

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ("MDAR") HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF A GENERAL HEARING, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C.30A, § 2 and 950 CMR 20.04, which requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources to hold a public hearing to amend 330 CMR 29.00:Dairy Farmer Tax Credit. The purpose of 330 CMR 29.00 is to provide a safety net program that supports Massachusetts dairy farms through its provision of revenue stability to dairy farmers when either milk prices paid to farmers fall or costs of production rise relative to one another. An Eligible Taxpayer who holds a Certificate of Registration shall be eligible to receive a refundable state income tax credit based on the amount of milk produced and sold, such that if the price paid to dairy farmers drops below the Trigger Price, the taxpayer may receive the tax credit. The total annual value of the tax credit to all Eligible Taxpayers shall not exceed \$4.0 million. In addition to amending the regulations to remove unused terms and ensure they are more easily understandable to the reader, the main purpose of this current amendment is to address the trigger price concerns for the long-term future and to prevent the need for future filings of emergency regulations.

All persons desiring to provide oral testimony are hereby notified to appear upon the following date and time at the respective designated location:

DFW's Field Headquarters, Richard Cronin Building, Northeast Meeting Room, #110, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., on March 7, 2016, for a public hearing that will open at 10:00 A.M.

In addition to oral testimony, written comments will be accepted before and at the Hearing. MDAR will continue to accept written comments until March 7, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. Written comments should be addressed to Catherine de Ronde, Agricultural Economist, Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500 Boston, MA 02114.

The full text of the regulation and background information is [available here](#). A hard copy of the full text of the regulation and background information are also available upon written request made to Catherine de Ronde at the address set forth above.

By: John Lebeaux, Commissioner