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## **8600 Gallons of Milk Donated to Help Boston-area Families by Dairy Farmers of America and its Massachusetts-area Farm Families**

**BOSTON, May 7, 2020** – Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), a national cooperative owned by dairy farm families across the U.S. and its Massachusetts farm families today donated 8,600 gallons of milk to an estimated 4,000 families in need in a milk drive up event at Boston College High School. The Farmers Feeding Families event was co-sponsored by Vanguard Renewables in cooperation with H.P. Hood. The event drew mostly cars, but grateful families in need of free milk also came on foot, by bicycle and motorcycle.

The coronavirus outbreak has brought challenges to many industries, including dairy. Due to restaurant and school closures, some farms have been left without a market for their milk. To help make good use of this surplus milk, DFA members in Massachusetts came together to donate it to people in need starting with the May 7 kick-off event. The Farmers Feeding Families DFA milk distribution will continue in Boston and in other Massachusetts cities while supplies are available.

“Farmers have been forced to destroy their milk...but dairy farmers are caretakers...so I was not surprised when I got a call from the DFA asking to see if we could find a way to get milk that would otherwise be destroyed into the hands of struggling families,” said John Hanselman, CEO of Vanguard Renewables, during the event’s opening remarks.

Randy Jordan of Jordan Family Farm, Rutland, MA added, “DFA has coordinated donations like this ...across the country. As of Monday, over 3 million pounds of DFA milk has been diverted to the families that need it.”

Vanguard Renewables brought together a group with the help of Massachusetts State Representative Shawn Dooley to plan this first Massachusetts Farmers Feeding Families event, to be followed by additional milk distribution events in other Massachusetts cities. The event commenced with a blessing from Father John Predmore, SJ, Chaplain of Boston College High School and a welcome from Grace Regan, Boston College High School President. This was followed by remarks by MA State Representative Shawn Dooley, the MA Commissioner of Agriculture, John Lebeaux, Randy Jordan, Jordan Dairy Farms, and John Hanselman, CEO of Vanguard Renewables.

Six members of the Jordan Family, of Jordan Dairy Farm in Rutland, 43 members of the Massachusetts National Guard, State Representative Shawn Dooley and 15 volunteers from Vanguard Renewables distributed the gallons of whole milk to cars and walk-up individuals. Massachusetts State Police and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency also added assistance.

“As a dairy cooperative owned by family farmers across the country, we are dedicated to helping provide nutritious food for family tables,” said Jennifer Huson, Senior Director Marketing, Council Affairs and Industry Relations for DFA Northeast. “Knowing that millions of Americans are struggling right now to make ends meet and with food banks being a critical local resource to help feed these families, we knew that we had to help figure out a solution.”

Participating organizations included H.P. Hood, Boston College High School, Polar Beverages, Nitco, and the Boston Police Department.

Wellesley-based Vanguard Renewables is the national leader in the development of food and dairy waste-to-energy projects. Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) is a national dairy marketing cooperative owned by more than 13,000 members on nearly 8,000 farms in 48 states. DFA has 34 member farms in Massachusetts, milking 4400 cows daily. H.P. Hood, based in Charlestown, is one of the largest U.S. food and beverage manufacturers.