United States
Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Dairy Program

CALIFORNIA MARKETING AREA
FEDERAL MILK ORDER NO. 51

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October 2, 2026

To: Handlers and Interested Parties

From: Peter Fredericks, Market Administrator, Folsom, California

Subject: Expiration of Dairy Forward Pricing Program

The Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026, signed into law on November 12, 2025, extended the authorization of the Dairy Forward Pricing Program contained in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill), through September 30, 2026. Beginning October 1, 2026, the authority or funding provided under the 2018 Farm Bill, and reauthorized under the Extensions Act, for USDA to operate the Dairy Forward Pricing Program, expired. As of October 1, 2026, Congress has not passed legislation extending the authority for USDA to carry out this program, and USDA cannot make new commitments to the program.

Therefore, proprietary handlers establishing new forward contracts on or after October 1, 2026, will not be exempt from paying minimum Federal order prices. Contracts established on or before September 30, 2026, that extend through September 30, 2029, are not impacted.

Any questions pertaining to the above should be directed to Susan Smith who may be contacted at: Susan.Smith@cafmmo.com or 916-857-8567.

/s/ Peter Fredericks