
Cheese Curd Capital®



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ELLSWORTH ~ NEW LONDON ~ MENOMONIE

May 12, 2023

Bruce Summers
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Summers:

On behalf of Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, I am writing in support of the comprehensive proposal for modernization of the Federal Milk Marketing Order system submitted to you on May 1, 2023, by the National Milk Producers Federation.

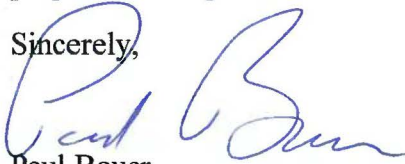
The cooperative currently has 220 members located in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where we process 2.2 million pounds of milk a day into cheese. Our cooperative does report to the National Dairy Price Reporting Survey NDPRS on 500 barrels, Dried Sweet Whey and 40 blocks of Cheddar; therefore, we are extremely vested in the process. The 113-year-old cooperative faces such a huge hurdle with the mixed signals on product pricing as it relates to producer milk payments. The end product pricing system without an accurate make allowance gives inaccurate market signals using a commodity 500 barrels and 40-pound blocks of cheddar cheese from what was once a solid and reliable market. The lack of modernization of the Federal Milk Marketing Order is leading to disorderly marketing of milk as long term as physical asset to process the milk will not be built.

The NMPF's plan represents an important and essential approach toward the systemwide changes needed to ensure a successful update of the nation's federal milk order system, which is critical to ensuring a stable, orderly supply of milk across the United States.

NMPF's plan is the result of nearly two years of meetings and discussions amongst the dairy industry's leading experts and represents a true consensus of the nation's dairy farmers and its processing dairy cooperatives. While its specific provisions will have different impacts on literally every dairy farm in America, this proposal will benefit all producers and represents the best path for the U.S. dairy industry moving forward.

I especially urge you to move forward with a national federal order hearing that includes all aspects of the NMPF proposal. Because of the extensive length of time that has passed since these provisions were last updated, and the complex interactions between these various provisions of milk-marketing orders, each individual component is essential to the success of the whole. Please help dairy farmers advance this industry by moving forward with the NMPF proposal. A brighter future for our farms, families and rural communities relies upon it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Bauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Bauer" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Bauer

CEO

cc: Dana Coale
Erin Taylor