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USDA Provides More Than \$8 Million in Second Round of Payments to Help Organic Dairy Producers Cover Increased Costs

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HARRISBURG, PA, Dec. 23, 2024 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing a second round of payments for dairy producers through the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP) 2024, providing an additional \$8.7 million to help dairy producers mitigate market volatility, higher input and transportation costs, and unstable feed supply and prices that have created unique hardships in the organic dairy industry. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has already paid out \$23 million in the first round of payments for eligible producers, bringing total ODMAP 2024 payments to more than \$31 million.

"This funding gives organic dairy producers critical support as they continue to weather a combination of challenges outside of their control," said Heidi Secord, FSA State Executive Director in Pennsylvania. "The payments are intended to help producers stay in operation until markets return to more favorable conditions."

How ODMAP 2024 Works

FSA accepted ODMAP 2024 applications from Sept. 30 to Dec. 13. FSA is providing financial assistance for a producer's projected marketing costs in 2024 based on their 2023 costs. ODMAP 2024 provides a one-time cost-share payment based on marketing costs on pounds of organic milk marketed in the 2023 calendar year or estimated 2024 marketing costs for organic dairy operations that have increased milk production.

ODMAP 2024 provides financial assistance that immediately supports certified organic dairy operations during 2024 keeping organic dairy operations sustainable until markets return to more normal conditions.

More Information

To learn more about USDA programs, producers can contact their local <u>USDA Service Center</u>. Producers can also prepare maps for acreage reporting as well as manage farm loans and other programs by <u>logging into their farmers.gov account</u>. Producers without an account can <u>sign up today</u>.

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