

General Overview of the *UW LGM-Dairy Premium Calculator* Spreadsheet Model

Download the archive file that contains this software system via your web-browser to a dedicated directory on your computer. You will "unzip" this archive file by using your file manager and selecting this file. This will initiate the unzipping process. Note that the default location these files are downloaded to is *c:\lgm_dairy*. You can overwrite this location to anywhere you want the LGM-Dairy system to be installed. There are two spreadsheet files contained in this initial archive, *lgm_dairy_beta.xls* and *simulated_values.xls*. The 1st file is the spreadsheet file that undertakes the premium analysis. The 2nd file is used for calculations and is automatically accessed by the 1st file. Both these files need to be stored in the same directory.

How Do You Access the Data Necessary to Run the UW Premium Calculator?

It should be noted that there is **no data** contained in the above files. You need to download these files from the UW LGM-Dairy website place all data in the same location where you stored the above premium calculator spreadsheet file. It is important to note, that to make your system operational you must download the *expected_prices.xls* file regardless of the month(s) you want to analyze. To examine premium costs over all months or a particular month you need to download the associated monthly *simulation data files*.

There are several strategies to follow when developing your system in regards to these simulation data files.

- (1) When you first download this software we recommend that you download all months' data for each year available. This data is located on the website below the area where you accessed the UW premium calculator. Be aware a full years data is > 8 mb in size and could take a long time to download using a dial-up modem based system. You can download these files one-at-a-time by clicking on a particular month's icon or you can click all data for a particular year up-to and including the current month by clicking on the **All-Months** icon.
- (2) Once you have the system up and running, to keep your data up-to-date, all you have to do is
 - (i) Download the latest version of the **expected_prices.xls** file and
 - (ii) Download the individual month's of simulation data you have not already downloaded by clicking on the particular months' icon(s)

The simulation data files contain the data used to determine the month-specific premiums. These take the form *month-year.xls* where the "month" and "year" pertain to the month in which the purchase decision is being made.

Once you download the data, to undertake your analysis, simply enter the values indicated within the **Inputs** worksheet page in the *lgm_dairy_beta.xls* file.

Given that this is a beta version of our software your comments would be appreciated. Send any email to Prof. Brian W. Gould, bwgould@wisc.edu.

How Do I Keep My System Current?

To keep your system current all you have to do is

- (1) Download the months of data you do not have but want to use
- (2) Download the latest version of the expected prices file found at URL:
http://future.aae.wisc.edu/lgm-dairy/data/expected_prices.xls .

Known Bugs/Issues

- (1) In order for the spreadsheet to work correctly you need Excel to launch the spreadsheet **NOT** your file manager.
- (2) All files **MUST** be located in the same directory where the lgm_dairy_beta.xls file is located
- (3) Because we use macros in this spreadsheet set your macro security level to MEDIUM or LOW. Otherwise you will receive an error message.
- (4) When you start the system you will be asked the question as to whether you want to "**Replace Existing Definition of...?**" Reply **YES** to this question.