

## 2014 CDE

### Agricultural Communications Editing Quiz

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

FFA Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Twenty five words or phrases are underlined in the news story below. Some are correct and others contain errors. Indicate in the space to the right if the words or phrases are correct (**C**) or incorrect (**I**). If they are incorrect, correct them using standard editing marks in the sentence. You may find errors related to grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling and other Associated Press style issues.

#### Farm Bill eases away from dairy price supports

Written By: Jim Hook  
Public opinion news

1	<b>CHAMBERSBURG</b> - The nation's latest farm bill has taken a step toward erasing government price supports from the dairy industry.	1. I – capitalize Farm Bill
2	For at least the next 4 years local dairy farmers will have skin in the game. They have the option of paying insurance premiums to protect themselves from the risk of low milk prices.	2. I – spell out four
3	Dairy owners must decide by Thanksgiving whether to participate in the Margin Protection Program, an insurance that pays a farmer when the difference between price he pays for feed and the price he gets for his milk shrinks to a specific amount.	3. C
4	"We're going to sign up" said Jeffry Grove, a Shippensburg area dairyman. "At what margin we're not sure. We don't feel we could take the risk of not signing up."	4. I – insert comma after up
5	Cows are a big part of the Franklin County economy. The local 440 dairy farms annually produce milk worth \$178 million, or more than 40 % of the county's agricultural production.	5. I – spell out percent
6	The county ranks second in Pennsylvania behind Lancaster County, the top dairy county east of the Mississippi. Franklin County is among the top 35 milk producing counties in the nation.	6. I – hyphenate milk-producing
7	"What we do to the economy and how we drive the economy is not often measured," Grove said. A farm employs 100 people supporting them off the farm. You don't want to lose too many farmers."	7. I – add quote marks before A
8	Franklin County had 440 commercial dairy farms in 2012, down from 487 in 2002 and 563 in 1992, according to the U.S. census of agriculture.	8. I – capitalize Census of Agriculture
9	The nation is losing about 5,000 farmers every 3 years, Grove said.	9. I – spell out three

10	"How long can Americans continue to sustain that loss?" Grove said. "You could say in the past, the programs didn't work. Were losing farmers every year due to what they've been through."	10. I – We're, not were
11	A narrow profit margin coupled with high debt and a bad crop year can put a farm under.	11. C
12	In Franklin County, government subsidies amounted to one percent of farm income in 2012.	12. I - subsidies
13	A variety of government programs in 2012 paid local farmers 4.3 million, up from \$2.7 million in 2007 according to the Ag Census of 2012. About one-third of county farms participated.	13. I – add \$ in front of 4.3 million
14	"The long-term goal of USDA is to move all farmers away from government programs to private programs," said Alan Zepp, risk management program manager for the state's Center for Dairy Excellence.	14. C
15	Zepp is urging dairy farmers to seriously consider signing up for the "margin insurance;" The premiums are "heavily discounted or subsidized."	15. I- replace ; with .
16	One of the most recent dairy programs, the Milk Income Loss Contract, cost U.S. taxpayers about \$400 million a year from 2009 - 2013, according to the Department of Agricultural and Rural Economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.	16. I – 2009 to 2013
17	The government paid producers when milk prices at the farm dropped below a certain level.	17. C
18	Franklin County was among seventeen counties in the East where farmers got more than \$5 million in MILC payments between 2009 and 2013, according to the University of Illinois.	18. I – use numbers for 17
19	The Margin Protection Program is replacing MILC, and farmers have a choice of coverages, starting at \$100 for minimal protection and up to premiums costing thousands of dollars.	19. C
20	MPP will allow larger farms to better cover their risks because MILC capped annual benefits, according to the University of IL. MPP will increase the nation's milk production safety net by 151 percent.	20. I – spell out Illinois
21	It's an important decision because this is the only safety net that will exist for dairy," Chris Galen, spokesman for the National Milk Producers Federation, based in Arlington, Va. "We think this is going to be a lot better (than MILC) because it reflects feed costs too. Feed costs can be high and you can have a decent milk price, as it was two years ago."	21. I- insert said before Chris
22	Both milk and feed prices can be volatile, according to Heather Weeks, dairy educator with penn state extension in Cumberland County.	22. I- Penn State Extension
23	"Producers have to look at their overall risk management strategy," Weeks said. "A lot of dairy producers may not know their own margins."	23. I – A lot, not alot

24	She suggests that producers attend one of the Penn State Extension seminars about margin insurance and bring their recent production history.	24. C
25	For most dairy producers under 200 cows, the level of coverage history would say it's important to be in the program at some level of coverage," Zepp said. "The most important thing is to have some protection"	25. I –insert period after protection