

Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (PMVAP) Update

Since the announcement of the Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (PMVAP) in mid-August, USDA has been actively implementing the administration of this program that will distribute up to \$350 million in payments directly to dairy farmers.

The role of the handler/cooperative

USDA is wrapping up one-on-one meetings with approximately 200 handlers and cooperatives that purchased milk and participated in the Federal Milk Marketing Order program during the July-December 2020 period. Handlers and cooperatives are critical to the administration of the PMVAP. They have the proprietary producer production data that determines the eligible milk under PMVAP rules. Further, they are the entities that distribute program funds to dairy farmers. To ensure the integrity of the PMVAP and proper distribution of funds, USDA will enter into an agreement with each handler and cooperative. This process, along with a thorough explanation of the mechanics of the program, is currently underway.

Dairy farmer payments

As reported when the program was announced on August 19, 2021, PMVAP is designed to provide pandemic assistance payments directly to dairy farmers who received a lower value for their milk due to market abnormalities caused by the pandemic. Funds are projected to be paid to dairy farmers by the end of December 2021.

AGI CERTIFICATION REQUIRED BY DAIRY FARMERS

Similar to many USDA programs the PMVAP requires dairy farmers to attest that they meet ***either of the following*** adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements of the program:

- Less than \$900,000 average AGI for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018, **or**
- 75 percent of your average taxable income for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018 came from farming, ranching, or forestry-related activities

Your handler or cooperative may have provided you with an attestation statement, which you **MUST** complete and return in order to receive a payment from the program.

Additional Information

Program information for handlers and dairy farmers can be found at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/pandemic-market-volatility-assistance-program>.

For additional questions not covered in the resources online, please email PMVAP@usda.gov.