premium hay costs, making the program more reflective of actual dairy producer expenses. These updated feed calculations use 100% premium alfalfa hay.

More Information

USDA also offers other risk management tools for dairy producers, including the [Dairy Revenue Protection \(DRP\)](#) plan that protects against a decline in milk revenue (yield and price) and the [Livestock Gross Margin \(LGM\)](#) plan, which provides protection against the loss of the market value of milk minus the feed costs. Both DRP and LGM livestock insurance policies are offered through the Risk Management Agency. Producers should contact their local [crop insurance agent](#) for more information.

For more information on DMC, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA Accepting Applications for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

USDA is accepting applications for grants to support urban agriculture and innovative production. The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects.

Apply by April 9, 2024

[Learn more.](#)

NRCS Delivers Resources to Inform Science-Based, Data-Driven Conservation

As the U.S. Department of Agriculture's primary private lands conservation agency, NRCS delivers the data, technology, and standards that enable landowners and our many conservation partners to make decisions informed by objective, reliable science.

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) is an effort led by NRCS to evaluate and inform voluntary conservation across the nation's working lands. From a decadal report on the outcomes of voluntary conservation in the sagebrush biome to new data-driven tools for individual landowners, CEAP helps provide the science backing we need to:

- Identify how and where to invest conservation resources most strategically.
- Evaluate the outcomes of on-the-ground conservation actions.
- Leverage lessons learned from these findings to strengthen future conservation delivery.

Recent CEAP deliverables that support voluntary wildlife conservation include: · Conservation Outcomes Webinars on targeting conservation in sagebrush country, rare turtle conservation in the Northeast, reducing woody encroachment to conserve rangeland production, and managing working lands for lesser prairie-chickens. · New research quantifying the important role wetland easements play in wintering waterfowl conservation. · The Rangeland Brush Estimation Tool, which ranchers and other land managers may use to quickly estimate woody plant canopy cover and assess woody encroachment on western rangelands.

Our next webinar, scheduled for 2:00 p.m. eastern on April 25, will share new findings on the effects of cover crops on grassland birds. Additional details are available on the Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series webpage.

Visit the CEAP Wildlife Assessments webpage to access more than 130 publications and other reports, webinar recordings, and interactive, data-based tools to support voluntary wildlife conservation.

2023 Conservation Highlights and Results from the Wisconsin Natural Resources Conservation Service

Last year brought many opportunities for NRCS to work with private landowners and Tribal Nations through the 2018 Farm Bill and the additional funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act. In this Annual Report and Success Story Highlights, you'll learn about our fiscal year 2023 conservation program successes and meet farmers and landowners from across the state who partner with NRCS to implement conservation. These customers are investing in their operations and local communities to provide food, fiber, and energy, while working to protect and conserve our natural resources, creating a more sustainable future for all of us. Click on the links below to learn more about NRCS 'Helping People Help the Land' in fiscal year 2023.

[Read the NRCS Wisconsin Annual Report](#)

[Read the NRCS Wisconsin Success Story Highlights](#)

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