

USDA Updates

USDA SEEKS NOMINEES FOR NATIONAL FLUID MILK PROCESSOR PROMOTION BOARD

On October 24, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it is asking fluid milk processors and other interested parties to nominate candidates for the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board.

The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint seven individuals from those nominated to succeed members whose terms expire June 30, 2013. Appointed members will serve three-year terms from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016.

USDA will accept nominations for board representation in five geographic regions and two at-large positions. Nominees for the five regional positions must be active owners or employees of a fluid milk processor. At least one at-large position must be a fluid milk processor. The other at-large position may be either a fluid milk processor or a member from the general public. The geographic regions are: Region 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont); Region 4 (Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina); Region 7 (Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin); Region 10 (Texas); and Region 13 (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming).

USDA welcomes membership on industry boards that reflects the diversity of the individuals served by the programs. USDA encourages all eligible women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to seek nomination for a seat on the board.

Fluid milk processors and interested parties may submit nominations for regions in which they are located or market fluid milk and for at-large members. To nominate an individual, please submit a copy of the nomination form and a signed background form for each nominee by November 23, 2012 to: Whitney Rick, Director, Promotion, Research and Planning Division, Dairy Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 0233, Room 2958-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-0233 or via email at whitney.rick@ams.usda.gov. To obtain forms or additional information, call (202) 720-6909. 🐄



ERS DAIRY OUTLOOK

The following is an excerpt from the most recent Dairy Outlook.

Feed price forecasts continue to decline, based on the most recent World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report. The forecast corn price for 2012/13 was lowered to \$6.95-\$8.25 a bushel in November from October. Slightly higher expected production and an increase in imports support the lower price forecast. Similarly, the soybean meal price was lowered in November to \$455-\$485 a ton. On balance, corn and soybean meal prices will be higher in 2013 than in 2012 despite the small downward revisions in November forecasts from October. Dairy feed ration prices will likely be lower in 2013 than this year, but will remain high by historic standards.

Herd size projections were unchanged this month from October. The U.S. dairy herd is expected to average 9,225 thousand head in 2012 and slip to 9,125 thousand head next year as a result of the profit squeeze experienced by producers this year. Current-year yield per cow was increased to 21,640 pounds based on a higher than forecast third-quarter yield reported in the October Milk Production report. 🐄

Source: USDA. Economic Research Service. "Livestock, Dairy & Poultry Outlook", LDP-M-221, November 16, 2012. Available at www.ers.usda.gov.