

HCS HB 259 -- MISSOURI DAIRY REVITALIZATION ACT

This bill establishes the Missouri Dairy Revitalization Act of 2015. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Creates the Missouri Dairy Industry Revitalization Fund;
- (2) Requires, each fiscal year, the University of Missouri to conduct or contract with an independent research company to conduct research to determine the estimated sales tax revenue generated in the state from the sales of dairy products and to provide the estimate to the Department of Agriculture by October 1 of each year;
- (3) Specifies that no more than 40% of the estimated sales tax revenue generated from the sales of dairy products during the preceding fiscal year may be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Missouri Dairy Industry Revitalization Fund and the funds must be spent in the following order of priority:
 - (a) First, to the Dairy Producer Margin Insurance Premium Assistance Program;
 - (b) Second, to the Missouri Dairy Scholars Program; and
 - (c) Third, to the Commercial Agriculture Program;
- (4) Requires the department to create and administer, through the Missouri Agriculture and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA), a dairy producer margin insurance premium assistance program for the purpose of assisting dairy producers who participate in the federal margin protection program in the federal Agricultural Act of 2014;
- (5) Specifies that all dairy producers who participate in the federal margin protection program must be eligible to apply and participate in the dairy producer margin insurance premium assistance program. A dairy producer must apply with MASBDA by January 1 of each year;
- (6) Specifies that participating dairy producers who have paid their annual federal premium payment and provide proof of the payment to MASBDA must receive reimbursement of 70% of their federal premium payment up to a maximum premium reimbursement rate of \$.34 per hundredweight of milk;
- (7) Requires the University of Missouri and MASBDA to annually provide risk management training for Missouri dairy producers;

(8) Establishes the Missouri Dairy Scholars Program, administered by the department, for eligible students in an agriculture-related degree program who make a commitment to work in Missouri's agriculture industry;

(9) Requires each year, subject to appropriations, the department to make available to eligible students up to 80 scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each to assist with the costs of tuition and fees at a Missouri two-year or four-year college or university;

(10) Establishes eligibility requirements for students, including requirements to sign an agreement with the department in which the recipient agrees to work in the agriculture industry in Missouri for at least two years for every year the recipient receives the scholarship and to work on a dairy farm or in a dairy-related internship for at least three months of each year the recipient receives the scholarship; and

(11) Requires the University of Missouri's Commercial Agriculture Program to conduct an annual study of the dairy industry, develop a dairy-specific plan for how to grow and enhance the dairy and dairy processing industries in Missouri, and report the results of the study to the department and all agriculture-related legislative committee chairpersons by January 1 of each year.