

Order 2 dairymen could have earned \$32 million in diversion, study says

NEW YORK — According to a report released by Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson, thousands of Federal Order No. 2 dairy farmers who did not participate in the 1984-85 Milk Diversion Program (MDP) lost the opportunity to receive \$32 million in MDP payments.

Wilson said that a study conducted by his office shows that 4,386 dairy farmers reduced marketings to MDP-qualifying levels during the fifteen months of the program (January 1, 1984-March 31, 1985).

However, only 1,279 of these farmers signed a MDP contract and were eligible to receive payments. The remaining 3,107 farmers would have been eligible

for \$31.7 million in payments (\$10,215 per farm), had they anticipated the level of their marketing decline and signed a diversion contract to that effect.

There were 1,935 New York farmers, 106 New Jersey farmers, and 1,064 Pennsylvania farmers who reduced marketings sufficiently but did not sign contracts. These farms lost \$20.8 million in New York (\$10,730 per farm), \$1.2 million in New Jersey (\$11,792 per farm), and \$9.7 million in Pennsylvania (\$9,136 per farm).

However, the total loss for all farms in each state was probably substantially higher because only about two-thirds of all New York and New Jersey farms and about one-third of Pennsylvania farms

ship their milk to Order No. 2 regulated handlers and were included in the study.

Potential losses for each state and the entire Order are also underestimated by the study since only those farms which remained in business and marketed milk under Federal Order No. 2

throughout the entire MDP period were included in the study. Farms which went out of business during the MDP period were not included.

In each of six New York counties and three Pennsylvania counties, payments lost by Order No. 2 farms mounted to more than \$1 million. These counties were

Chenango, Jefferson, Oneida, Otsego, St. Lawrence, and Steuben in New York and Bradford, Lancaster, and Tioga in Pennsylvania.

Copies of the study may be obtained from the Office of the Market Administrator, 708 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

Signup for ASCS cost-sharing

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will begin accepting requests for cost-share assistance under the

Agricultural Conservation Program beginning January 2nd.

Any farmer who needs to install a conservation practice in 1986 may be eligible for monies of between 50 and 75 percent of the

costs. Up to \$3500 can be earned in one year.

LeRoy Welk, Chairman of the County ASC Committee, said that all requests filed at the ASCS Office by Jan 31 will be reviewed together. He emphasized that approvals are made on a priority problem basis.

For the program to be cost-effective, the most severe problems get first chance at being accepted for cost-sharing. Approvals are no longer made on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Practices that are eligible for cost-sharing are sod waterways, diversions, terraces, contour strips, cover crops, animal waste systems, no-till plantings, and spring developments.

To be eligible for assistance to install these practices, the work can not begin until approval has been granted by the Committee. Most of the practices have a required life span of 10 years after the year the practice is installed.

Welk said that funding has been reduced from previous years but the demand for cost-share is not as great either. Limited cash-flows have prevented some farmers from spending money on conservation work.

Those farmers who can afford their share of the cost but need assistance in cost-sharing should file an application at the ASCS Office in the Farm and Home Center by Jan. 31.

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