

NATIONAL FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER PRICING FORMULA HEARING

DOCKET NO.: 23-J-0067; AMS-DA-23-0031

Before the Honorable Jill Clifton, Judge

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Carmel, Indiana October 6, 2023

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Reported by:

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21	
22	
23	(Please note: Appearances for all parties are subject to
24	change daily, and may not be reported or listed on
25	subsequent days' transcripts.)
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27	000
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1	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 MORNING SESSION
2	THE COURT: Let's go on record. We're back on
3	record at 8:00 a.m. on October 6, 2023. It's Friday and
4	we have a full program for today. We'll review in just a
5	moment what we expect.
6	And today we conclude this week at 3:00 p.m. and
7	begin again Monday at 8:00 a.m.
8	So I would need Dr. Sims in the chair for
9	cross-examination.
10	Oh, we're going to have a farmer witness? First
11	thing? Good.
12	Then acquaint us with and then it would be
13	Dr. Sims?
14	MS. TAYLOR: Yes.
15	THE COURT: Excellent. I welcome our first
16	witness of the day to be seated in the witness chair to my
17	left.
18	Welcome. I'll have you sit down. I swear people
19	in in a seated position.
20	Now, you have to position the mic fairly close to
21	your mouth, and you are very tall, so it will be a
22	challenge. That helps. And scooting toward me sometimes
23	helps.
24	Please state and spell your name.
25	THE WITNESS: Rick Podtburg, R-I-C-K,
26	P-O-D-T-B-U-R-G.
27	THE COURT: Thank you.
28	And have you testified in this proceeding before?



1	THE WITNESS: No.
2	THE COURT: I'll swear you in now.
3	RICK PODTBURG,
4	Being first duly sworn, was examined and
5	testified as follows:
6	THE COURT: I notice you have some notes. Will
7	those assist you in presenting your testimony today?
8	THE WITNESS: Yes.
9	THE COURT: And have they been reproduced or
10	distributed?
11	THE WITNESS: Yes.
12	THE COURT: So we'll mark them as an exhibit, next
13	Exhibit Number 320. This will be marked as Exhibit 320.
14	(Exhibit Number 320 was marked for
15	identification.)
16	THE COURT: And 321. Thank you.
17	So the one with more pages is the first one,
18	correct?
19	MS. LOMBARD: Yes.
20	THE COURT: All right. Good.
21	(Exhibit Number 321 was marked for
22	identification.)
23	THE COURT: Excellent. All right. Would you
24	identify yourself, please?
25	MS. LOMBARD: Yes, good morning, Your Honor.
26	I'm Jill Lombard, counsel for Dairy Farmers of
27	America, and I'm here today to introduce Mr. Podtburg,
28	who's already stated his name for the record.



1 THE COURT: Excellent. Thank you. 2. You may proceed. 3 MS. LOMBARD: Thank you. 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. LOMBARD: 5 6 Ο. Mr. Podtburg, can you please state your business 7 address for the record? 8 Α. 1405 North 98th Street, Kansas City, Kansas. 9 Ο. Thank you. 10 I understand that you have prepared a written statement for your testimony today. Would you please read 11 that statement at this time? 12 13 Okav. Thank you. Α. 14 First of all, my name is Rick Podtburg. I'm here 15 today representing Dairy Farmers of America and the 16 Colorado dairy farm families. I currently serve as first 17 Vice Chairman of the Mountain Council of DFA, and I am on 18 the corporate board of DFA. 19 A little bit about my history is my father started 2.0 dairying with 40 cows 55 years ago. Upon graduating from 2.1 high school two years later, I made the decision to make 22 dairy farming my lifelong passion. We grew slowly for 40 23 years to 1500 cows. 24 Today with my wife, four sons, two grandchildren, 25 and 150 employees, we milk 9,500 cows at two locations 26 near Greeley, Colorado. We also have 4500 acres of crop



the beef market.

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land and 4,000 head feedlot to finish our steer calves to

In 2008, Leprino Foods, which has always been headquartered in Colorado, committed to building an 8-million-pound-a-day cheese plant in Greeley, in addition to their 2-million-per-day plant in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

The building of this new plant created demand opportunities for Colorado. To fulfill the new milk demand, it required Colorado to grow from 100,000 cows to 200,000 cows. The plant was built in three phases starting in 2011 and reached capacity in 2020. This new opportunity encouraged growth in the existing Colorado dairy -- with the existing Colorado dairies and allowed new members to move to the area. Without this large plant, Colorado wouldn't have developed to the level it is today.

I am here to support the National Milk Producers Federation proposed changes to the Federal Milk Marketing system, with the exception of the price surface adjustments. Colorado is on the western edge of the Central Federal Order Number 32. Currently, the location differential for Weld County, Colorado, where Greeley is located, is \$0.45 per hundredweight positive.

The University of Wisconsin model puts Weld County, Colorado --

THE COURT: Let me just make sure. So you had some more words in that sentence. And are they important? You said \$0.45 per hundredweight, "more than" --

THE WITNESS: Jackson County, Missouri.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.



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THE WITNESS: That's the base point, I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: The University of Wisconsin model puts Weld County, Colorado at a disadvantage compared to Jackson County, Missouri with a negative differential of \$1 per hundredweight between the two locations. The National Milk Producers Federation proposal is better, but still puts Weld County at minus \$0.15 hundredweight lower than Jackson County. We need to maintain the \$0.45 per hundredweight positive relationship Greeley currently has.

The reasoning for this is that we have the highest cost of production for any location in Federal Order 32. A significant amount of feed such as corn, soybean meal, and cottonseed must be trucked or railed into Colorado. As with many other industries, the cost of this has increased significantly over the last three years. As an example, corn in Colorado previously was 30 to \$0.50 over the CME price. Last year, with the high cost of transportation and the short corn crop, that became \$1 to \$1.50 per bushel over the CME. That also makes our corn silage cost much higher as it is based on the value of grain corn.

Colorado's population is growing rapidly making it a high cost of living state. This is also creating even greater competition for employees, housing, and water, which is a major cost increase for the Colorado dairies.

I have included a summary of the advantage cost to produce milk in Colorado --



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THE COURT: Let me have you read that sentence again, please.

THE WITNESS: Starting with what, "I have included," or the one before?

THE COURT: Yes, "I have included."

THE WITNESS: I have included a summary of the average cost to produce milk in Colorado. This is an accountant-prepared summary of about 20 dairies showing the dramatic increase in cost of production.

And do we want to present the attachment?

THE COURT: Let's have you finish this exhibit,
then we'll go to Exhibit 321.

\$0.45 per hundredweight differential needs to be -between Jackson County, Missouri and Weld County, Colorado
needs to be maintained. I believe we have the highest
cost of production in Federal Order 32. If the Federal
Order price for Colorado is less or equal to Jackson
County and we have the highest cost, we will obviously go
negative cash flow sooner than other areas in the order
when milk prices drop. With this change and the \$0.50 per
hundredweight potential reduction from the Make Allowance
change, this could be devastating to the Colorado dairy
farm families.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

And the exhibit I have, it's Genske Mulder, a large accounting firm for dairy farms, out of California. They summarized 20 dairies in Colorado the last five years



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1	on what the cost of production has done. It does show a
2	nice profit last year, but if you take the last five years
3	and average it, it's about \$1.00. So with this change,
4	there would be no profit. And this year is going to be
5	substantially negative.
6	That would complete my comments, and I guess I'm
7	available for questions.
8	MS. LOMBARD: Thank you, Mr. Podtburg.
9	Your Honor, at this time I'll tender the witness
10	for cross-examination.
11	THE COURT: All right. I would like you to spell
12	the name of the firm that prepared Exhibit 321. Or anyone
13	can do that for us. I just want it
14	THE WITNESS: I'm not sure Genske. Mulder is
15	M-U-L-D-E-R. Genske is
16	THE COURT: G-E-N-S-K-E, does that sound right?
17	THE WITNESS: Yes. That sounds right. Slash
18	Mulder, M-U-L-D-E-R.
19	THE COURT: Thank you.
20	THE WITNESS: And my accountant is one of their
21	employees.
22	THE COURT: Excellent. All right. Thank you.
23	I would invite cross-examination.
24	CROSS-EXAMINATION
25	BY MS. HANCOCK:
26	Q. Good morning, Mr. Podtburg. I just wanted to ask
27	you a couple of questions on Exhibit 321.



This is a document that one of your agents at the

1	account	ing firm prepared for you and on your behalf?
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	And this is an accounting firm that you have used
4	in the d	ordinary course of your business operations?
5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	And you asked him to provide this information to
7	you for	your to support your testimony today?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	And your data is included in this spreadsheet as
10	well?	
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Okay.
13		MS. HANCOCK: Your Honor, I just wanted to make
14	sure tha	at we had the proper foundation laid for that.
15		Thank you so much for being here today.
16		THE WITNESS: Thank you.
17		CROSS-EXAMINATION
18	BY MR. I	MILTNER:
19	Q.	Good morning, Mr. Podtburg.
20	Α.	Good morning.
21	Q.	My name is Ryan Miltner, and I represent Select
22	Milk Pro	oducers.
23		I appreciate the time you have taken to come and
24	help us	with information about, well, dairying in your
25	part of	the world.
26		To follow up on what Ms. Hancock asked, the
27	reports	that Genske and Mulder prepares, in addition to
28	the ang	wers you have already given, those summaries are



shared within the industry among dairy farmers quite a bit, aren't they?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And I'm looking at Genske and Mulder's website to see if they are there, and I think you can request access, but they post this information on their website as well, correct?
 - A. I have never been on their website.
- Q. Okay. Do they get you the printed copy of these reports, then?
- A. Yes. What I presented, they e-mailed to me a few days ago at my request, and he's aware that I was going to present it here.
 - O. Right.

I just wanted to -- I wanted to make the record clear that -- that this is something that not only is it prepared for a bunch of different dairies in Colorado, but it's something that most farmers, especially in the West, they are aware of the Genske Mulder reports and something that you all rely upon when benchmarking your dairies, correct?

- A. Yes.
- O. Great.

I had a couple of questions about your written testimony and what you are asking as far as a change for Weld County. And it's great that you are here today. We're -- at least I'm -- we haven't gotten through all the testimony from National Milk on how they came up with



their surface, and so without having them presented everything about what they have put together in their numbers, it's hard for me to understand why you are looking for a change from what they have done.

And so I guess I'm wondering if you could help me understand a little more about what you saw in what National Milk has proposed and why you have -- why you -- why you think that needs to change.

- A. Well, as the -- the thing about my testimony is, if we have the highest cost of production in the order, it seems illogical that we should be a negative differential to the base point of the order when we have been positive for the last 25 years.
- Q. And when you refer to the base point of the order, how do you -- how have you determined what the base point is?
- A. Well, my understanding is that the base point of the Central Order is Jackson County, Missouri.
- Q. Okay. Is that from your previous knowledge about the current differentials?
- A. Well, I think so. I think it's -- that's always been the -- the relative base point has always been Jackson County, Missouri, hasn't it?
 - Q. Okay.
- A. My understanding is it's Jackson County, Missouri, and then every county has a location differential from there.
 - Q. Okay. So you are referring to the announced



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- A. Yes.
- Q. -- at that base point?
- A. Yes.

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Q. I was -- see, that's where I'm a little discombobulated, not because of anything you have done. Yesterday, when we started hearing from National Milk about how they came up with their -- their proposed changes, they were talking about anchor points. And so now you have clarified my misunderstanding, so thank you.

So I would wonder if -- I represent Select Milk Producers, and you are aware of where their farms are for the most part, correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And so Order 126 in the Southwest order, Dallas is the base point, and the differentials in Clovis, New Mexico, are like right now \$0.70 less than Dallas. And I don't have right in front of me what the proposed change would be.

If you were a farmer in Clovis as opposed to Greeley, would you have those same concerns about the Southwest order?

- A. I would think so. I think if you look at what's happening in the U.S., New Mexico is losing more cows and more milk than any state in the country, which is economically driven.
 - Q. It is.
 - A. My fear is that in five years we'll be on that



1	same line if this doesn't get fixed.
	_
2	MR. MILTNER: I don't think I have any other
3	questions. I really do appreciate your testimony today.
4	Thank you.
5	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
6	THE COURT: Does anyone else have questions of
7	this witness before I turn to the Agricultural Marketing
8	Service for their questions?
9	I see none. I invite the Agricultural Marketing
10	Service to ask questions.
11	CROSS-EXAMINATION
12	BY MS. TAYLOR:
13	Q. Good morning.
14	A. Good morning.
15	Q. Thank you very much for coming to testify today.
16	A. Thank you for listening to me.
17	Q. I wanted to ask you a few questions about your
18	farm. You said you grew slowly at first to 1500 cows, and
19	now you have 9500 cows.
20	Could you talk a little bit about how fast that
21	growth was, from 1500 to 9500?
22	A. In 2000, we formed a partnership with another
23	dairy farm family, and that caused us to grow, to do some
24	of the growth. And then with the demand for the Leprino
25	plant, we had the opportunity to grow and add new cows,
26	and we just built a new robot dairy and added some more
27	cows And most of our cows lately have come from retiring



dairy farmers who want to exit the business, we buy their

cows and put them in our new robot dairy.

- Q. Okay. And you talked about Leprino.

 Is that where your milk goes?
 - A. Yes. It doesn't have to, but it does.
 - Q. It's mostly where it goes?
- A. It's a co-op. It can go to Denver to fluid plants. But where we are located, 95% of it goes to --98% of it goes to Leprino.
 - Q. And so how far is it to the Leprino plant?
- A. 18 miles from one dairy and 16 from the other dairy.
 - Q. And when it goes to Denver, how far is that?
 - A. Oh, that would be another 50, so like 68. But it would -- it would rarely go to Denver because there's milk south of Greeley, closer -- there's milk much closer to Denver. If it goes somewhere else, it would go to Fort Morgan.
 - Q. Okay. And it's not in here. We have had -- in these past few weeks of hearing, there's discussions of component levels, so that's why I'm asking you this question, even though it's not in your testimony.
 - Do you know what your component levels are in your milk?
- A. For the year, our butterfat is about 4.05, and our protein would be about 3.28 for the year.
 - Q. Thank you.
 - And when you are talking about differentials, I looked them up. So it looks like currently in Weld County



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- 1 | it's in the 2.45 differential zone; is that correct?
- 2 A. Yes.

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- Q. And then so Jackson is in the \$2.00 zone?
- A. Jackson is exactly \$2.00.
 - Q. Okay. And I see as National Milk's proposed, Weld would be \$3.20?
 - A. I believe so, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And Jackson would be \$3.35. It looks like that's where you get your \$0.15.
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. And so I think throughout your testimony what I gather is you would like those to be changed so at least it gave you the \$0.45 difference that you currently have?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. On the Exhibit 321, which is the cost data you provided, is your farm in this -- is your farm one of the 20 farms in this data?
- 18 A. Yes.
 - Q. And so when you look at the 2022 cost, do you kind of see those representative of what you are -- you experienced during that year?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. I do have a question, and you might not be able to answer this, and that's fine, I just thought I'd ask.
- 25 | There's a line there that says "industry assessments."
- 26 Do you know what is in that?
 - A. I believe that would be the DFA, the promotion checkoff, administration checkoff.



Q. Okay.

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- A. It would be co-op charges, including that promotion, which just goes through the co-op to -- to the National Dairy Board.
 - Q. Right. Okay.

And then I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about your hauling charge, you know, your experience on transportation costs. There's been a lot of talk about how that has really has increased. That's one of the reasons National Milk is putting forth for why these differentials should be changed in the first place.

So I was wondering if you could talk about, in recent years, how have your transportation costs been affected? Have they stayed the same? Gone up? Gone down?

A. Well, our transportation cost has gone up. It's 48 -- 48 to \$0.49 right now as the fuel bounces around. But there's -- but that's because we are very close to the market.

Dairies -- there's dairies that are paying \$1.00, \$1.50 that are, you know, further from the market. I think it takes \$4.00 to move milk from Colorado -- in from Idaho to Colorado as an example.

- Q. Uh-huh. Okay.
- MS. TAYLOR: I think that's it from AMS. Thank you for your time today.
- 27 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- MS. LOMBARD: Your Honor, I'd move to admit



1	Exhibit 320 and 321.
2	THE COURT: Is there any objection?
3	There is none. I admit into evidence Exhibit 320.
4	(Exhibit Number 320 was received into
5	evidence.)
6	THE COURT: Is there any objection to 321?
7	No? I admit into evidence Exhibit 321.
8	(Exhibit Number 321 was received into
9	evidence.)
10	MS. LOMBARD: Thank you.
11	THE COURT: Thank you so much. This was very
12	helpful.
13	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
14	THE COURT: And I thank you for appearing in
15	person. You are a long way from Colorado.
16	THE WITNESS: Yes. Thank you.
17	THE COURT: Mr. English, we're doing a little
18	technical work with the witness, and I'll hear from you
19	now.
20	MR. ENGLISH: I thought while we were doing that
21	it would be more efficient, I think, if we could get
22	copies of Exhibit 300 and 301 for the witness so we don't
23	have to interrupt.
24	THE COURT: I'm so sorry to hear that.
25	MR. ENGLISH: What, that we're going to have 300
26	and 301?
27	THE COURT: Yeah.
28	MR. ENGLISH: Wait till you see the rest.



1 THE COURT: All right. We will tee those up. I 2. still have an extra copy of those, if they are needed by 3 anyone. Would the witness please identify himself, and 4 again spell his name for the record? 5 6 THE WITNESS: Jeffrey Sims, J-E-F-F-R-E-Y, 7 S-I-M-S. 8 THE COURT: I have been calling you Dr. Sims. Did 9 I give you a promotion? 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. 11 THE COURT: So --12 MR. ENGLISH: It depends on your perspective. 13 THE WITNESS: And I appreciate it. Actually, I 14 think I do have a Ph.D. I bought it for \$600 online. 15 THE COURT: So your master's degree --16 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. 17 THE COURT: -- is augmented by years of 18 experience. And I -- I won't call you "Dr." anymore, but 19 I still regard you as an expert. 2.0 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 2.1 THE COURT: All right. Mr. English, I interrupted 22 your cross-examination of this witness. Is that what 23 happened? 24 MR. ENGLISH: Yes, Your Honor. 25 THE COURT: And that was because we needed to get 26 another witness in and out. 27 MR. ENGLISH: No, we ran out of time. It was 28 5:00.



1 THE COURT: Oh, we ran out of time. 2. You may resume, Mr. English. Thank you. 3 MR. ENGLISH: 4 Good morning, Your Honor. CROSS-EXAMINATION (Continued) 5 MR. MR. ENGLISH: 6 7 Ο. Good morning, Mr. Sims. 8 Α. Good morning. 9 My name is Chip English for the Milk Innovation Ο. 10 Group. 11 So I want to go back just a little bit to 12 yesterday afternoon. And I was struck by our conversation 13 with respect to how you characterized and how I 14 characterized the \$2.20. 15 Α. Yes. 16 Ο. So I want to go back, and I'm going to quote now 17 from page 40 of National Milk Producers' proposal 18 submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture 19 back in May. And I note, I think not coincidently, that 2.0 it is word for word, as I read it, identical to the 2.1 testimony by Dr. Vitaliano earlier this week. 22 So let me read that. "The Federal Order base 23 Class I differential has historically recognized that 2.4 there has been a difference in the cost of producing milk 25 solely for manufacturing use and the cost of producing for 26 daily delivery to the Class I market over time. And with 27 the Federal Order reform changes in manufacturing class



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use prices eliminating any competitive milk procurement

factor in a base milk price, the Class I differential base price now represents a modest nod to production costs at the producer level. Since 2000, those costs have risen far more than the limited increase in the base Class I differential from \$1.60 per hundredweight to \$2.20 per hundredweight embedded in the National Milk Producers Federation proposal."

As I heard your testimony yesterday afternoon just before 5:00 p.m., you said that at least what was done in the Southeast and the Southwest was that the proposed increase to the \$2.20 is found in the minimum Class I differential; is that correct?

A. I think I understand after replaying our conversation yesterday afternoon why there could be some confusion. I think it would be helpful if we went through the process and how we did what it is we did and how we came up with these values, and some of -- somewhat the chronology, because I think that's important.

The -- and I will say this to start: Every one of the four regional working -- sub-working groups, the Class I working groups, used the model when it was run at the minimum differential of \$1.60. We all started with that model. It -- if I -- if I -- if I failed to answer that properly yesterday, then I'm correcting it today. But every -- everyone worked off the same run of the model.

The first step in this process was, after we got,

I believe the second run, and which was only -- the third



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run was very, very lightly changed actually from the second one. But we actually met in person, and a group of a dozen of us or so from around the country took that model run and developed what we then termed the anchor cities.

Some tentative agreement across, I believe it was 19 cities, where we said, okay, let's start here. And those anchor cities are cities that kind of where if you think about our four regions, those are kind of border cities between regions, or places where the regions more or less touch, or abut, whichever description that works for you.

So we all were working off the same model run, and we were all working off the same set of anchor cities. So each, then we divvied up the work to take those -- those -- that data, that information, the information from the -- from the Wisconsin model, and set about doing exactly what USDA did 25 years ago and said, okay, now we have got the science, let's apply the art.

And we used people across each of these regions who understand the milk movements in those regions, understand where the plants are, understand why the model may or may not reflect the full reality of the marketplace, and then began working through, using again, all -- you know, we were all working off the same model, we were all working off the same anchor cities.

And so I can discuss what we did, in general, if you would --



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- Q. If you want to keep doing that, I'm going to cover that later, but I would like to cut you off. I just wonder whether we want to do that narrative and then I -- because --
 - A. Okay. Let me -- let me --
 - Q. Yeah.

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A. -- just simply say, briefly, that we took the anchor cities and the model information and worked through our process in the Southeast and Southwest. We'll get to the detail later.

But, again, each one of these four regions was doing the same work all at the same time. Again, working off the same common set of information, but applying their local information to this.

During this process, we were also going through a couple of other issues or a couple of other, I guess you can almost say academic questions that we needed to -- you know, when we ran the -- or had UW run the model at the \$1.60, we said, okay, that's what we have today, let's run at \$1.60.

Then, again, there were two or three other, maybe perhaps call them lines of inquiry which were occurring at the same time. We had gone back to the proposed rule and the final rule and, you know, dug out the justification for the current \$1.60 minimum differential, or base if you prefer to call it that, and said, okay, can we through research, academic or not, or, you know, our own data or whatever, mirror or redo, re-evaluate those -- that



three-step, three-piece formula that arrived at the \$1.60: The \$0.40 plus the \$0.60 plus the \$0.60.

And so we were working on that. We had one set of folks who were working on the Grade A/Grade B piece. We talked seriously how do we evaluate in a reasonable and appropriate way, defensible way, what the cost of balancing is. And I -- and we pretty quickly realized that balancing is a plant-specific question and probably a regional-specific question. That's a difficult question to answer, and whatever number you came up with would be some average, which may or may not reflect reality in any one part of the world.

So -- and then the other part is, what does it take to shake milk out of manufacturing, and that one's a hard one, too. Particularly, you know, that one's subject to regional supplies and demands.

So, again, we were working through this more or less all the time. We were working on the regional, what we call the colored pencil crews, you know, using that same method that the USDA used 25 years ago, to take the model results and -- and tweak it where we needed to.

As each region worked through the -- well, we were -- as we worked through the Grade A/Grade B piece, we found that that one -- that number approached or exceeded \$2 per hundredweight. We'll hear extensive testimony on how that work was done later.

And so we already had a number that was higher than the \$1.60 just from one element of that previous



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\$0.40 plus \$0.60 plus \$0.60 recipe.

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And then so as the western group worked through -- and that low point, that one spot in Ada County, Idaho, was covered by the western group, or the colored pencil crew. And for some reason, for reasons that they will explain at some point, they realized they actually needed 2.20 at that low point instead of \$1.60.

Now, we didn't change the base, if you will, for zoning out the country because the rest of us were working off of our anchor cities. So when we defined the anchor cities off the \$1.60, that means we were all working off \$1.60. The western group came up with a -- said 2.20 is what they need for whatever price alignment reasons, blend price alignment reasons, they said that the \$1.60 doesn't really work there, and they said, we need 2.20.

Well, we already had Grade A/Grade B cost difference, production difference data, which supported a number at or around \$2. And then we take a look and say, well, as I was saying yesterday, what is it that we -- you know, that the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act is designed to do and how can we help that work? And the incentive to supply Class I is certainly the -- one of the cruxes of the AMAA.

So we -- at the same time, we said, okay, how do we do that? And if we -- and if we can't replicate those 40 plus 60 plus 60, with new numbers, how do we go about finding a justification for our minimum level of differential.



Well, that's -- number one, the western group said they needed 2.20 for price alignment. We ran the analysis that says 2.20 works quite well in terms of minimizing class price inversions, which are a measure that say -- you know, if you get rid of -- or minimize class price inversions, then you have Class I at the highest price class. That's the way you incentivize milk to move to Class I. That's how we arrived at the 2.20. It worked in three different levels: It worked on the Grade A/Grade B piece; it worked for price alignment in that western area, which they will describe later; and it does what we need to do in terms of providing an incentive to move milk to Class I, which is make the Class I price the highest price class.

That serves the story. We did pretty much -we -- we very much, through gillions of meetings, Zooms
and calls and you name it, 40-some-odd people working on
this in various spots either in groups or multiple groups
or multiple regions working together to -- to make all
this fit, we came up with a -- what we believe is a
reasonable and reasoned Class I price surface based on the
precepts that we provided, which was to come up with a
reasonable and reasoned Class I price surface based on the
model science and the local knowledge art. That serves
the story.

- Q. Are you done?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Thank you. Let me go back to my question.



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You have described what you did or what somebody did in Ada County, Idaho, which may or may not match up with reality. Did you in the Southeast/Southwest add that specific \$0.60 to the University of Wisconsin model output?

A. No. We -- they -- the anchor city numbers were based off of the 1.60 run model. And so we started at the anchor cities. And so we did not add 60 more cents because that one piece of geography in Idaho was raised from 1.60 to 2.20, or the model -- I think it may even be wrong to characterize this raised from 1.60. The model said it was 1.60, if you plug in \$1.60 -- but they said they needed 60 more cents than that to make things work up there.

But, no, we did not then go back and say, we need to put 60 more cents in the Southeast and Southwest. I think I -- I'm -- I can say with some safety that some of the -- most of the other regions probably did not also add \$0.60 after that was -- determination was made. But the 2.20 works. It works on several levels, and it was retained.

Q. Are you done?

You acknowledged yourself --

MS. HANCOCK: I don't know what the "are you done" thing is --

THE COURT: I like it. Mr. English is giving Mr. Sims an opportunity to explain, and he's not interrupting him. And before he tries to get his



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questions answered, he's making sure that Mr. Sims has had an opportunity to complete his explanation of that part of the process. I like it, myself.

MS. HANCOCK: Your Honor, I think that you are very generously describing what it is. I think it's very clear that Mr. -- that Mr. Sims has paused at the end of his answer to signal that he's done. And I think it is a snarky way that Mr. English is -- is trying to -- to battle with the witness.

I just think it's really important for this process that we remain respectful of one another, and I don't think it -- I don't think it signals respect for Mr. Sims and what he's trying to explain.

THE COURT: Understood your viewpoint. However, I prefer this to them talking over each other.

Mr. Sims is so dynamic and has so much information that I like this as an orderly method. I don't see it as snarky at all. These two can handle each other just fine.

And you may proceed, Mr. English.

MR. ENGLISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MR. ENGLISH:

- Q. So, now, as you discussed in response to my first question, I think I thought I heard you say you went back to what USDA did 25 years ago, and you did exactly what USDA did 25 years ago; is that correct?
- A. What I said was -- or what I think I said -- was that we used the same methodology that USDA used 25 years ago. That's, take the results of the -- what then was the



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- Cornell model, and then use that as a -- the backbone or the structure, and then apply local knowledge, and tweak those -- those differentials, applying the local knowledge.
 - It's our understanding that that was the procedure USDA used 25 years ago, and we have every reason to believe that was -- that is still appropriate today, and that's the process we used.
 - Q. In that event, I'm going to read one paragraph from the proposed rule dated April 2, 1999, 64 Federal Register, page 16110.
 - Before I do, you recall back then there was a -- two separate options that USDA put up?
- 14 A. I do recall that.
 - Q. Option 1A and Option 1B, correct?
- 16 A. Correct.

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- Q. And USDA, in the proposed rule, selected Option 1B, correct?
- 19 A. That's my recollection, yes.
- Q. And Congress intervened at the end of the year after some lawsuits and said, no, put in Option 1A, correct?
 - A. I don't recall the lawsuit question, but I can say with certainty that Congress told the Secretary to use Option 1A.
 - Q. Okay. So I'm going to avoid reading Option 1B because, for this purpose, it's my view that it is irrelevant. So I'm going to read: Option 1A,



Location-Specific Differentials.

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"Option 1A establishes a \$1.60 per hundredweight fixed differential for three surplus zones (Upper Midwest, West, and Southwest) within a nine-zone national price surface, and for the other six zones, an added location component that reflects regional differences in the value of fluid and manufacturing milk. This option emphasized current supply and demand conditions with the USDSS model output."

Isn't it true, sir, that in simple math, what USDA did is it first said, we're going to have \$1.60, every county in the United States, and to that we will add the model output? Two components, one final number.

- A. I don't know that that's what I interpret from there. If you could read that again, I'll try to listen quite -- as -- more closely than I did last time, although I was trying to listen closely. But please read that to me again.
- Q. Location-Specific Differentials. "Option 1A establishes a \$1.60 per hundredweight fixed differential for three surplus zones (Upper Midwest, West, and Southwest) within a nine-zone national price surface" -- I repeat, national price surface -- "and for the other six zones, an added component that reflects regional differences in the value of fluid and manufacturing milk. This option emphasized current supply and demand conditions with the USDSS model output."
 - A. In my hearing of that, I don't think that's any



different than what we did. The -- when -- when -- when we talked to the now University of Wisconsin USDSS operators, they simply asked us: This model will create some place with a zero zone, but we need a base level or minimum level to apply to that to generate then the model output that is usable as a base for a Class I differential.

We did what they asked us to do. They explained what they needed from us. We provided the \$1.60 because that's what exists today. We then went through our process.

I believe that you could interpret that statement, I don't -- I don't know exactly what they meant by base, I don't know, but I think we did exactly what they did. Or if not exactly, certainly a process that 25 years later with substantially better computing power and a substantially different marketplace, we did procedurally exactly what was done 25 years ago or --

- Q. I guess USDA will know better than any of us what they did 25 years ago. But I'm trying to understand what the point of language is that say, hey, we started with \$1.60 fixed differential and that -- that would establish a national price surface, and then have you say well, no, that \$1.60 was somehow flexible throughout the system.
 - A. Sir, I didn't say it was flexible.
- Q. Well, isn't that what you have done with the \$0.60? It's flexible.
 - A. I beg your pardon?



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- Q. You have admitted --
- A. Okay.

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- Q. -- the \$0.60 was applied in Ada County where there's tons of milk, but you didn't apply the \$0.60 in the Southeast where we have heard weeks and weeks and weeks of testimony that there's not enough milk in the Southeast.
 - A. You are going to need to slow down.
 - Q. Okay. I will. Thank you.

I heard you say that the \$1.60 was the base before the anchor cities analysis was done. And then, basically, the various groups, and we'll hear from the western group, some of them, in the case of the western, added \$0.60, correct? Ada -- in Ada County, they added \$0.60?

A. They added \$0.60 to the -- yes. For that county, they determined that -- that the appropriate -- appropriate Class I differential at that point was 2.20.

THE COURT: I need your help, Mr. Sims.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: When a witness says "they," the witness knows --

THE WITNESS: Ah, yes, ma'am. The western Class I differential working group.

- BY MR. ENGLISH:
- Q. I also heard you testify that \$0.60 was not added in your working group in the Southeast and Southwest, correct?
 - A. We worked off the anchor cities which were built



- off the \$1.60. The need for something above the 1.60 in that area, that could be any number of reasons they determined that. But as I said, when we start looking at the objectives of that low minimum -- or that minimum number, it -- the 2.20 makes a great lot of sense. It solves three problems simultaneously.
 - THE COURT: Thank you. And now answer his question.
 - THE WITNESS: I thought I did.
- 10 THE COURT: Ask it again.
- 11 MR. ENGLISH: Thank you very much, Your Honor.
- 12 BY MR. ENGLISH:

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- Q. My question, sir, was notwithstanding what was
 done up in Idaho, where \$0.60 was added, your group in the
 Southeast decided, we're not going to add that \$0.60,
 correct?
 - A. Our -- our work was off the -- the anchor cities, which were built off the model at 1.60 as the low point.
 - Q. And then my question, sir, is given the weeks of testimony that we have heard about the need for milk in the Southeast, why would you say, we'll not add that 60 to go to 2.20 in the Southeast?
 - A. I -- we followed the model generally in the Southeast based on the 1.60. If --
 - Q. And other parts of the country they deviated from the model to add \$0.60, correct?
 - A. I think that's a reasonable statement. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. Thank you.



1 THE COURT: Let me ask. 2. THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. THE COURT: Mr. Sims, do you know why the working 3 4 part of your organization chose what it chose with regard to that area of the country given the anchor cities? 5 THE WITNESS: They have -- they are going to 6 7 present their own testimony, Your Honor, about how they 8 derived at the differentials that they developed in their 9 region, and that decision on why they felt 2.20 at that 10 area was appropriate, they will explain. They certainly 11 can explain it better than I can. 12 THE COURT: Understood. 13 MR. ENGLISH: Your Honor, I have an exhibit to be 14 marked and distributed that was submitted to USDA around 15 6:00 a.m. this morning, that is entitled Exhibit MIG-30. 16 So it may make sense to both distribute it and have it 17 marked. If you want to go off the record to do that, I'm 18 prepared to do that. 19 THE COURT: And right now it's identified as 2.0 MTG-30? 2.1 MR. ENGLISH: Yes, MIG-30. 22 THE COURT: And it's number will be 322. 23 So let's go off record while the marking and 2.4 distribution is done. 25 We're off record at 8:54. 26 (An off-the-record discussion took place.) 27 (Exhibit Number 322 was marked for 28 identification.)



1 THE COURT: Let's go back on record. We're back 2. on record at 8:56. Mr. English. 3 MR. ENGLISH: Your Honor, what we have had 4 distributed, that was Exhibit MIG-30, and I think off 5 record was marked as Exhibit 322 --6 7 THE COURT: Correct. MR. ENGLISH: -- is a version -- a modified 8 version of Exhibit 301, which was the June submission by 9 10 National Milk Producers Federation, that ran through 11 Column O. 12 And we have created -- and I'll run through what 13 they are -- additional columns. 14 First, just for convenience purposes, we have 15 repeated, in Column Q, the University of Wisconsin average for three years but added \$0.60. So that is to say we 16 17 have taken Column L and we have added \$0.60. 18 And then Column R is if you take the final 19 submission -- and because this is the spreadsheet, 2.0 therefore, it has not been modified for the couple of 2.1 Texas counties that I believe we were told have changed --22 but otherwise, it is what was submitted by National Milk 23 Producers Federation, plus \$0.60. 24 THE COURT: I heard you and I'm looking, but I 25 need you to say again exactly what you said. 26 MR. ENGLISH: I'm sorry. 27 THE COURT: No, don't be sorry.



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MR. ENGLISH: I got -- well, actually, I -- my own

1	copy is not as clear as I thought it was going to be.
2	There's a minus sign.
3	So I'm advised that maybe one of the Texas
4	counties had already been fixed in this, so but that's
5	not the point of the spreadsheet, but I think one of the
6	Texas counties had already been fixed.
7	THE COURT: One of the Texas counties had
8	already
9	MR. ENGLISH: One of the Texas counties had
10	already been fixed, I think.
11	THE COURT: Have been fixed?
12	MR. ENGLISH: In the submission that was made in
13	June. I'm just going to leave the two Texas counties out,
14	because otherwise I'll spend a long time on that.
15	So let me go back to Column Q.
16	THE COURT: Column Q.
17	MR. ENGLISH: Is the University of Wisconsin
18	three-year average from Column L plus \$0.60.
19	Column R is the as-submitted proposed by National
20	Milk, minus there's a little minus sign there the
21	University of Wisconsin three-year average plus \$0.60.
22	Column S
23	THE COURT: Okay. That's what I don't understand.
24	MR. ENGLISH: Okay.
25	THE COURT: I mean, there's a lot I don't
26	understand. But when you say it's their minus plus \$0.60,
27	I I don't follow.
28	MR. ENGLISH: More simply, Your Honor, Column R is



1	Column O minus Column Q. Column O is what was proposed;	
2	Column Q is the three-year average plus \$0.60; and	
3	therefore, Column R is simply the difference between	
4	Column O and Column Q.	
5	Does that help?	
6	THE COURT: Perfectly. Thank you.	
7	MR. ENGLISH: Thank you, Your Honor.	
8	Column S is the May '21 so that is to say	
9	Column F model run plus \$0.60.	
10	And Column T is Column O minus Column S. That is	
11	to say it's the as-submitted proposed minus Column S.	
12	Column U is the October 2021 model estimate. That	
13	is Column G.	
14	THE COURT: Your voice dropped off on estimate.	
15	Say it again.	
16	MR. ENGLISH: Column U is the October '21 model	
17	estimate, which is Column G plus \$0.60.	
18	And finally, Column V, like the others, is	
19	Column O minus Column V; that is to say, it was	
20	as-submitted proposed minus the October model estimate	
21	plus \$0.60.	
22	THE COURT: Okay. Say it again? Because you're	
23	telling us that Column V, like Victor, and then again you	
24	used V. So tell me again?	
25	MR. ENGLISH: Column V	
26	THE COURT: Like Victor?	
27	MR. ENGLISH: like Victor, is Column O minus	
28	Column U. If I said V, it was a mistake. Minus Column U.	



1 THE COURT: I'm with you. 2. MR. ENGLISH: Thank you. THE COURT: Thank you. And you still need to go 3 4 This is very complicated to me. very slowly. MR. ENGLISH: I can tell you in big capital 5 6 letters it says "repeat very slowly." Apparently I did 7 not do it slowly enough. All right. 8 BY MR. ENGLISH: 9 Do you understand that, Mr. Sims? Ο. 10 T think T do. Α. 11 O. Okay. Now, as a predicate question, I want you to 12 pull up Exhibit 300 that you also have. 13 And in 300, you -- National Milk has provided in Column Q a column entitled "Proposed Versus Model 14 15 Average." 16 Do you see that? 17 Α. I do. 18 Do you recall this document? 0. 19 Actually, I don't recall this document, but I Α. 2.0 don't question its existence. 2.1 Q. Okay. 22 But it looks like something that we might have 23 done at that time, yes. 24 And would you agree that if it says "Proposed 25 Versus Model Average, " that is simply a plus or minus from 26 your adjustments from what the model put out for the 27 average, which was Column L, plus or minus, those were 28 your adjustments, correct?



- A. Depending on whether you consider the average or the low point -- or the low side, the -- or the high side, if you make the presum- -- mathematically, that number in Q would represent the average -- the difference between our proposal and the average of the two months of the model results.
- Q. And I didn't create this document. So somebody at National Milk thought that would be appropriate, correct?
 - A. Apparently.

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- Q. Okay. Do you recall in the discussion of Federal Order reform, whether USDA, in discussing the use of the USDSS, said it was going to use the average?
- A. I do not recall that.
- Q. Okay. If they did, would that make sense as a predicate for why Column Q was put in?
 - A. Please ask me that again.
- Q. Since you said that National Milk was following exactly the methodology that USDA used 25 years ago, if it turns out that USDA, 25 years ago, used the average of the USDSS runs, doesn't that connect up?
- A. Number one, I believe we followed the procedure that USDA used. To say that we followed it exactly probably would be a misstatement. But if the -- if indeed they -- they used the average, I can -- I can agree that Q represents the difference between our recommendation and the average -- the model average.
- Q. And I'm sorry if I misheard, but I wrote down as you said it, you used the word "exactly."



- A. Well -- oh, then I should have used the process is virtually the same.
 - Q. Thank you.

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So I'm certainly not going to make you go through the exercise, but if you leaf through Column Q, I think you will quickly see that there are very, very few instances in which Column Q does not have a plus or minus number, correct?

- A. There seems to be more numerals that are different than zero, than zero.
- Q. Would you accept my representation that there's over 2,900 that are other than zero?
 - A. Sure.
 - Q. So the red pencil crews, if you used the model average, adjusted from the model average 2,900 times if you accept my representation, correct?
 - A. Yes. If that number is correct, yes.
 - Q. Okay. So now let's go to what's been marked as Exhibit 322. And I really want to focus just on the average as we just did, so that is Columns Q and R. And I have made this a little easier, because this is in color, to the extent it modifies. So Column R is only highlighted in what I would call light green if it is zero.
 - So if you look at the second page, page 2.
- 26 A. Oh, I'm sorry.
 - O. I'm now on 322.
 - A. Yes. You didn't say to look at page 2.



1	Q. I'm sorry.			
2	So if you look at Row 76, which is Maricopa,			
3	Arizona, also known as Phoenix.			
4	(Court Reporter clarification.)			
5	BY MR. ENGLISH:			
6	Q. You know that's Phoenix because you live in			
7	Arizona?			
8	A. Maricopa County is within the Phoenix metro area.			
9	Q. Okay. So if you look across, on line 76, to			
10	Column R, that has a zero, which means that, in the			
11	instance of Phoenix, that the proposed number from			
12	National Milk minus the University of Wisconsin average			
13	for Column L plus \$0.60 is zero.			
14	All right? Do you see that?			
15	A. Let me			
16	Q. Yeah, sure. Absolutely. Take your time.			
17	A take a second.			
18	Yes.			
19	Q. So you can leaf through and see how many times			
20	there's a green, or we can go to the last page, page 58,			
21	where an additional modification to the document has been			
22	made, including descriptions of columns so we have a			
23	secret decoder ring here now, not so secret, for how the			
24	columns are developed.			
25	And if you look across, from 3111 and Rows 3111			
26	and 3112, you will see difference equals zero, 82. And			
27	that is simply adding up the number of times it was zero			



was 82. Okay?

1	A. Okay.	
2	Q. So	
3	THE COURT: So that I'm looking at Exhibit 322,	
4	page 5F, and the "diff" does not here mean differential?	
5	MR. ENGLISH: No. It means the difference between	
6	O and Q was zero.	
7	THE COURT: Thank you.	
8	MR. ENGLISH: Thank you for that clarity, Your	
9	Honor. This is a difference, not differential. And that	
10	was, you know, lines 3111 and 3112.	
11	BY MR. ENGLISH:	
12	Q. And so since there are 3,108 counties, that means	
13	that in over 3,000 times, assuming \$0.60 had been added to	
14	the model run, that that was also not the final number for	
15	National Milk in over 3,000 instances, correct?	
16	MS. HANCOCK: Excuse me. Your Honor, I would	
17	object to the extent that this isn't this witness's	
18	document. He's I mean, this is 58 pages of Excel	
19	spreadsheets, that if he was going to do the math, he	
20	could do it. I have no doubt that the information is	
21	likely correct, but MIG could put on their own witness to	
22	talk about their own spreadsheet. I don't know that	
23	spending our time with this witness on things that he	
24	can't independently verify is is worthwhile for us.	
25	THE COURT: I disagree. I have appreciated how	
26	Mr. English has been trying to get to the bottom of	
27	things, and every time he's promised "next witness." We	



have got to understand what this data is before we can

appreciate the testimony of the witnesses.

So I disagree. What his questions of this witness is accomplishing is it's giving us all an opportunity to look at what these numbers purport to show. Mr. Sims can catch on a lot quicker than the rest of us.

I think this is a good way to proceed myself.

MS. HANCOCK: Your Honor, I agree with you if we were -- if what we're asking Mr. Sims about is to verify if there was a change from the modelling and that if there's a -- and \$0.60 added or if there's no change at all. But what we're asking him to do is verify their math of their formulas and their spreadsheet, which is 58 pages of 55 lines per page, and whether that 82 times of there being zero change is accurate or not. I don't think that this witness has that knowledge. I don't think he did this calculation of the spreadsheet. So this isn't getting to the bottom of this witness's knowledge, this question in particular that I'm objecting to is getting to whether MIG properly formulated their cells to calculate zero.

THE COURT: That objection I honor. I agree with you. I'm not expecting Mr. Sims to vouch for the accuracy of this document.

And you would have no way to do that, Mr. Sims. But as far as trying to understand what the comparisons of the columns purports to show, I would like you to assume that the information you were shown was accurately calculated. That's still to be determined. All right.



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So -- and thank you. You are absolutely right, Ms. Hancock. It might appear that he's being asked to verify these numbers. And, no, he can't, he didn't produce them.

But by the same token, he didn't produce the proposal about which he is testifying either. He had a part of it, and until we get through all of your witnesses, we won't have all the parts, so...

MR. ENGLISH: Your Honor, I appreciate your ruling, and I appreciate the comments of Ms. Hancock, and I appreciate your clarification.

I think I need to make clear, however, that the spreadsheet really isn't ours. As I represented very clearly, everything through -- up through Column O is what National Milk Producers Federation submitted to USDA in June, and it is the predicate for the proposal.

And ironically, as far as I can tell, National Milk apparently had no intention of putting this document in, so I'm not sure how USDA could have made any decision without understanding where the numbers came from.

I have represented -- and, yes, people can check -- that all we have done in 322 is take 301 and create six new columns. And I have distinctly described how they were created.

And I can say -- and I think people would take this on faith -- that if you look at just the very first row of Row 1, one can do the math and see that my representation of what was done in Columns Q, R, S, T, U,



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V is correct.

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If anybody thinks that in the last 24 hours we had time to enter individual cells for 3,107 other rows, as opposed to do what you do in Excel spreadsheets, which is copy a function and bring it down, I think one can say that the chance of that is as close to zero as you can get.

THE COURT: Thank you.

So for the purpose of the remainder of Mr. English's questions about Exhibit 322, I'm just going to ask you, Mr. Sims, to assume that Columns Q, R, S, T, U, V accurately represent what is claimed. Just assume that.

THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

BY MR. ENGLISH:

- Q. So I'll go back to my question now. And assuming that we haven't altered the functions, and assuming that someone could do a quick calculation of zero, which is another Excel function and, therefore, assuming that the difference, not the differential, as represented in line 3111 and the number "82" in 3112, if you will accept that, sir, that means that in over 3,000 cases, with 3,108 total counties, what National Milk Producers Federation has proposed does not take the model output for the average and add \$0.60, correct?
- A. You are -- I think I disagree with what you just said mathematically. Perhaps you should say it again.



- Q. There are 3,108 counties, correct?
- A. Counties, parishes, and cities.
- Q. Thank you. Counties, parishes, and cities. Thank you for the correction.

There are 82, according to Column R, where if you take the proposal and you subtract the University of Wisconsin three-year average plus \$0.60, you get to zero, if you assume that our calculation is correct.

All right? You got that?

A. Yes.

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- Q. So by simple math, if you subtract 82 from 3,108, that means that in over 3,000 counties, parishes, and cities, the National Milk submitted proposal does not equal the University of Wisconsin average plus \$0.60, correct?
- 16 A. Yes.
 - O. Thank you.
 - MR. ENGLISH: Taking your Honor's comment very seriously, I will move very slowly.

THE COURT: Yes, but you haven't -- looking where we are, you haven't yet taught us what the next number purports to mean, the one that says diff equals zero, 154 times.

MR. ENGLISH: And I was going to spare -- unless everybody really wanted me to do that analysis -- I was going to spare that analysis because I was going to focus on the three-year average.

If we want to go do the May and October or --



1	because that's basically what the Columns T and V are, I	
2	could do that. But, candidly, I made a determination last	
3	night that I was trying to move along although I'm now	
4	up to page 4 of a 40-page outline and I was going to	
5	try to move along. So unless someone really wants to hear	
6	that analysis, I was prepared to skip it.	
7	THE COURT: Well, I think you just told me what I	
8	needed to know. So you are not trying to separate out the	
9	May, you are not trying to separate out the October,	
10	because you have already averaged those two.	
11	MR. ENGLISH: One could do that math, and one	
12	could see what those numbers, and one could argue it on	
13	brief. But I'm not prepared, unless someone wants me to,	
14	to go down that analysis and do that again.	
L5	THE COURT: Understood.	
16	MR. ENGLISH: Your Honor, I could proceed. I'm	
17	going to move through a number of examples	
18	THE COURT: Mr. English?	
19	MR. ENGLISH: Yes.	
20	THE COURT: It's time for a break.	
21	MR. ENGLISH: That's what I thought. That's	
22	exactly where I was going.	
23	THE COURT: Please be back and ready to go at	
24	9:30.	
25	We go off record at 9:20.	
26	(Whereupon, a break was taken.)	
27	THE COURT: Let's go back on record.	
2.8	We're back on record at 9:31	



Mr. English.

MR. ENGLISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MR. ENGLISH:

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Q. So during the break -- first, I need to correct something I was saying. I'm -- my experience with Excel started and ended with the Mac many decades ago, and so I have some trouble sometimes seeing what I'm reading. And so apparently a number of times I have referred to the University of Wisconsin three-year average, when in fact what that means is the version 3, or iteration 3, average.

So there is no three-year average. It's all May, October 2021, and the "v3" that shows up in Column Q, to the extent I apparently did, and I accept the representation, said three-year average, it is not three-year average, it is Version 3, and we have heard that there were three model iterations.

Does that make sense to you, Mr. Sims?

- A. Yes.
- O. Thank you.

I have also received more than one request from participants that I do go through Columns S, T, U, and V, as opposed to what I had intended to do.

So since Your Honor raised the issue, I will do so, although I will try to do so relatively quickly, and am mindful of Ms. Hancock's comment for Mr. Sims to accept that we didn't mess up the spreadsheet in some way.

So similar to what was done in Q and R, but now for Columns S and T, if you go similarly through the



1 | document, you will see items that are labeled in green.

So, for instance, I'm probably going to mispronounce it, Row 80, Pinal County, Arizona.

- A. That is how it's pronounced, Pinal.
- O. I have been there just often enough, so thank you.

So that also is green, which is zero. That is to say that if you take Column O, proposed, and subtract Column S, which is the May model estimate plus \$0.60, that in Column T the difference is zero.

Do you see that?

A. A moment.

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Q. Sure. Absolutely.

THE COURT: So for people who might not have access to a color-coded sheet, what Mr. English has done is he's picked the first page of 322 that has green on it, and that's what he's using to show us here. He's on page 2 of Exhibit 322.

MR. ENGLISH: And, Your Honor, I thank you. In this instance, we did make color copies available to everybody.

THE COURT: Excellent.

MR. ENGLISH: And of course, online it will show up in color as well.

- BY MR. ENGLISH:
 - Q. So now if we go to the last page again, and for those online, to the same row, which is 3111 and 3112, and recognizing the caveat that -- about the math, the difference of zero is 154 counties, correct?



A. Yes.

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- Q. So in something like 2,950 counties, to the extent National Milk could have, or did, look at the May number and add \$0.60, there are adjustments of over 2,900, correct?
 - A. Please restate that again.
- Q. To the extent one could use -- would determine to use the minimum, maybe because it's the minimum pricing system, but use the May, with the exception of Ada County which was higher in October, the difference -- the number of times that National Milk effectively adjusted from May is over 2,900 times, correct?
- THE COURT: Say your number more slowly, just the 3,000 number.
- 15 BY MR. ENGLISH:
- Q. Okay. There's 3,108 counties. According to
 Column T, line 3112, there's 154 instances in which if you
 take Column O and subtract Column S, it is zero.
 - And so if someone were to say, oh, National Milk didn't use the average, National Milk used the May plus \$0.60, then in that instance National Milk made some 2,930 adjustments, correct?
 - A. Presuming the \$0.60 you presumed?
 - O. Yes.
 - A. Yes.

Column V --

- Q. Okay. And so going now to Column U and
- 28 THE COURT: V like Victor.



BY MR. ENGLISH:

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Q. -- V as in Victor, which again, in this case is the October model, Column G, minus -- I'm sorry -- plus \$0.60 -- I'm sorry -- yes, plus \$0.60 -- and if you take that Column U and you subtract Column O -- I'm sorry, you subtract it from Column O, you end up with Column V.

And similarly, if you look through the document, and I'll go to the first one again, looks like everything's Arizona. If you look at line 79 -- I'm sorry, row, not line, Row 79, which is Pima County, Arizona, and you look over to Column V, that's zero, correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And so similarly, going now to Column V, line 3111 and line 3112, assuming our math is correct, the total number of instances in which -- if you took the October model estimate and added \$0.60, matched the proposal, was 95, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And so, again, assuming that someone says, aha,
 National Milk didn't use the average plus 60, National
 Milk didn't use the May plus 60, but instead used the
 October plus 60, then, in over 3,000 instances, National
 Milk made adjustments, correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Thank you.
- So in summary, from our conversation going back also to 320, National Milk could have used the model



average, but it didn't, correct?

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- A. I'm sorry, you said 320?
- Q. Yeah, Exhibit -- I'm sorry, 302. Thank you very much. I was doing my -- I was comparing -- first going back to -- actually, 300.

Going back to our conversation about Exhibit 300 and Column Q. National Milk, from our conversation earlier and accepting my representation that there are fewer than 200 instances in which the proposed matches the model, National Milk could have used the model average, but if it did, it adjusted over 2,900 times, correct?

- A. Please repeat your question.
- Q. National Milk Producers, in submitting its proposal, could have used the model average, but given the fact it -- that when you look at Column Q, there are over 2,900, by my representation, changes in which it's either negative or positive and not zero, that National Milk didn't actually use the model average, correct?
 - A. I don't see that data anywhere.
- Q. It didn't use the model average without adjusting, correct?
 - A. I beg your pardon?
 - Q. From our conversation about Column Q maybe 30, 45 minutes ago, National Milk Producers Federation, if it used the model average, made over 2,900 adjustments, correct?
 - A. I think I accepted your representation on that earlier, and I will continue to accept that



1	representation.			
2	Q. Okay. And as we have just discussed, in			
3	Columns R, T, and V, National Milk could have used			
4	THE COURT: On what document?			
5	MR. ENGLISH: I'm sorry, 322. Thank you very			
6	much, Your Honor.			
7	And thank you, Mr. Sims.			
8	BY MR. ENGLISH:			
9	Q. As we have just finished discussing about			
10	Exhibit 322, Columns R, T, and V, and recognizing			
11	Ms. Hancock's caveat, and that you are assuming our			
12	calculations are correct, National Milk could have used			
13	the average from University of Wisconsin plus \$0.60, but			
14	given the number of instances in which it didn't, you			
15	didn't use that?			
16	A. Correct.			
17	Q. And similarly, National Milk could have used the			
18	May numbers plus \$0.60, but given the number of instances			
19	National Milk didn't, you didn't do that, correct?			
20	A. Correct.			
21	Q. And finally, in Column V, National Milk could have			
22	used the October model estimates plus \$0.60, but given the			
23	number of instances in which it didn't, it didn't do that,			
24	correct?			
25	A. Correct.			
26	Q. Thank you.			



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I want to you find Row 1250, Marquette County, Michigan.

All right. I'm going to stay on Exhibit 322. And

1	THE COURT: Your voice dropped off. What?		
2	MR. ENGLISH: Marquette County, Michigan.		
3	You're absolutely right, Your Honor. The size of		
4	the spreadsheet I try to leaf through causes me to move		
5	away from the microphone.		
6	THE WITNESS: Did you say 1250?		
7	MR. ENGLISH: 1250, yes.		
8	THE WITNESS: Yes.		
9	MR. ENGLISH: Which is Marquette, Michigan.		
10	THE COURT: I know it was explained yesterday,		
11	Mr. English, but I can't recall why it looks like this is		
12	line 1250, but then the next number says 1249?		
13	MR. ENGLISH: Yes, Your Honor. That that I		
14	will explain.		
15	First of all, I am advised is the polite		
16	word by someone much more familiar, that it's called		
17	row, not line.		
18	THE COURT: Ah.		
19	MR. ENGLISH: So I will just say that that I		
20	think I got Mr. Rosenbaum using the wrong term, and now		
21	have you using the wrong term, and I take full		
22	responsibility because that is on me.		
23	So but it is Row 1250, because when the		
24	spreadsheet it has going up and down, row numbers, and		
25	as it turns out on the very first page, the first row is		
26	the heading row, you know, ID, County, State, Full State.		
27	THE COURT: Ah.		



MR. ENGLISH: And so when you get to Column A,

because the first row is the headings, then Column A is always one number off.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. ENGLISH: Well, believe me, when I was first dealing with the spreadsheets over the weekend, I had the absolute identical issue. So actually I think it's good for the record. And I'm trying very hard, I have a big note that says "row, column."

BY MR. ENGLISH:

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10 Q. So Row 1250, Marquette, Michigan, which is FIPS 11 code 26103.

And do you know, sir, whether there is a Dairy Farmers of America plant called Country Fresh there?

- A. I do not know that.
- Q. So in Column L, the average from the University of Wisconsin third run, third run, under Column L, is \$3.05, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. If you go to 0, the proposed number is \$2.80, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And if you took -- if one were to take the average under Column L, which is 3.05, and add the \$0.60, which is Column Q, it would actually have been \$3.65, correct?
 - A. 3.05 plus .6 is 365 -- 3.65, yes.
- Q. Okay. And so National Milk Producers' proposal for a county that I represent has a cooperative-owned plant owned by Dairy Farmers of America, is if you compare



- Column O to Column Q, as represented in Column R, \$0.85
- 2 | less than that number, correct?
- A. 3.65 minus 2.8 equals negative -- or -- excuse me,
- 4 | 2.8 minus 3.65 would equal negative .85, yes.
- Q. And moreover, whether or not one looks at May or
- 6 October, or the average, the proposal for this particular
- 7 | location at 2.80 is lower than all of those numbers,
- 8 | correct?
- 9 A. I would agree that 2.80 -- 2.80 is less than 3.6
- 10 | and is also less than 3.7.
- 11 Q. Thank you.
- 12 So now let's go to row 1335, Norman County,
- 13 | Minnesota, FIPS code 27107, which is on the next page,
- 14 | conveniently.
- 15 A. Say that again, please.
- 16 O. Of course.
- 17 A. That row number?
- 18 Q. I'm getting there. I'm sorry. I was moving my
- 19 | document.
- 20 It's Row 1335, Norman County, Minnesota, FIPS code
- 21 27107.
- 22 Do you see that?
- 23 A. I do.
- 24 | Q. And if we go to the Column L, that shows \$2.20
- 25 | from the model average, correct?
- 26 A. Yes.
- Q. And in this instance, the proposal under Column O
- 28 is 2.80, correct?



A. Yes.

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- Q. And so as it happens, pursuant to my conversation earlier, under Column R this is one of those instances, because it's colored at zero, that the proposal, if you take the model plus \$0.60, actually is the same as proposed, correct?
 - A. 2.2 plus .6 would equal 2.8.
 - Q. And that is the same as proposed, correct?
 - A. Yes.

THE COURT: You know, this is very helpful for those of us who are looking at the spreadsheet. If someone is reading the transcript, they don't know you are talking dollars and cents.

I don't know, maybe it's just not worth saying dollars and cents every time, but I just want you to be aware, I do not know how 280 types, but it probably does not look like \$2.80.

MR. ENGLISH: It's a fair correction, Your Honor, and my own outline has the dollar sign in it, so I'm shortcutting.

So I think you would agree, for the last two examples, we have been talking about dollars, correct?

THE WITNESS: I would further state, dollars per hundredweight.

MR. ENGLISH: Thank you. Dollars per hundredweight. I will, as with row, try to act accordingly.

And thank you, Your Honor.



BY MR. ENGLISH: 1 2. All right. Now, I'd like to look at Row 2181, Coos County, Oregon, FIPS code 41011. 3 4 I'm sorry, you are going to have to go slower than that, sir. 21- --5 Yes, 2181. 6 Ο. 7 Α. Okay. THE COURT: So you have a page number handy, 8 9 right? 10 MR. ENGLISH: Well, I will in a second, Your 11 Honor. 12 Yes, it's page 41. 13 THE COURT: Thank you. 14 BY MR. ENGLISH: 15 Ο. And so I said it was Coos County, Oregon, FIPS code 41011. 16 17 And, sir, if you look at Column L --18 Α. Yes. -- the average, we're looking at \$1.90 per 19 2.0 hundredweight, correct? 2.1 Α. Yes. 22 And if you look at the proposed in Column O, we're 23 at \$3 per hundredweight, correct? 24 Α. Yes. 25 And if you took -- if you look at Column Q, and 26 you took the model average and added \$0.60 per 27 hundredweight, you end up at \$2.50 per hundredweight, 28 correct?



- A. If you are adding \$1.90 per hundredweight and \$0.60 per hundredweight and coming up with \$2.50 per hundredweight?
 - Q. Yes.

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- A. I agree.
- Q. And that happens to be Column Q, correct? The same number that's in Column Q?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And if you then compare that Column Q to Column O, if you look at Column R, the proposal is \$0.50 more than the University of Wisconsin average plus \$0.60, correct?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. And if we go now -- and I will slow down, because I've got to back up -- Row 942. Row 942 is Sedgwick,

 S-E-D-G-W-I-C-K, Kansas, FIPS code 20173.
 - Do you see that?
- 17 A. I do.
- Q. And if you look at Column O -- sorry -- Column L, for Sedgwick, Kansas, the University of Wisconsin average would be \$2.95, correct?
- 21 A. Per hundredweight, yes.
- Q. Yes, per hundredweight. Thank you very much.

 \$2.95 per hundredweight, correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. And the proposal is \$3.85 per hundredweight, correct?
- 27 A. Correct.
- Q. Which means if you look at Column R, the proposed



- is \$0.30 more than the University of Wisconsin average plus \$0.60, correct?
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. I am, for now, done with Exhibit --
- THE COURT: Don't make noise on the podium because it's magnified by the microphone.
- MR. ENGLISH: I apologize, Your Honor. I was trying to put the document --
 - THE COURT: Understood. I know we don't give you the space, and we don't give you the surface.
- MR. ENGLISH: I am temporarily putting aside
 Exhibit 322, and I'm going now back to Exhibit 300.
- 13 BY MR. ENGLISH:
- Q. And maybe I will need to shortcut this a little bit because I think -- have you said you haven't really reviewed this document before, sir?
 - A. I do not recall having seen this document.
 - Q. Do you know who produced Exhibits 300 and 301?
- 19 A. If I haven't seen it, I certainly don't know who 20 created it.
 - Q. But it was produced by National Milk Producers Federation, correct?
 - A. Apparently.
- Q. And as described in earlier testimony, you were the chair of the colored pencil crews?
- 26 A. I was chair of the Class I differential 27 development --
 - Q. Okay.



- -- working group. 1 Α. 2. Ο. All right. So you were chair of the working group, and you are telling me that until today -- or 3 4 earlier, maybe yesterday -- you had not seen Exhibits 300 or 301? 5 Α. I said I don't recall seeing it. 6 7 Ο. All right. 8 There were -- I don't recall seeing this one. Α. 9 Okay. And yet you were the chair of the Class I Ο. 10 working group, correct? 11 Α. As I just testified. 12 THE COURT: Mr. English, you are more familiar 13 with this document than the rest of us. Is there a date 14 that is on it? 15 MR. ENGLISH: Well, we only know, Your Honor, that 16 it showed up on the website in May, the USDA website in 17 May, so I don't know --18 THE COURT: In May of 2023? 19 MR. ENGLISH: May of 2023. 2.0 THE COURT: Thank you. 2.1 MR. ENGLISH: Yes. It was submitted, I believe, 22 some time after the actual proposal was submitted. 23 do not know what day. You know, we -- we know because we 24 checked the website fairly frequently, but I cannot tell 25 you what day either Exhibit 300 showed up or Exhibit 301. 26 THE COURT: Thank you.
- 28 BY MR. ENGLISH:

MR. ENGLISH: I simply do not know.

	NATIONAL I	EDERAL MILA MARKETING ORDER PRICING FORMULA REARING	
1	Q.	If I represented to you, without going through	
2	every i	nstance, but let's look at Row 1643.	
3		This is an example, look at 1643, which is Dakota,	
4	Nebraska, and you look at Column O, you see \$3.00 per		
5	hundredweight under Column O.		
6	A.	It would be L6 1643?	
7	Q.	Yes.	
8	A.	Yes. It says \$3.00.	
9	Q.	And that column is labeled "Proposed Class I,"	
10	correct?		
11	Α.	Yes.	
12	Q.	Can you explain, if you go to Column S, it says	
13	"New Proposal," and it says \$2.80.		
14		Do you see the \$2.80?	
15	Α.	I do.	
16	Q.	Can you explain the difference between Column O	
17	and Column S?		
18	A.	That's \$0.20 per hundredweight.	
19	Q.	Can you explain I'm sorry, I was imprecise.	
20		Why is there a difference?	
21	Α.	Apparently there was, at one point again, this	
22	would h	have been a region other than the Southeast and	
23	Southwest there must have been some discussion that		
24	resulte	ed in a \$0.20 reduction from a previous proposal.	
25	Q.	You said that there were joint meetings at some	
26	point.		
27		Do you recall any discussion about these changes	



in other regions?

- A. I do not recall this specific discussion, and I don't -- I don't recall any regarding Nebraska, personally.
 - Q. And I am for now going to put aside Exhibit 300.

 THE COURT: Yay.

BY MR. ENGLISH:

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- Q. So looking now at Exhibit 318, which was your PowerPoint presentation yesterday.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And looking at page 44, which, as you said the slides got taken out of order, so it's before page 42, but page 44, which is the "Class I Differential Development Process"?
- 14 A. Yes.
 - Q. Who, precisely, were the members of the Northeast/Mideast/Middle Atlantic colored pencil crew?
 - A. I don't recall the -- each individual that was -- that's worked on these processes of each of these committees. Other than probably the Southeast/Southwest, I could probably name them. But the rest of them, no.
 - Q. Even yet though you were the chair of the Class I working group, you don't remember the names?
 - A. I don't remember all their names.
 - Q. Well, what names do you remember for the persons who were members of the regional colored pencil crew for the Northeast, Mideast, and Middle Atlantic?
 - A. I have to pause a moment. Certainly Mr. Erba was involved in the Northeast and the Mideast -- excuse me --



the Mideast. Mr. John in the Middle Atlantic. 1 Ms. Reel 2. in the Northeast. Mr. Gallagher in the Northeast. Probably Mr. Alexander, Ms. Krazinsky (sic). 3 I'm sorry, who? 4 Ο. Jodi, I don't --5 Α. 6 Q. Okay. 7 I won't be able to spell her last name. She's with Ayahuasca -- or Upstate Niagara, 8 9 correct? 10 Yes. I believe, yes. I believe she would have Α. been involved. 11 12 THE COURT: Would you pronounce her last name 13 again? THE WITNESS: I believe it's pronounced Krazinsky, 14 15 but I may be --16 THE COURT: That's starting with a "G" you think? 17 THE WITNESS: With a K. 18 MS. HANCOCK: K-R-Z-S-I-A-K (sic). 19 THE COURT: K-R-Z-S --2.0 MS. HANCOCK: -- I-A-K. 2.1 THE WITNESS: I really messed that up. That 22 doesn't come out Krazinsky, does it? 23 THE COURT: And which area was she associated in? 24 THE WITNESS: Northeast. 25 THE COURT: Thank you. 26 BY MR. ENGLISH: 27 Ο. Anyone else you can recall? 28 Α. I believe Mr. Smith would have been involved in

NATIONAL FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER PRICING FORMULA HEARING 1 the Middle Atlantic area. 2. Ο. First name? Α. Jason. 3 Thank you. 4 Ο. And who is he with? 5 6 Α. Maryland Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association. 7 8 Anyone else you can recall? Ο. 9 I think that's the limit of my recollection. Α. 10 Thank you, sir. Ο. 11 So turning to the Upper Midwest and Central 12 orders, to the extent you can recall, who was involved? 13 Mr. Hoeger. For the moment I'm drawing a blank. Α. 14 All right. Okay. Southeast/Southwest? 0. 15 I was involved. Mr. John from -- that we Α. 16 mentioned earlier. We had people who served on more than 17 one, particularly where there was overlap. This is a 18 group of well over 40 people across all four of them, 19 so --2.0 Ο. Well, I understand. But, again, for the record, 2.1 I'm trying to understand who was involved. 2.2 Α. Yes. Mr. Yates. 23 Mr. Who? 0. 2.4 Α. Yates. 25 Ernie Yates? O. 26 Mr. Hoeger, Mr. Covington. Let me think. Α. Yes.



Q.

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Okay. And what about the West, if you can recall?

That's all I can recall at the moment.

- Well, let me pause a moment. Mr. Butcher. Α.
- Ο. I'm sorry?

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- Butcher. And I'll pause. Give me a moment. Α.
- 4 I'm -- some names are escaping me.
- THE COURT: And, Mr. Sims, at any time you 5 remember additional people, you are welcome --6
- 7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- THE COURT: -- upon remembering -- that's how our 8 9 minds work. If you weren't focused on this, things will 10 float up. And I would like you to, when you recall, to 11 just state what you have recalled, no matter what we're
- 13 THE WITNESS: I will. Thank you.
- 14 THE COURT: Thank you.
- 15 BY MR. ENGLISH:

talking about.

- 16 I don't want to spend a lot of time on it, but Ο. 17 each regional colored pencil crew also had areas of 18 unregulated territory to develop.
- Would it be fair to say that would be sort of like 2.0 the unregulated territory closest or more linked --
- 2.1 Α. Yes.
- 22 Ο. -- to an area?
- 23 That would be correct. Α.
- So, for instance, Idaho would have been the West, 24 Ο. 25 correct?
 - Α. Yes, sir.
- 27 Ο. So was there a central meeting of this group prior 28 to people going off and doing their own work?



- A. A smaller subset of this group.
- Q. Okay. Fine.

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- A. The central meeting would have been when we established the anchor cities process.
- Q. So I'm intrigued by the anchor cities concept. Those are points of demand, correct?
 - A. Generally, I believe, yes.
- Q. Haven't -- hasn't USDA in the past, when it's done this analysis, started with points of supply?
- 10 A. I don't know that that's apples and oranges.
 - We -- we developed these anchor cities because of their location. They represent cities along the border, more or less, where these regions begin or abut with each other.
 - Q. Did you, when looking at the anchor cities, say, we also want to compare where the reserve supply comes from for those locations?
 - A. We might have considered that at the time, yes, in developing the anchor city recommendation.
 - Q. Do you recall actually doing that?
- 21 A. I believe we did make some mention to where -- how 22 the milk moves for some of those.
 - Q. So other than the anchor cities, what other sort of principles, if any, were agreed to for the groups to follow?
 - A. Generally, we certainly agreed that our Class I differential surface should represent a traditional Class I differential surface. It should represent some



slope from reserve supply areas to areas of need. It needed to represent a sufficient level of price to encourage the milk to move, those kinds of principles.

- O. Other central principles?
- A. That we --

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- Q. As a group.
- A. As a group? That we tried to mirror -- I won't say exactly, that was -- if I said that, it was a mistake earlier -- we would try to mirror USDA's process from order reform. Take the model, use the model, and then tweak it as appropriate.

Mr. Vandenheuvel in the West.

O. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: And you're right, Your Honor, it just popped in my head.

THE COURT: I understand.

BY MR. ENGLISH:

- Q. Is your definition of tweaking the model making changes to over 2,900 model results?
 - A. We tweaked the model.
- Q. So I don't want to dwell on it, but I do want to go back briefly to the conversation we had about the \$2.20 base differential, and this question really comes and springs from probably my own confusion looking at the testimonies. And I believe the answer to this question is going to be no, but what I believe doesn't matter.
- When you discussed \$2.20 base differential, the \$0.60 increase, is hauling included in that in any way?



- A. Again, sir, you are mischaracterizing the base differential.
- Q. Okay, the fixed differential. Let's use the term fixed --
- A. You are mischaracterizing fixed differential. We established the differentials off the 1.60, and then after that, in that area, we raised the differential from 1.60 to 2.20 for the reasons we described earlier.
- Q. And did those reasons you described earlier include hauling in any way?
- A. No. They were the Grade A/Grade B, the -- well, I'm going to pause. I can't speak to how or why the -- that -- the entirety of the reasons for that area feeling like they needed to increase that differential in that area from 1.60 to 2.20. But certainly the 2.20 matches our need to eliminate or certainly minimize inversions. It also represents the Grade A/Grade B difference in --

THE COURT: In what?

THE WITNESS: In production cost. I did slur my words. Milk production cost.

21 BY MR. ENGLISH:

- Q. Okay. So as far as you know, at least as I have read -- that's why I assumed the answer was no, and again, I could be confused. But as far as you know, and the justifications you gave me earlier -- and we apparently disagree on what this thing is called -- hauling costs were not part of that calculation, correct?
 - A. I can't speak -- it would be wrong for me to say



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- Q. Well, my question was as far as you know.
- A. As far as I know, no.
- Q. Thank you. All right. Let's talk about the anchor cities.

Partly on page -- well, 42 is the heading, and then page 43 on Exhibit 318 -- sorry, Exhibit 318, page 43, the map. So slightly ahead of myself.

But on page 22 of your testimony, 310, you describe the selection of the 19 anchor cities, and I believe Dr. Erba, in his testimony, described it as a spine. Is that a fair characterization?

- A. I wouldn't disagree with that characterization.
- Q. And these anchor cities establish the relative level from which regional subgroups could branch out and discuss increasing or decreasing the USDSS generated Class I values using their knowledge plus the specific local conditions?
- A. Tweaking would include both increases and decreases, yes.
- Q. Has this approach of using a spine of anchor cities been used to adjust the USDSS model in the past?
 - A. I don't know.
- Q. I realize we're going to hear from you later on part 3, but in the Southeast hearing, which is the only time since Federal Order reform the Class I differentials have been modified, were anchor cities used in that instance?



- A. In a manner, yes.
- Q. In the same manner, sir?
 - A. Probably not.

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- Q. Isn't it true that you used reserve supply locations in that instance?
- A. We used reserve supply areas and destination cities, processing cities, distances between those two.
- Q. But you started off in discussing with USDA, as noting at that time, as I recall, five potential reserve supply centers, correct?
 - A. Yes. And associated destination centers.
- Q. We'll get back to that in a moment.
- Who was it who decided to use anchor cities approach?
- A. The group found that that probably -- as we were meeting, I guess we kind of came to a collective decision that we needed someplace to start in each region, and this -- and since each region was responsible for its own -- developing its own differential surface, of course, coordinated nationally at the -- to make sure we had a -- a proper location adjustment structure, we decided this was a good way to do it. It would have been a collective decision.
- Q. Did you have written parameters for how these were set up?
- A. No, not that I recall. There -- the premise
 was -- is just as I described, they were cities along the
 borders.



- Q. So looking at page 43 of Exhibit 318, what border is Denver attached to?
 - A. I believe that is Order 32. Is that the question you are asking?
 - Q. What -- I was asking in terms of a border. I said border.
 - A. Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you said order.
 - Q. And I can understand. I said border.
 - A. That was somewhere -- Denver would represent a place where the Midwest and the West got kind of close.
- 11 Q. "Close" meaning? How many miles given the fact
 12 that there's, you know, a whole row of states with the
 13 Great Plains in between?
- A. I don't think we -- I don't recall us using a ruler and -- and defining a particular mileage limit or parameter.
 - Q. So there's no anchor city west and north of Denver, correct?
- 19 A. Well, it depends on whether you call San Francisco 20 west of Denver. You say west and north?
- 21 Q. West and north, yes.
- 22 A. Then, no.
- Q. So since there were no anchor cities in the Pacific Northwest, what was their assignment?
- A. To develop a Class I price surface based on the supply and demand circumstances, milk movement circumstances, and the methodology results.
 - Q. Without an anchor city, correct?



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- A. They would have used -- probably could have used Denver. They could have used -- they may have developed their own anchor city.
- Q. Because each committee was assigned its own process and its own result, correct?
- A. They were -- they were autonomous except for the obvious need for national -- a rational national Class I price surface.
- Q. And a rational national Class I price surface included adding \$0.60 in the West, such as Ada County, Idaho, but not adding it in the Southeast, correct?
 - A. We developed the price surface that you see.
- Q. So leaving aside the West -- I'm sorry -- the Pacific Northwest, the 19 anchor cities were the basis then for the rest of the proposed differentials and adjustments; is that correct?
- A. They were the starting point.
- Q. Okay. How did National Milk Producers Federation determine the differentials for the 19 anchor cities?
- A. We reviewed the model results. We had it all in front of us. I believe at that point we had version 2. Used that heavily and worked through the process.
 - O. I think it is time for another exhibit.
- MR. ENGLISH: Your Honor, this is -- it's only one page this time. It's not -- I mean, it has been submitted as an Excel spreadsheet as MIG-31.
 - THE COURT: So you say this is MIG?
- 28 MR. ENGLISH: 31.



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1 THE COURT: 31. 2. MR. ENGLISH: Also submitted first thing this 3 morning. 4 THE COURT: You slept well, didn't you? MR. ENGLISH: I think the facial expression on the 5 6 person who just walked by expresses who really worked on 7 this. 8 THE COURT: I believe this will be Exhibit 323. (Exhibit Number 323 was marked for 9 10 identification.) THE COURT: Exhibit 323, also MIG-31, is being 11 12 marked. I note that it's about 10:23. I'm looking now at 13 Exhibit 323. It is one page. It is also known as Exhibit MTG-31. 14 15 Mr. English, you may proceed. 16 MR. ENGLISH: Thank you. 17 BY MR. ENGLISH: 18 So first, I'm -- as discussed by Your Honor, as Ο. 19 much sleep as I have had, I'm a little confused. Did I 2.0 hear correctly there are 19 anchor cities? 2.1 I think we may have dropped one or added one. Α. 22 It's 19 or 18. 23 All right. Because I was looking at this exhibit, 24 sir, and I said, oh, there's only 18; what did I leave 25 out? 26 I think we eliminated one at some point that 27 wasn't -- it wasn't necessary. 28 Q. Okay. Well, which one did you eliminate, if you



1 recall? 2. Α. One in the Midwest, and I now don't remember. All right. That's fine. If -- if -- if it comes 3 Ο. 4 to you, again, like the others --T will. 5 Α. 6 Ο. All right. Thank you. 7 All right. So what has been marked as 8 Exhibit 323 -- and I did count, by the way, 318, page 43, 9 and I came up with 18, which made my head hurt a little 10 less. So this is -- using the spreadsheet again, I 11 represent, and I represent to you, again, you can assume 12 that the -- what's on here is accurate for the purposes of 13 these questions, and if it is wrong, it is wrong, but we 14 can always compare. This is the 18 anchor cities that 15 appear on Exhibit 318, page 43, listed from the 16 spreadsheet. 17 MR. ENGLISH: So this is just my way of 18 explanation, Your Honor, for the -- for everybody in room. 19 THE COURT: Listed from which spreadsheet? 20 MR. ENGLISH: I believe it is 301. I am correct. 2.1 So it's the June submission, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: Thank you. 23 MR. ENGLISH: What was known as MIG-29, 24 Exhibit 301, which is the -- so I'm -- it is pointed out to me that there's a legend in the bottom left. And so 25 26 the legend has --27 THE COURT: Ah, it shows us --



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MR. ENGLISH: -- a column and the source.

1	THE COURT: the source.
2	MR. ENGLISH: And so we know that for the row of
3	this document, the reference is Exhibit 301.
4	The anchor city, as I have just indicated, the
5	source is Exhibit 318, page 43.
6	The county is Exhibit 301, Column B.
7	The state is Exhibit 301, Column C.
8	The FIPS code, F-I-P-S, is Exhibit 301, Column E.
9	FMO, Federal Marketing order, is Exhibit 301,
10	Column N.
11	Current is Exhibit 301, Column I.
12	University of Wisconsin version 3 average is
13	Exhibit 301, Column L.
14	Proposal Number 19 is Exhibit 301, Column O.
15	And then the difference is the only calculated
16	number on this document, and that is the difference
17	calculated Proposal Number 19 minus the University of
18	Wisconsin average for the third iteration.
19	THE COURT: That is very useful. All exhibits
20	should show their source like this.
21	MR. ENGLISH: I thank my very hard working team,
22	or in this particular instance, one person, Ms. Keefe.
23	BY MR. ENGLISH:
24	Q. So would you agree that have you had a chance
25	to look at this, Mr. Sims, while I went through it, and
26	can you confirm that the 18 anchor cities that we have
27	listed on Exhibit 323 is the are the same as
28	Exhibit 318, page 43?



- A. Without going place by place, they certainly look familiar.
- Q. Okay. So what I tried to do here is a similar process that we went through a little earlier, and I was trying to see what would happen if you took the University of Wisconsin average and the proposal. And the difference was intended to see, not just what those differences were, but whether and how in any instance what would happen if you added \$0.60.

And so would you agree with me that if you look at the difference, which is the last column, the only location, there's an anchor city, Phoenix, Maricopa,

- 13 Arizona, where the difference is \$0.60?
- 14 A. Positive 60.
- 15 | O. Yes.

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- 16 A. I believe that. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Thank you for positive 60, because there's a negative 60 for Chicago, correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Since these are the anchor cities, how come so much deviation was necessary even when you did the start --
- 23 A. I beg your pardon?
- 24 (Court Reporter clarification.)
- 25 BY MR. ENGLISH:
- Q. How much deviation was necessary at the starting gate with the anchor city numbers?
 - A. I'm sorry.



- Q. Didn't you say -- and maybe if -- if I missed it, I apologize -- but didn't you say that the group got together and agreed not only the anchor cities, but the anchor city numbers?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. So since the group got together and decided what the anchor city numbers were, what led the group to conclude that there would be a variation from, for instance, minus \$0.60 from the model versus the proposal to a plus \$0.80 from the model to the proposal?
- A. You are comparing here the Proposal 19 number to the UW version 3 average, correct?
 - O. Yes.
- A. One of the reasons would be that the group that established the anchor cities recommendations -- and I would call them tentative recommendations -- was a small subset of the individuals who actually worked on the price surfaces in the various regions. That itself would represent a possibility of adjustment.
- Q. Can you tell me today the specific reasons why the deviation in the difference column ranges from a minus \$0.60 cents for Chicago, Illinois, to a positive \$0.80 in San Francisco, California?
- A. The Proposal 19 numbers represent the work of the regional committees.
- Q. Well, I thought you also said that this was a starting point that you as a group made when you set up the anchor cities.



- NATIONAL FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER PRICING FORMULA HEARING 1 Α. Yes, but this doesn't include the anchor city 2. number. What do you mean "doesn't include" -- isn't the Ο. 3 4 Proposal 19 the anchor city number? We made some adjustments from the -- some 5 adjustments from those -- from the model, and I believe it 6 7 was model version 2 at that time. But again, version 2 8 and version 3 were -- were remarkably similar. 9 So you are saying the anchor city group made their Ο. decisions at the version 2 base? 10 11 Again, we shouldn't -- we shouldn't take Α. Yes. anchor as it's immovable. 12 13 Well, what exactly was anchor? Ο. 14 It just -- that was a word we just chose. Α. 15 couldn't find another one that I liked. How's that? 16 Just like the numbers were just what you chose? Q. 17 THE COURT: We need a break. Let's come back at 18 We go off record at 10:33. 10:45. 19 And you need not answer that last question. 2.0 (Whereupon, a break was taken.) 2.1 THE COURT: Let's go back on record. 22 We're back on record at 10:47. 23 Mr. English. 24 MR. ENGLISH: Thank you, Your Honor. 25 BY MR. ENGLISH:

Q.

derived from Exhibit 318, page 43.

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Mr. Sims, going back to Exhibit 323, which was

In determining -- first of all, let me back up.

1	When we look at 323, will you agree with me that
2	if you go to the last column, difference, and assuming
3	that our math is correct, which there isn't a whole lot of
4	it on there, that of the 18 anchor cities, only two,
5	Charleston and Nashville, had no deviations sorry,
6	three, I can't even read anymore so Charleston,
7	Winchester, and Nashville, would you agree that only three
8	have no deviation?
0	7

- Α. No deviation from the --
- 10 From the --Ο.
- 11 -- Wisconsin version 3 average? Α.
- 12 Ο. Yes.

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- The Proposal 19 final proposal number does not Α. deviate from the University of Wisconsin version 3 average in three cities.
- 16 Ο. Okay. Was there an algorithm to determine what 17 these variations would be in these 18 anchor cities?
 - An algorithm? You mean a mathematical algorithm? Α.
- 19 Yes. Ο.
- 2.0 Α. No.
- 2.1 Absent a mathematical algorithm, what principles Q. 22 applied?
 - Again, the local knowledge of the -- in the marketplace, the way milk moves, the limitations to the way milk moves, the knowledge of the plants and the supplies, and where reserve supplies are.
 - Ο. So let's start with Dubuque County, Iowa, which is in the middle of the page --



1		THE COURT: All right. We're on Exhibit 323, and
2	you war	nt to us look at Row
3		MR. ENGLISH: Well, it's labeled Row 787, even
4	though	it's but that's from the spreadsheet. Dubuque,
5	Iowa, a	and I want to look at the fact that if you look at
6	the Un:	iversity of Wisconsin average at 315
7		THE COURT: \$3.15?
8		MR. ENGLISH: \$3.15, thank you very much, Your
9	Honor -	not only does it not go up to 3.75, which would
10	mean ac	dding \$0.60, it goes down \$0.15, correct?
11		THE WITNESS: \$3.00 per hundredweight is \$0.15
12	less th	nan \$3.15 per hundredweight.
13	BY MR.	ENGLISH:
14	Q.	So National Milk Producers Federation proposes a
15	modific	cation for Dubuque to the model by subtracting \$0.15
16	from th	ne model, correct?
17	А.	Yes.
18	Q.	Thank you.
19		Are you aware there's a cooperative Class I
20	process	sing plant there owned by Prairie Farms Dairies?
21	А.	I I think I'm I'm vaguely aware of that,
22	yes.	
23	Q.	Prairie Farms is a member of National Milk,
24	correct	t?
25	А.	Yes.
26	Q.	If I look at Davison County, Tennessee
27		THE COURT: So what row number?
28		MP FNGLIGH: I'm gorry it's labeled it's



1 really Nashville. 2. THE WITNESS: It's Nashville. 3 MR. ENGLISH: Thank you. Row 2414. THE COURT: Yes, I see it now. 4 BY MR. ENGLISH: 5 6 Ο. Anchor city's Nashville. 7 In that instance, the model average and the proposal are the same, correct? 8 9 Α. Yes. And do you know that Dairy Farmers of America owns 10 11 a Class I facility known as DFA Prairie Dairies there? 12 Α. Yes. 13 If we look at Winchester, Kentucky, which I 0. 14 believe is Clark County --15 Α. Yes. 16 -- the model average was 4.45, and the proposal is Ο. 17 4.60, correct? 18 Α. Yes. 19 And there's an increase of \$0.15, correct? 0. 2.0 Α. The proposal exceeded the average of the two-month 2.1 model runs by \$0.15, yes. 22 And you know that Kroger owns a Class I processing 23 plant in Clark County, which is that location, correct? 24 Α. I'm aware. 25 And if I go down to Phoenix, as we have already 26 discussed is Maricopa County, line -- I'm sorry, row --27 Row 76, Your Honor -- the University of Wisconsin average 28 is \$2.40.



And in this instance, as we have already discussed, it happens that \$0.60 was added, and so the proposal is \$3.00, correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And are you aware that there are a number of proprietary operators of Class I plants in Maricopa County?
- A. I don't know the number off the top of my head, but there are a number of plants in Maricopa County.
 - Q. Do you know if Fairlife has a plant there?
- A. I don't know if it's Maricopa or the next one over, but it is in that -- it is in -- I will say -- I will confirm that I believe the Fairlife plant is in -- in or around the Phoenix metro area.
- 15 | O. And what about Shamrock?
 - A. I know that they are in Maricopa County.
- 17 | 0. And what about Albertsons?
- 18 A. I cannot say for sure.
 - Q. And what about Kroger?
- 20 A. I believe that that is true, but I can't say it 21 with certainty.
- Q. Are there any -- are you aware of any cooperative owned Class I plants in Maricopa County?
 - A. I am not aware.
- 25 Q. And if we look at Potter County, Texas --
- 26 A. Yes.
- 27 | O. -- where Amarillo is, correct?
- 28 A. Yes.



- 1 Q. The average price is \$2.25 in the model, correct?
- 2 A. Yes.

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- Q. And the proposal is \$3.00, correct?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Which means that in that location you have increased the price by \$0.75 per hundredweight, correct?
 - A. The National Milk Producers Federation Proposal Number 19 is \$0.75 higher than the average of the two model runs from version 3.
- 10 Q. And \$0.75, you would agree, is \$0.15 more than 11 \$0.60, correct?
 - A. I will agree that \$0.75 per hundredweight is \$0.15 more than \$0.60 per hundredweight.
 - Q. And do you know whether there's a proprietary operator, IDFA member, Plains Dairy Products, owning a plant in Potter County?
 - A. I am aware of Plains Dairy Products, yes.
 - Q. And you know it is in that location?
- 19 A. It is in Amarillo, yes.
 - Q. Doesn't the model already carefully consider using literally millions of data points, the amount -- the difference in the value needed to attract and retain a supply of milk in those areas?
 - A. The model has millions of variables. But as you heard Dr. Nicholson provide in clear, I thought, language, that the model is only a starting spot, that it requires the use of local knowledge, local market conditions to adjust those model results to make a usable and reasonable



1	Class I price surface.
2	Q. Going back to Exhibit 310.
3	THE COURT: So going back to Exhibit 310.
4	MR. ENGLISH: This is the testimony that he
5	summarized with his PowerPoint presentation, which is 318,
6	Your Honor.
7	So I'm looking at the fourth full paragraph, the
8	fifth paragraph counting the carryover.
9	THE COURT: What page?
10	MR. ENGLISH: I'm sorry, I thought I said that,
11	Your Honor. Page 23.
12	THE COURT: Thank you.
13	All right. I am on Exhibit 310, page 23 22?
14	MR. ENGLISH: Page 23.
15	THE COURT: 23. All right.
16	THE WITNESS: Which paragraph again, please?
17	BY MR. ENGLISH:
18	Q. It's the fifth paragraph if you count the
19	carryover paragraph, or the fourth full paragraph. "It
20	should be noted"
21	A. "It should be noted," yes.
22	Q "that the number of adjustments which
23	eventually were made to satisfy price alignment criteria
24	inter-regionally were actually quite small.
25	How many were there?
26	A. To align the regions?
27	Q. No yes, to align the regions. You said
28	A. I do not have a count.



- Q. Okay. How many of the more than 2,900 adjustments to the model were the alignment?
 - A. I beg your pardon?

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- Q. How many of the -- what we discussed, more than 2,900 adjustments from the model were for alignment?
 - A. I can't answer that.
- Q. Can you -- since the number was quite small, can you at least tell me where they were?
- A. Well, the testimony here -- or the statement here is talking about alignments -- I believe we were talking about alignments between the regions. So all those alignment issues would have been on the borders of the -- where the -- where more than one -- or where one or more -- I guess I need -- that's really poorly said -- where two regions abutted or maybe even where three regions abutted, since that's the context of the statement.
- Q. So we have discussed anchor cities, and we have discussed bordering areas.

Other than bordering areas and anchor cities, what other adjustments were made?

- A. I beg your pardon? I'm sorry.
- O. We discussed --
- A. So every city, every -- well, I can't speak for
 the other regional committees, but in the
 Southeast/Southwest we evaluated every city that had a
 distributing plant or a notable partially-regulated plant.
 And some of them were adjusted from the model, and you can



see what we did.

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Q. So I guess what I'm asking is -- and if you have to narrow it down -- and if you want me to wait until you give the testimony, tell me you want me to wait until you give the testimony, but --

MR. ENGLISH: So maybe this is where I prepared my cross-examination before this witness, when I looked at the entirety of Exhibit 310, Your Honor. And I understand the decision to divide, and I asked the very first questions yesterday, Parts 1 and 2. And I'm struggling a little bit, but I want to recognize that the witness has not testified about Part 3 yet, so I'm not sure whether Ms. Hancock wants to help me or not.

But if I go into the Southeast, I think effectively I'm going into Part 3, and if you want me to wait, I can wait.

MS. HANCOCK: It is up to you, whatever you want.

THE COURT: Gosh. What happened during the break?

(An off-the-record discussion took place.)

THE COURT: Ms. Hancock, the bottom line of what Ms. Hancock said was that this witness is coming back, but it's entirely up to Mr. English as to whether he wants to go into this next paragraph on page 23 now or wait, or he could do both now and then if he wants.

MR. ENGLISH: Well, I don't want to do it twice.

I don't think anybody in the room wants me to do it twice.

So I'm going to, if you bear with me for a moment, Your

Honor, mark where I am and save that.



THE WITNESS: I'm willing, if we can get done with the whole thing in the next hour, I'm good.

MR. ENGLISH: I'm up to page 17 of 38.

THE WITNESS: Wow. Almost halfway.

BY MR. ENGLISH:

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Q. On the other hand, I don't think I'm spending a lot more time on spreadsheets.

But, actually, you are coming back, correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Would that be sooner rather than later? I don't want to lose track. If it's going to be next week, that's one thing. If it's going to be --
- A. Well, I will be at the hearing, physically, the three days next week, and I'm sure I will be back when the when the recess through Thanksgiving is over. So I will be in and out the whole time, from here on, I think. I can't say any one day when I will be here, but generally I will be present.
- Q. I am going to move along and mark these questions for later because I think it's more pertinent when you have already testified. And so I am going to move along.

Although, I do want to discuss Miami?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And to do that, I need to go back to Exhibit 301, line 335, found on page 6.
 - A. Yes.
 - O. So in the case of Miami --
- 28 A. Yes.



- Q. -- it is one of those examples where the University of Wisconsin average at \$7.90 matches the proposal at \$7.90.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And yet, Dr. Vitaliano and you --
- 6 A. Dr. Whom?
- 7 Q. Sorry, I can't pronounce --
 - A. Vitaliano?
- 9 Q. Yes. I apologize. Yes. My tongue just trips
 10 sometimes. And I am a little tired.
- 11 You and he testified that there used to be lots of 12 orange juice backhauls, correct?
- 13 A. That's my understanding, yes.
- Q. And there are no longer -- that's no longer available, correct?
 - A. I don't know about "no," but the availability I believe has -- as we both testified, that backhaul possibility is substantially less than it used to be.
 - Q. And we have heard significant testimony since the very early days of this hearing that the Southeast is a huge deficit market, correct?
- A. Well, I can't state about the quantity of testimony, but I will agree the Southeast is quite deficit.
 - Q. You have been here for a lot of hearing, correct?
- 26 A. A fair chunk.
- Q. And we have heard about the Southeast when it came to, for instance, the components issue, correct?



- A. I was not here with that, but I understand that that was a topic.
- Q. And we heard it with respect to the Class I price mover, correct?
- A. Again, I wasn't here for that per se, but I understand that issue.
- Q. Okay. So given that the Southeast is such a deficit market, and given Miami's location, I'm trying to figure out why of all the locations that we have talked about today, and I'm sure there's a couple of others, but why does that match the model when instead in -- like, Minneapolis is raised from the model?
- A. I can't speak to Minneapolis. You will have to talk with the regional witnesses from there.

It was our determination in the Southeast/Southwest regional committee that the model results of -- at Miami were appropriate, or the average of them. So we adopted 7.90, which was the average of the model -- version 3 model runs, that we thought that was reasonable.

- Q. So going back to our conversation about whether how or not \$0.60 was included, if you -- and yesterday's statement when you said the 2.20 is part of the minimum price. If you subtract --
 - A. I don't know that I said --
- Q. Well, part of the minimum Class I differential, I'm sorry.
 - A. It is "the" minimum Class I differential in our



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NATIONAL FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER PRICING FORMULA HEARING proposal. 1 2. All right. So if it's "the" minimum Class I differential in your proposal. 3 If you subtract that from the 7.90 proposed for 4 Miami, would you agree that you get \$5.70 per 5 6 hundredweight? 7 Α. The mathematical difference between \$7.90 per hundredweight and \$2.20 per hundredweight is indeed \$5.70 8 9 per hundredweight. So, yes, I agree. 10 And how far away now is the reserve supply to O. 11 supply Miami? 12 Which reserve supply? 13 Well, you tell me. What's the reserve supply for Ο. 14 Miami, sir? 15 Generally, the first reserve for supply for Miami Α. 16 is South Georgia. 17 Ο. And where's the ultimate reserve supply? 18 Α. The ultimate reserve supply for there is either the Middle Atlantic area or the Upper Midwest. 19 2.0

- Q. Can you move that needed reserve supply to Miami for that \$5.70?
- A. No. I'm -- let me qualify that. For each -- if you move it for that distance from the Upper Midwest or Middle Atlantic all the way, \$5.70 is not -- does not cover the entirety of the haul. How's that?
- Q. So you were here for Dr. Nicholson's testimony, correct?
 - A. I was.



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- Q. And you were here for his statement that the slope has become steeper, correct, from the north?

 A. Correct.

 Q. Okay. Why haven't you broadened that slope from
 - A. We felt the model results were appropriate for Miami.

the Upper Midwest to Miami more than the model?

- Q. But you just said the Upper Midwest was the ultimate source for reserve supply --
- A. I said it was -- I mean, if I used "ultimate," that was probably improper. It is one of the potential sources of reserve supply for Florida.
- Q. But if say in Minneapolis you added to the model value, and in Miami you didn't add to the Miami value, haven't you actually reduced the financial incentive to move that reserve supply to Miami?
- A. No. I'm sorry, I was doing some quick math. What did you say the Upper Midwest number was? Was it 2.20?
- Q. Just a second, let me -- let me -- I don't want to guess. And if you want to get 301 -- Exhibit 301 in front of you so you can check me. I would say that the Column L, University of Wisconsin --

THE COURT: Where are you?

MR. ENGLISH: Okay. I'm on page -- I'm sorry. Thank you very much, Your Honor. I am on Row 1308, page 23, of Exhibit 301.

THE WITNESS: So we're back to Hennepin County?



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- Q. We're back to Hennepin County, which is where Minneapolis is, correct?
 - Do you know if that's where Minneapolis is, sir?
 - A. I believe that's correct, yes.
- Q. I can confess I have learned probably 85% of my U.S. geography coming to Federal Order hearings.
 - A. It does not narrow the difference.
- Q. Well, excuse me. So Column L, the model, had a \$2.65 result, correct? Look at Column L.
- A. No, sir. You -- I don't think that was the question you asked me. You asked me if we have narrowed the difference between our proposal and the 7.90 at Miami versus the current. I'm comparing it to the current difference between the Upper Midwest and Miami.
- Q. Well, but if you are comparing -- I mean, I'm saying haven't you -- I apologize. My question was, between the model and your proposal, haven't you narrowed it? I apologize if I either got it wrong or confused or whatever. I will take the responsibility.
- 21 A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. And that's because the model in Column L for Row 1308 had a \$2.65 result, and your proposal was up \$0.35 to \$3.00, correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - THE COURT: Mr. English, his first answer said that the milk comes to Miami from Southern Georgia. Is there a reason why you leaped into Minneapolis?



1	MR. ENGLISH: He did say and he he then
2	modified it, but he had he said that
3	THE COURT: When you then asked him "ultimate," I
4	thought you meant how far out could that milk come from.
5	That's what I thought you asked.
6	MR. ENGLISH: Well, and I maybe we'll just have
7	to clarify it now. I had understood him to say that
8	Florida needs to reach into the Upper Midwest to receive
9	reserve supplies at some point. I'll take the word
10	"ultimate" out of it.
11	THE WITNESS: I would say the if I I will
12	use this: In the worst case scenario, the Upper Midwest
13	would be the source of last resort for Florida if there's
14	nothing closer.
15	MR. ENGLISH: I'm changing subjects, Your Honor.
16	THE WITNESS: Does that mean I can put the big one
17	away for the moment, 301?
18	MR. ENGLISH: I believe. I'm not going to stand
19	on it and say forever, but I think we by and large are
20	past that, at least until the end.
21	Part of what I'm doing, Your Honor, is because we
22	saw 318 for the first time yesterday morning, I'm trying
23	to adjust to that from 300. So I I'm trying to be
24	efficient. And not succeeding, sorry.
25	BY MR. ENGLISH:
26	Q. I realize you have said that there will be another

Q. I realize you have said that there will be another witness to testify about the details of the calculation

with respect to the Grade A milk issue within the fixed



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differential, correct?

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- The minimum differential, yes.
- Well, when before today -- or actually yesterday Ο. 3 4 has the phrase "minimum differential" ever appeared in any literature? 5
 - Α. I don't know.
 - When before your testimony yesterday afternoon in response to my questions between 4:30 and 5:00 has USDA ever used the term "minimum differential"?
- 10 Α. I don't know.
- 11 Ο. When before your testimony yesterday afternoon has 12 National Milk Producers Federation ever used the term 13 "minimal differential"?
- 14 I have used it for quite some time. Α.
- 15 THE COURT: Now, I don't mean to quibble, but the 16 first series of questions called it "minimum 17 differential, and the last question called it "minimal differential."
- 19 MR. ENGLISH: It's not my term, so I'll have to 2.0 Which is it? ask:
- 2.1 THE WITNESS: Minimum.
- 22 MR. ENGLISH: Okay. So I thank you, Your Honor.
- 23 I need some water apparently.
- 2.4 BY MR. ENGLISH:
- 25 When you say you have used the term "minimum" Ο. 26 differential, " have you ever submitted that term to USDA?
- 27 Α. I don't believe so.
- 28 What, in your view, is the difference between Ο.



USDA's use of the term in Federal Order reform "fixed differential" and your term "minimum differential"?

- A. We discussed earlier the -- that the 2.20, where it comes from -- I'm sorry, Your Honor -- \$2.20 per hundredweight, and that we decided that, based on three very important factors, three reasons, would be the minimum differential. But as you have pointed out so often, that the model was run off of 1.60. So I would consider those two different issues.
- Q. So with respect to the -- and you've talked about it a little bit today, but I want to come back to it in greater detail. And this is about Grade A versus Grade B milk.

And I -- I think what I heard you say this morning is that -- and I realize there's going to be another witness, but I'm going to try to stick to Parts 1 and 2 of your testimony today, and when you come back stick to Part 3, so this is my chance, in my view, to ask you about Parts 1 and 2.

I think what you said is that when you did your calculations, you concluded that you took some element more that justified Grade A, and I thought you said \$2. Is that --

- A. I used that term loose -- that number loosely. I think I said something north of 2 or around 2. Again, that -- that testimony will come later to describe exactly what that number is.
 - O. So let's -- let's talk a little bit about how we



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got where we are today. And for that purpose, I'm perfectly willing to hand out copies. I'm not looking to make an exhibit, but I am going to take official notice of some pages from Federal Order reform, the proposed rule, and so I just thought out of fairness I would provide copies to people, and then we can talk about it.

And so I'm going to be looking at 63 Fed Reg, the document starts at 4802, but the particular pages we're going to be looking at are 4876 and 4877. This is dated January 30th, 1998. And I have copies. If you want to go off the record for a minute, I will hand them out.

THE COURT: I would like to go off record. I am very grateful that you brought those. And I agree, you don't have to make that an exhibit, because we do of course take official notice of it. But thank you.

We'll go off record at 11:23 for distribution.

(An off-the-record discussion took place.)

THE COURT: Let's go back on record. We're back on record at 11:25.

Mr. English.

MR. ENGLISH: So we have passed out copies 63 Federal Register, the start page is 4802, and then I have got pages 4876 and 4877. And for some reason there's another page at the end that I'm not sure what I intended to do with that, but at the end there's page 11205. We'll see if I had a reason for that later.

BY MR. ENGLISH:

Q. So what I want to focus on, and I'll try to point



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you to specific sections, but maybe we can do this more generally, and I'm starting on 4876.

In the background section on the bottom of column 2, over to column 3 on 4876 -- and I'll see if -- because you and I think know what was going on, shortcut it a little bit, but if we have to read, we can read.

Okay, Mr. Sims?

- A. Okay.
- Q. It's fair to say that in the 1960s Minnesota and Wisconsin had basically 50% of the Nation's Grade B and was the largest area of reserve supply, correct?
- A. Yes.

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Q. And then -- so let me actually -- I apologize. I started in the middle.

Federal Order reform included a number of subjects, including the amendments that led to product price formulas and Make Allowances for the establishment of prices for Class III and Class IV, correct?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And prior to that -- prior to Federal Order reform, and immediately prior to Federal Order reform, we relied on what's called the basic formula price, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And prior to that we relied on what was called the Minnesota-Wisconsin price series, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. It was the Minnesota-Wisconsin price series that relied on Grade B milk from Minnesota, Wisconsin to



establish minimum class prices for the manufactured products, correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And that's why -- that's a -- but at some point in time, that being the 1990 hearing, with the decision in 1993 -- I'm sorry, I have the wrong hearing date. It was the 1992 hearing, which resulted in a 1993 decision -- that there was a national hearing to consider changes to the Minnesota-Wisconsin price series because the volume of Grade B milk had shrunk, correct?
- A. I cannot confirm the dates. My memory is not that good. But I'll accept that -- that that hearing did occur.
- Q. Okay. So on the bottom of page 3 -- I'm sorry -- column 3 of page 4876, there is discussion that I just summarized, if you see the very bottom paragraph. The national hearing was held in 1992, and there was a replacement with the basic formula price.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And in the paragraph immediately above that, USDA recites that in 1970, 46% of Wisconsin Milk Marketings and 71% of Minnesota was still Grade A -- I'm sorry, I'm sorry -- was still Grade B, correct?
- THE COURT: So you have gone to the paragraph
 above --
 - MR. ENGLISH: Yes, I have gone to the paragraph above. In 1970, 46% of Wisconsin Milk Marketings and 71% of Minnesota Milkings were Grade B.



1 BY MR. ENGLISH: 2. Do you see that, sir? I do. 3 Α. And you accept that? 4 Ο. It's -- it's in the decision. 5 Α. Okay. So by 1989, the decision recites, that 6 Ο. 7 those shares had declined to 17 and 26%, correct? Α. Yes. 8 And then it references that there was some 9 10 statistically reliable -- there was issues about the 11 statistical reliability as a result of that decline, 12 correct? 13 That's what it says, yes. Α. 14 And then if you flip the page, USDA recites in 15 that second paragraph that Grade B was now below 5%, and the Minnesota-Wisconsin accounted for 42% of that, but 16 17 that was under 2% of all milk, correct? 18 I'm sorry, I need to read that. Α. 19 THE COURT: And, Mr. English --2.0 THE WITNESS: Yes. 2.1 THE COURT: -- are you now on page 4877? 2.2 MR. ENGLISH: Yes. 23 And you read it and said "yes" now, sir? 24 THE WITNESS: I see the citation, this was less 25 than 2% of all milk, yes. 26 MR. ENGLISH: Your Honor, I next have two other 27 documents. Again, I'd prefer to take official notice,



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that I intend to hand out. I will tell you what they are

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They are both USDA publications from the National Agricultural Statistic Service entitled "Milk Production Disposition and Income." The first one is a 2003 summary, and the issue date is April 2004. And the second is the exact same title, National Agricultural Statistic Service, April 2023. And again, I have courtesy copies, and I will pass them out if you want to go off the record for a moment so we can do that.

THE COURT: Yes. And, again, I thank you for your courtesy. And, yes, of course we will take official notice of these -- what are they, reports?

MR. ENGLISH: It's the United States Department of Agricultural -- Agriculture -- National Agricultural Statistic Service, "Milk Production Disposition and Income, 2022 Summary," dated April 2023, and 2003 summary, April 2004, and they have watermarks that say "USDA" on them.

THE COURT: Thank you.

We'll go off record for the distribution of those documents. 11:33.

(An off-the-record discussion took place.)

THE COURT: All right. Let's go back on record. We're back on record at 11:35.

Just before we went off record, I thought I heard you, Mr. English, say "2024," and I thought, is this a forecast, but --

MR. ENGLISH: If I said that, Your Honor, it



was -- it was sort of maybe wishful thinking of when I'll be somewhere. So if -- let me restate what I have handed out.

THE COURT: Please.

And would you also include, not just the cover sheet, but go to the bottom of the next page and just read into the record also the words at the very bottom of each of those on the second page. So start as you did, and then include --

MR. ENGLISH: I'll be delighted to. And for the benefit of those not in the room, I am going to also give what appears to be a changing, but there's an identification number of some kind.

So let me start with the 2003 summary issued April 2004. And it's the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistic Service, and there's a number called DA1-2(04), and the title is "Milk Production Disposition and Income." And, again, 2003 summary, issued April 2004.

And I have only included one other page, which is page 9. And the page 9 heading at the top is "Quantity of Milk Used and Marketed By Producers By State in the United States 2003." And at the bottom it does, again, says, "Milk Production Disposition and Income, 2003 Summary, Agricultural Statistics Board, April 2004, NASS USDA."

And for the second document, the title is the same except for the fact that it says 2002 Summary, issued --

THE COURT: 2000 what?



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1	MR. ENGLISH: Oh, wow. Okay. As we can tell,
2	it's I'm going to get there, Your Honor.
3	THE COURT: You know, I saw a phrase that I think
4	applies to everyone in this room, and it is "tired and
5	wired." And I appreciate all of this work you have done,
6	and I thank you for it.
7	So, resume.
8	MR. ENGLISH: Thank you, Your Honor. And yes to
9	both.
10	2022 summary 2022 summary issued April 2023.
11	The other difference on this page is, for whatever federal
12	agency reason, and I think it has to do with the Office of
13	Management Budget, there is now a number called
14	ISSN:1949-1506.
15	And then the next page, this time it's page 11,
16	"Milk Used and Marketed by Producers States in the United
17	States, 2022," and the bottom it says, "Milk Production
18	Disposition and Income, 2022 summary, April 2023, United
19	States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural
20	Statistic Service."
21	And, yes, I'll ask for official notice, Your
22	Honor, so we don't have to burden the record with another
23	exhibit.
24	THE COURT: Granted.
25	BY MR. ENGLISH:
26	Q. So just before I I handed those out we were



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talking about that -- a proposed rule issued in 1998

referenced statistics from 1995 that nationwide Grade B

1 was below 5%. 2. So I want to look at, first, the 2004 summary, 3 sir, and I will note --4 THE WITNESS: Are we back on the record? THE COURT: Yes. 5 6 BY MR. ENGLISH: 7 Ο. Thanks for asking. So other than the fact these documents are 8 9 different pages, different years, let me just describe 10 that the left-hand column is the state, and then there are 11 three columns "Milk Used Or Produced," and then "Milk Marketed By Producers" in the last two columns. And those 12 13 last two columns are the ones I want to focus on for both 14 of these documents. 15 And so "Milk Marketed By Producers," there is a 16 total quantity in the next to the last column, and then 17 there is fluid grade. And if you -- there's a footnote 18 for fluid grade, 3: "Percentage of milk sold that is 19 eligible for fluid use, Grade A in most states; includes 2.0 fluid grade milk used in manufacturing dairy products." 2.1 Do you see that, sir? 22 Α. I do. 23 Okay. So let's just focus on the total for a 0. 24 It says -- and it's rounded, so -- but it says

A. Yes.

2%, correct?

Q. Okay. So in the nine years from Federal Order

98% fluid grade, which would mean that Grade B would be



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- 1 reform to 2004, Grade B had fallen from under 5% to 2%, 2 correct?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. And then if we can turn to the next document, the second document, which is the 2022 summary issued in April of 2023, the same, bottom, United States is 99%,
- 7 | correct --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- Grade A?
- 10 So we're down to 1% Grade B, correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- Q. And it may actually be only .8% if you do all the math.
- 14 A. I don't have that in front of me, but 99 from 15 versus 100 is 1.
- Q. Okay. Now, on page 4 of Exhibit 310, you mention a risk of reversion to Grade B.
- 18 | A. Yes.

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- 0. Do you recall that?
- 20 A. I do.
- 21 Q. Do you have any evidence that that has occurred?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 | O. Other than California?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. To any significant amount?
- A. I can't speak to significance or the -- or what your definition of significance is, but it has occurred.
 - Q. Do you know of any state other than California



where the numbers have gone anywhere other than up, on Grade A?

- A. I can't speak to that.
- Q. Do you know if California has any unique issues with respect to the Grade A/Grade B issue?
 - A. I do not. I don't know what the story there would be.
 - Q. Do you know, for instance, that California had a state order prior to November 1st of 1998?
- 10 A. I am aware of that.

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- Q. And it had a quota system?
- 12 A. I am aware of that.
 - Q. And you are aware that because of the quota system there were producers who would elect Grade B status in order not to have to pay into the quota system?
 - A. I was not aware of that.
 - Q. And do you know that when the Federal Order came in in November of 2018, that in that Federal Order, USDA recognized in the sense that it permitted California to continue to operate its quota system, and that payments would be made basically to recognize quota?
 - A. I am aware of that.
 - Q. And do you know whether producers in California, in order not to pay into the quota system, in the Federal Order have elected not to be Grade A?
 - A. I'm unaware.
 - Q. Okay. So in terms of the risk of reversion, I would like to look at some specific states and statistics.



And so maybe this will explain why I picked 2003, 2004.

So let's look at Utah.

- A. Which year?
- Q. I'm looking at -- I'm going to look at both years.
- A. Okay.

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- Q. So let's -- we can get both in front of us. They have changed the columns a little bit, or at least the way they laid them out. But if we look at Utah, and we look at the last column for the 2003 report issued in 2004, it was 98% Grade A, which means 2% Grade B, correct?
- A. Did you say 98?
- 12 Q. 98% Grade A in Utah, which would be 2% Grade B, 13 correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. And if you look at the 2022 document issued this year, 2023, you would say that Utah -- you would see that Utah is now 100% Grade A, correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Now, in 2003 there was a Federal Order that covered Utah, correct?
 - A. You're testing my memory, Mr. English. I believe that would be correct.
 - Q. And then there was a Federal Order hearing after that, I don't know the exact date, because we don't -- but shortly thereafter there was a Federal Order hearing, and after that Federal Order hearing the dairy farmers decided to vote "no" on the amendment and ultimately the order was terminated, correct?



- A. I am aware that that -- that order was terminated in and around that period. How's that? The dates are beyond my memory.
- Q. Okay. So with Federal Order regulation and with a Class I differential, Utah had 2% Grade B, and today, without Federal Order regulation, it has 0% Grade B?
- A. That's -- I don't -- I don't know that I agree with those as the related or the reason. But I will agree that, in Utah, it was 98% Grade A in the previous period, 100% in the most recent period. I don't know -- I don't know why that happened, but I would agree that that is the statistic reported here.
- Q. And if we look at Nevada for both time periods, Nevada is 100% Grade A in both cases, correct?

 Absolutely, please --
 - A. If I'm reading the lines across correctly, yes.
- Q. And are you aware that as a result of something called the Milk Regulatory Equity Act, in about 2006, I believe, Congress passed a statute that said no county in the state of Nevada can be part of the Federal Milk Marketing Order.
- A. I'm aware that there is some unusual rule regarding Nevada in that vain, but I can't -- I believe that your statement is principally correct.
- Q. Without a Federal Order, there's not been reversion to Grade B in Nevada since that time, correct?
- A. Again, I don't know the -- I don't know that you can -- can link those two occurrences, but it went -- it



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1 | stayed 100% either year.

- Q. Okay. Let's look at Montana. Montana in both reports -- and certainly take your time to confirm -- it's 100% Class I in both instances, correct?
 - A. Again, I'm straining to make sure the lines go all the way across.
 - Q. Please take your time.

THE COURT: You should hand out rulers.

MR. ENGLISH: I will bring some for when we

10 return.

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- 11 THE WITNESS: Yes. Was the question 100% both
- 12 | periods?
- 13 BY MR. ENGLISH:
- 14 O. Yes.
- 15 A. Then I agree.
- Q. And you are aware that Montana does not have any Federal Order regulation, correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 | 0. It does have state regulation, correct?
- 20 A. Yes, I'm aware.
- 21 Q. But there's no pooling requirements, correct?
- 22 A. I cannot speak with any knowledge whatsoever as to
- 23 | the rules and regulations regarding the Montana state
- 24 order. I know it exists, and that's as far as my
- 25 | knowledge goes.
- Q. Let's look at Idaho. And let's compare Idaho for
- 27 | the earlier time period, 2003 summary, issued in
- 28 | April 2004, and take your time, but I'm looking at 99%.



1	A. Yes.
2	Q. Then I'm looking at Idaho for the current time
3	period. And I'll make it a little easier to do, it is
4	under Hawaii, and Hawaii has a withheld information, so
5	there's a D, so it's 100%.
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Okay. And similar although with slightly
8	different territorial issues to Utah, to the extent
9	that there was federal regulation of a territory in Idaho
10	that, too, was as a result of the Western Order hearing,
11	and a vote by producers to say no, it was voted out,
12	correct?
13	A. I recall the voting out of the Western Order. I
14	don't recall the territory that the Western Order covered.
15	Q. Okay.
16	A. I could not begin to cite the marketing area.
17	Q. All right. Well, I'm not testifying, so I won't
18	say it, but the record will reflect whether it was.
19	So nonetheless, Idaho has gone from 99% to 100%;
20	is that
21	A. Yes.
22	Q correct?
23	Let's turn to South Dakota.
24	THE COURT: I want to just make sure that that
25	"yes" is after he had finished asking his question.
26	THE WITNESS: I agree that if we did we just do
27	Idaho?



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MR. ENGLISH: Yes.

- THE WITNESS: That it was 99% in 2003; it reported 1 2. to be 100% in 2022. If that was your question, I agree.
- 3 MR. ENGLISH: Thank you. All right.

BY MR. ENGLISH: 4

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- I actually want to go to North Dakota because I'm Ο. trying to go in some alphabetical order occasionally.
- So North Dakota, prior to -- so -- so we -- in the earlier report of 2003, issued in 2004, North Dakota was 76% Grade A, which would mean 24% Grade B, correct?
- 10 Α. Yes.
- 11 Ο. If we look at North Dakota today, you would see 12 it's 99%, correct?
- 13 Yes. The -- that -- this would indicate that 14 there is Grade B milk still in North Dakota, and somebody 15 is presumably buying it.
- 16 But it's dropped from 24% to 1%, correct? Ο.
- 17 Α. Yes.
 - There's no Federal Order regulation in North 0. Dakota, correct?
- 2.0 I -- yes. I -- I -- I don't -- I don't know how Α. 2.1 far westward the Order 30 goes. Does it go into the 22 Dakotas? I don't know.
- So let's go to South Dakota. And South Dakota in 24 the earlier data, 2003, issued in 2004 was 93%, correct?
 - Α. Correct.
 - And today, South Dakota is 100% Grade A, correct? Q.
- 27 Α. Correct.
- 28 And do you know whether South Dakota is a part of Q.



any Federal Order?

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- A. That I would refer to my previous question regarding whether Order 30 extends that far west or not.

 I cannot remember, or whether -- into part of the Dakotas.
- Q. Would you agree there's lots of cheese production in many of those unregulated areas like Idaho and South Dakota?
- A. I don't know about a lot, but I can -- I think we can agree that there's cheese production in those areas, yes.
- Q. So -- but to the extent there's no Class I in Federal Order pricing, that has nothing to do with those states having increased to 100%, or close, 100% Grade A, does it?
- A. Again, I don't know that we can link causally whether there's federal regulation or not as the reason this is. The issue here before us is that, number one, I just did the math. If I did it right, in 2022, at 1% of the milk production in the United States, that's 2.25 billion pounds of milk of Grade B. I hesitate to call that insignificant. That's more I think than a whole lot of states. And somebody -- somebody's producing that Grade B milk, and somebody is buying it.

The fear, I believe, the true threat to Class I, because of the high quality standards of today's pool distributing plants, or Class I plants -- that would be a better way to say it -- is that it's -- what we have deemed Grade A plus -- if there is insufficient Class I



price, you may see people drop back -- who remain Grade A, but they are unwilling to spend the money to maintain the high quality standards required by Class I plants, and that is, while it may still be Grade A, is definitely a threat to the supply of milk to Class I because those farms say, we'll stay Grade A, but we'll only ship to a cheese plant even -- and forego the order pool.

Q. So I'm trying to be mindful of the need to have some time to talk about scheduling, and I was really close, until you said that, to closing out. But I will hold a discussion of that piece of it for one moment -- or not for a moment, until I think another day.

At what rate of decline, or what point of decline, in Grade A, given the fact that we're now down to less than 1%, and jurisdictions without Federal Orders, people go to Grade A, at what point in your opinion does Grade B become inconsequential, zero?

- A. I would agree that at some number greater than zero it becomes inconsequential. I don't believe we're there yet. At 2.25 billion pounds of milk produced in 2022 of Grade B, I have a hard time calling that inconsequential. It's more than a lot of the production in the Southeast, a lot of the states.
- Q. But we have got 2.25 trillion pounds of milk, and only 18% of that is Class I, correct?
- A. No. I think you did your math wrong. It is 225 billion, isn't it, not trillion? It's not trillion. It's 225 billion.



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1	Q. 225 billion. Okay.
2	A. So
3	Q. But 18% at 18% Class I, with 225 billion, and
4	that's still not enough for you?
5	A. I'm saying that at 2.25 billion pounds, that is
6	still consequential.
7	MR ENGLISH: Your Honor, I would like to reserve
8	because I even before I got the note, I was trying to
9	get to a break. It is a breaking point for me. So I
10	would like to reserve for when Mr. Sims returns. I trust
11	Monday. And I know Ms. Taylor wanted to discuss schedule
12	before the lunch break.
13	THE COURT: Mr. English, thank you.
14	And I would now hear from Agricultural Marketing
15	Service.
16	THE WITNESS: Your Honor, do I need to be up here
17	for this?
18	THE COURT: Oh, no, you may step down. Thank you.
19	THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.
20	THE COURT: To the extent we took the record copy
21	for any of this, let us get that back to Agricultural
22	Marketing Service.
23	All right. Thank you. Now we go to Agricultural
24	Marketing Service.
25	MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Your Honor.
26	The plan is to start at 1:00 this afternoon with
27	our dairy farmers who will be testifying virtually, and
28	there will be six of them. There are three exhibits.



Three of them have exhibits, and three do not, I believe, 1 2. just so everyone knows. And if -- if counsel has exhibits for any of their 3 4 producers testifying, if you could bring them over at the lunch break so we can kind of get that organized and 5 distributed so 1:00 can be efficient. 6 7 As for next week, Mr. Sims will return for 8 cross-examination. 9 On Monday I'm also expecting Mr. Mark Lamers to be 10 here to testify, and I have indicated to him that he would 11 be able to go on Monday, so maybe we can put him on first. 12 He does have a statement and exhibits, and they are up 13 online if anyone would like to look at them in advance. 14 On my list then, after Mr. Sims is done, would be 15 Dr. Eric Erba. 16 And that is all I have. And I don't know if 17 National Milk -- we will have at some point next week 18 Dr. Vitaliano will be here and can go back on the stand to finish his cross-examination. 19 THE COURT: Good. Thank you, all. Please be back 20 2.1 and ready to go on record at 1:00 p.m. We now go off 22 record at 11:58. 23 (Whereupon, the lunch recess was taken.) 24 ---000---25 26 27



1	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 AFTERNOON SESSION
2	THE COURT: Let's go back on record. We're back
3	on record at 1:02 p.m.
4	Who will be our first virtual witness today? Do
5	we know yet?
6	MS. TAYLOR: We do, Your Honor. We're getting
7	ready to pull the first one up on the screen. Our first
8	producer today is Dave Daniels, and let's just give us a
9	second to get it on our own screen.
10	(Off-the-record discussion took place regarding
11	Mr. Daniels. A representative from AMS was unable to
12	reach Mr. Daniels and Witness Lauren Perkins was called.)
13	THE COURT: This is Judge Clifton. I do have a
14	written statement from Lauren Perkins, so I would now
15	assign it the next number, Exhibit 324. I'm going to mark
16	this as Exhibit 324. And it's also noted as
17	Exhibit MIG-32.
18	(Exhibit Number 324 was marked for
19	identification.)
20	MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Your Honor.
21	And I see Ms. Perkins has her video on, so
22	that's we're moving in the right direction. And I
23	believe she has counsel here in the room, so I will turn
24	it over to them.
25	My apologies. We didn't have a lot of extra
26	copies, but it is online as MIG-32 for those watching and
27	in the room.



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THE COURT: Ms. Perkins, this is Judge Clifton.

1	You can't see me, but I can see you. I see your Organic
2	Valley shirt.
3	THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.
4	THE COURT: Very good. What I'd like you to do
5	now is state and spell your name.
6	THE WITNESS: Lauren Perkins, L-A-U-R-E-N,
7	P-E-R-K-I-N-S.
8	THE COURT: Have you testified previously in this
9	hearing?
10	THE WITNESS: No, ma'am, I have not.
11	THE COURT: Then I'd like to swear you in. Would
12	you raise your right hand, please.
13	LAUREN PERKINS,
14	Being first duly sworn, was examined and
15	testified as follows:
16	THE COURT: And now I would like the person who is
17	here with me in Carmel, Indiana, at the podium, to
18	identify herself.
19	MS. BULGER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. My name
20	is Grace Bulger, B as in boy, U-L-G-E-R, representing MIG.
21	THE COURT: Thank you.
22	You may proceed.
23	DIRECT EXAMINATION
24	BY MS. BULGER:
25	Q. Good afternoon, Lauren.
26	Could you please read your business address?
27	A. 1010 Boggs, B-O-G-G-S, Road, Frankford, West
28	Virginia, 24938.



1 Q. Thank you.

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And I understand you have prepared some written testimony?

- A. I have, yes.
- Q. Whenever you are ready, you can go ahead and start reading that.
- A. Sure. I really want to thank you guys for allowing me to offer testimony today about how the Federal Milk Marketing Order changes will impact me as a dairy farmer and the cooperative we have been a member of for over the past decade. While I have never testified over Zoom before, I hope that my passion and commitment to the dairy industry comes through in the virtual format.

We're getting into our busy season here on the farm and chopping corn and (technical issue) calving season, and it's always good to get everybody --

THE COURT: Ms. Perkins, the connection is intermittently slower, and then faster, and it's not a problem so long as you speak extraordinarily slowly, so that we don't miss any part of your testimony.

THE WITNESS: I apologize. I'll talk slower.

THE COURT: Please.

THE WITNESS: Continuing on.

I farm with my family on my great grandfather's homestead, which dates back to 1942. I represent the fourth generation on the farm, and I came back to our diversified operation in 2019 after I finished college at North Carolina State University, where I studied



agribusiness.

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MS. BULGER: Lauren, sorry, this is Grace. We think it might help your connection if you turn off your video if you wouldn't mind. Is that fine with you?

THE WITNESS: I can do that. Give me one second.

Is that any better?

THE COURT: Yes, so far.

Ms. Perkins, I just want to make sure that we get this. So I want you to go to your first paragraph where you say, "We're getting into our busy season here on the farm."

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. I can do that.

THE COURT: Please start there.

THE WITNESS: We're getting into our busy season here on the farm with chopping and starting to go into fall calving season, which always gets everyone excited about getting into fall here.

I farm with my family on my great grandfather's homestead, which dates back to 1942. I represent the fourth generation on the farm, and came back to our diversified operation in 2019 after I finished college at North Carolina State University, where I studied ag business.

On the farm we manage 300 organic milking cows and crop 1500 acres. We have sought to diversify the farm, and in 2018, established two poultry barns for broiler production, and are in the process of building a bigger beef business.



Like many dairy farmers, we practice beef on dairy breeding and genetics.

THE COURT: That last word, Ms. Perkins, it didn't come through clearly. Breeding and what?

THE WITNESS: Genetics.

THE COURT: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Additionally, in 2022, we established an Air B&B on our farm, and I have come to find out that while I have always loved farm life, apparently so do a lot of other people. People want to stay at our organic dairy farm and actually pay us for that opportunity. Now, if they'd just pay me for the opportunity to do the farm work, then we would have something.

THE COURT: That's great.

THE WITNESS: Our farm employs ten people, and we sustain five households as their main income. For the dairy, my primary role falls under herd manager, and also working with employees. My father focuses on cropping and other general duties, but it's really all hands on deck much of the time.

We are a small farm business. We became certified organic in 2009, and we are currently active members of CROPP Cooperative, which is also better known as Organic Valley. I serve on two membership committees for Organic Valley, one called GenO, which is for beginning organic farmers, and the other is Farmers Advocating For Organic, which provides organizations with grant resources for



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research and promotion of organic agriculture.

As long as we have been farming, our family has also been involved in the industry. Beyond my organic commitments, I was appointed to the West Virginia Farm Service Agency State Executive Committee in 2022, and both my dad and grandfather served on that same committee in the past. Our family also proudly manages the birthing center every year at the West Virginia State Fair, which is such a great way to connect the public to animal agriculture.

As the USDA considers how to modify the Federal Milk Marketing Orders, I want to share a worry that challenges to the pricing for Organic Valley farmers like myself that may not be addressed appropriately.

Organic milk is produced under strict USDA standard requirements, and it must be segregated from all non-organic milk and dairy products. In my co-op, we also strive for stable pay price that has never since -- that has never changed since we have been farming organic -- has been below conventional milk prices. Our co-op has a quota system, and all members must adhere so that it ensures that we balance our milk needs with customers and consumer demands.

But what happens is my cooperative ends up in a scenario where it's required to pay a significant multimillion dollar pool obligations every year. For me, the FMMOs feel much like taxation without any benefit.

The co-op that I have ownership in pays those pool



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obligations, but those resources never come back to the farmers like me. We are stuck in an old system that has requirements and voting rules where a minority like organic farmers and co-op partners cannot get a fair treatment. This is an oppressive system that organic milk is wrongfully stuck in.

Our certified organic Grade A farm milk goes to Winchester, Virginia, for fluid bottling and consumers at retail that are willing to pay for organic milk that ensures our higher pay price and stability.

Our farm actually just built a new parlor for the farm back in 2014, and we're always investing in our organic land. For those financial resources to leave our co-op, and for new proposals that you all are reviewing, that could increase that drain to the FMMO system is wrong. Please do not create conditions at the end of this hearing that take more funds away from my cooperative and my family's organic dairy farm.

Thank you so incredibly much for the opportunity to testify, and I'm open to any questions from USDA.

THE COURT: Ms. Perkins, thank you so much.

Now, I'm going to ask if we think that her removing the video helped enough to leave us not being able to see her.

Okay. We think it did, Ms. Perkins. So, again, as you answer questions, just remember to speak abnormally slowly so we catch all the words.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.



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CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. HANCOCK:

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Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Perkins. My name is Nicole Hancock, and I represent National Milk. I just had a couple of questions for you.

Do you sell your milk under a fixed price agreement to your cooperative?

- A. That's a great question. I have to refer you to people at Organic Valley. I'm not quite sure on that.
- Q. Okay. Do you know if you have a set amount of milk that you sell to the cooperative?
- A. Yes, ma'am.
- 0. Okay.
 - A. So we are under a quota system through Organic Valley, which basically ensures that we do our best not to go over that amount. But the people at Organic Valley could better answer the quota system that we have set up.
 - Q. Okay. I'm going to ask just a couple more, but if you don't know, that's fine, I can check with someone else.

Do you know if under that quota system, what happens if you produce milk that is in excess of your quota amount?

- A. So I'm not sure on that. You would have to refer to Organic Valley. But our top goal at Organic Valley is to make sure that as much milk as we have goes to organic production for organic utilization.
 - Q. Okay. And if you don't have that as an outlet,



meaning if you produce more than what they can take, does it then go into the conventional milk channel?

A. Like I said, that's a better question for people at Organic Valley. But at Organic Valley we do talk a lot about the organic utilization. I assume there is line -- some line loss at plants, but Organic Valley could help you out better with that question.

MS. HANCOCK: Okay. Thank you so much for your time. Appreciate it.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

THE COURT: Stand by, Ms. Perkins, we have another questioner coming to the podium here in Indiana.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MILTNER:

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Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Perkins. My name is Ryan Miltner, and I represent Select Milk Producers, a cooperative. Thank you for your testimony today.

You mentioned in your statement that your milk goes to a plant in Winchester, Virginia.

Do you know, is that a plant that Organic Valley operates?

- A. I don't know that. That would be a question for Organic Valley. But I do know that our milk goes into the fluid -- the fluid milk operation.
- Q. Are you fortunate enough to know whether you could go to your local grocery store and pick up a carton of milk that came from your farm?



- A. Actually, I could tell you that I was a few years ago. So in West Virginia where I'm located at, our milk mostly can be found in the Stonyfield label in Krogers locally. And we were fortunate enough to find the BIN (phonetic) number from Winchester was on one of the Stonyfield fluid milk cartons.
- Q. Okay. Is -- I don't think it is, but maybe you know. Is Stonyfield an Organic Valley brand or is that a different brand?
- A. I have to refer you to Organic Valley on that question. I know they have made a lot of changes that happened with Stonyfield and other organic companies. But, yeah, that would be a better question for Organic Valley.
- Q. Okay. Now, the cooperative that I represent, there's some organic milk in that co-op, and that milk is sold to other companies who bottle it, and therefore, our cooperative does not have to make the payment to the system on that milk that you describe in your statement.

And I was wondering if -- if you know whether the milk from your farm is sold to somebody else to be bottled or if Organic Valley does? But I understand that that's something we would have to ask Organic Valley about because you don't know the answer today; is that right?

A. That's correct. Being a dairy farmer, I'm really proud to have Organic Valley collect our milk, because they could answer those questions and then allow me to enjoy what I do on the farm.



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	NATIONAL FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER PRICING FORMULA HEARING
1	Q. I understand that. I have got where I live in
2	Ohio, there are some friends of ours that are Organic
3	Valley producers, and they are very happy with them as
4	well, so I understand your pride in your co-op.
5	MR. MILTNER: Thank you very much for answering my
6	questions today.
7	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
8	THE COURT: Are there any other questions before I
9	ask for Agricultural Marketing Service guestions?

There are none. I turn to the Agricultural Marketing Service.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. TAYLOR:

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- Good afternoon, Ms. Perkins. Ο.
- Hello. Α.
 - Thank you for taking the time out of your day to Ο. join us today and offer your testimony. I just have a few questions for you.

I know you stated in your testimony that you are a small farm business, but I do ask all our dairy farmer producers if they meet the definition of a Small Business as defined by the Small Business Administration, which for dairy farms is those making \$3.75 million or less in gross receipts on an annual whole farm basis.

Would your farm meet that?

- Yes, we would be considered a Small Business. Α.
- Ο. Thank you.

And your milk goes to Winchester. About how far



is that from your farm?

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- A. A little over two hours.
- Q. And I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about the transportation costs to get it there.

Do you pay that cost? Have you seen those costs change over recent years? And if so, in what direction?

- A. That's not a question that I can answer today. My father deals largely with that. That would be a better question for him to answer that question.
- Q. And the other question I had for you, there's been discussion at the hearing about changing in milk component levels over the past 20 years.

I was curious, do you happen to know what the annual average component levels are in your milk?

- A. I don't off the top of my head. Ours fluctuate throughout the year depending on a lot of variables. But we are paid on the components, and as you probably already know, butterfat is sort of the key in that space, so other solids and proteins are more important for some of our non-fluid products like cheese. But I'm not a dairy ingredient specialist. That would be a better question for those that work at the co-op.
 - O. Okay.
- MS. TAYLOR: Thank you for your time today. I appreciate it.
- 26 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- MS. BULGER: My name's Grace Bulger representing MIG.



1	Thank you so much, Ms. Perkins, for your time and
2	for your testimony.
3	Your Honor, I would like to offer Exhibit 324 into
4	admission.
5	THE COURT: Is there any objection to the
6	admission into evidence of Exhibit 324, also marked
7	Exhibit MIG-32?
8	There is none. Exhibit 324 is admitted into
9	evidence.
10	(Exhibit Number 324 was received into
11	evidence.)
12	THE COURT: And, Ms. Perkins, thank you so much
13	for taking the time to prepare the statement and to appear
14	before us today. We appreciate it.
15	Oh, good, I have your picture back. Thank you.
16	THE WITNESS: Thank you so much. I appreciate it.
17	MS. TAYLOR: Okay, Your Honor, our next producer,
18	we're going to give Mr. Daniels another try. Hopefully we
19	can get his camera working. So let's bring him on. And
20	he does not have a pre-submitted testimony.
21	THE WITNESS: The second time is a charm the way
22	it looks.
23	THE COURT: Oh, excellent. Mr. Daniels, my name
24	is Jill Clifton. I'm the Administrative Law Judge who is
25	presiding. I'd like you now to state and spell your name.
26	THE WITNESS: Good afternoon. My name is Dave
27	Daniels, D-A-V-E, D-A-N-I-E-L-S.
28	THE COURT: Thank you.



1	Have you testified previously in this hearing?
2	THE WITNESS: I have not.
3	THE COURT: I'd like to swear you in. Would you
4	raise your right hand, please.
5	DAVE DANIELS,
6	Being first duly sworn, was examined and
7	testified as follows:
8	THE COURT: Thank you. Please start with your
9	business address.
10	THE WITNESS: Business address is 22811 18th
11	Street, Union Grove, Wisconsin, the zip code is 53182.
12	THE COURT: Thank you.
13	You may proceed with your testimony.
14	THE WITNESS: Again, good afternoon. My name is
15	Dave Daniels, and I am a member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.
16	Along with my business partners, I run Mighty Grand Dairy.
17	We milk about 575 cows in Southeastern Wisconsin.
18	First I want to thank USDA for agreeing to hearing
19	these proposals on Federal Milk Marketing Order reform.
20	These changes are long overdue. Midwest dairy farmers are
21	in need of urgent reform, and the proposals supported by
22	American Farm Bureau will go a long way to restoring
23	balance to a system that has moved away from
24	sustainability supporting producers.
25	I have a deep-rooted connection to the dairy
26	industry. My grandfather originally purchased our farm in
27	1933, with my parents taking over in 1956. I farmed with



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my dad starting in 1977, which makes me the third

generation.

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Dairy farmers throughout the state who work tirelessly day in and day out, not only -- not only provide us with fresh and nutritious dairy products but also stimulate economic growth in our local economy. Our farmers create jobs, support local businesses, and generate tax revenue that funds essential community services. When dairy farming thrives, so does our communities.

However, it is evident that our dairy farmers face numerous challenges, including fluctuating milk prices, rising operational costs, and unpredictable market conditions, which compromise risk management tools available to them. These challenges not only affect the livelihoods of our farmers, but also have a ripple effect through our local community.

I strongly believe that fair and stable milk pricing mechanisms and milk check transparencies are essential to ensure the sustainability of our local dairy industry. It is imperative that the Federal Milk Marketing Order takes into account the unique circumstances of local economies and ensures that dairy farmers receive fair compensation for their hard work and dedication. Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau are supporting several changes that could positively impact dairy farmers.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to support the following provisions, Federal Milk Marketing Order reform



for Federal Order 30: Reform the dairy pricing formula back to the higher-of as of opposed to the average-of.

The changes made during the 2018 Farm Bill at the request of stakeholders, the Class I mover based on the average of Class III or IV has had terrible impacts on dairy farmers and dairy markets. Changes in the market could lead to similar price misalignments between Class I and Class IV in the near future as cheese-making capacity grows and cheese prices fall. This change is being supported by the American Farm Bureau.

We need to reduce economic incentives for depooling. Depooling has had several negative effects for farmers. Handlers of Class II, III, and IV can depool; Class I handlers cannot. In some cases the manufacturer doesn't pay into the pool and keeps the money, taking money out the pockets of dairy farmers. Even when manufacturers do pay the full class price value to their depooled farmers, that creates winners and losers. Some farmers get more, and some get less, which defeat the purpose of the Federal Milk Marketing Orders to assure farmers in a market get roughly the same price for their milk, regardless of what it's used for.

Depooling also introduces uncertainty into dairy farming. Farmers who have their milk under contract with processors that frequently depool are at risk of experiencing sudden and severe price fluctuations, making it challenging to plan for the future. Dairy farmers that use risk management tools on their own also saw the effect



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of depooling when the negative PPDs took away the margins that they planned for. The practice of depooling can also exasperate consolidation pressures in the dairy industry. Smaller and mid-size farms may be particularly vulnerable as they lack the bargaining power of larger operations.

We need to address negative producer price differentials. Over the past several years, negative PPDs have emerged as a pressing issue within the Federal Milk Marketing Orders system. Failure to address this problem not only jeopardizes the livelihoods of dairy farmers, but also threatens the long-term viability of the dairy industry.

Negative PPDs and depooling create huge risks for farmers who try to hedge on futures contracts. That is, the relationship between futures settlement prices and actual market blend prices is so volatile that it can increase a farmer's risk rather than manage it. This penalized farmers for trying to do the right thing in managing their risk, which I have stated before.

The 2018 Farm Bill switched from the higher-of to the average-of plus \$0.74, further exasperating these disruptions and made milk checks more confusing. In 2020 alone, over \$700 million was lost in the revenue pool, partly due to the formula was switched, decreasing the payments many farmers received, as well as manufacturer depooling behavior.

On our own particular farm, that equated to a loss of \$1.05 a hundredweight, which impacted my margins. At



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first, this imbalance was linked to COVID-19 forces. However, the losses in the pool value have continued through 2023. As Class IV prices, or butter, prices have become the driver of the dairy market, cumulative pool losses have reached nearly \$920 million since the formula

went into effect in May of 2019.

Eliminate advanced pricing of Class I milk and Class II skim milk. Under the current Class I and Class II pricing formulas, weighted average dairy product prices from the first two weeks of one month are used to calculate advanced prices used to price Class I and Class II products for the following month.

This arrangement creates a long lag between when the advanced prices and current prices as announced for that same month. That means that the advanced prices can be based on weekly data that is 25 to 40 days older on average than the basis for the current price. This means when market prices rally, current prices can be much higher than advanced prices, leading to low and negative PPDs. This creates an opportunity to depool milk from the order to benefit from the non-pooled value of the recently elevated prices, without sharing that value with the pool, and further depress the PPD. This is something that happened in 2020 which really exasperated the negative PPDs.

By removing advanced pricing, all commodity prices would be announced during the same month using the same data, removing any lag time within the pricing system.



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Combining this adjustment with a switch back to the higher-of Class I mover would further reduce price spreads that contribute to a higher probably of handlers depooling from the marketplace.

Elimination of advanced pricing would not be expected to have a substantial impact on the average Class I or overall producer prices, but it would increase average uniform prices in the Federal Milk Marketing Orders because, periodically, high manufacturing milk values would not be removed through depooling.

During 2020, avoiding depooling would have retained billions of dollars in the Federal Milk Marketing Order pools, helping better maintain uniform prices among producers, rather than large differences between pooled and depooled milk values.

Going back to our farm we lost \$1.05 per hundredweight, but some farms bore the total brunt of the negative PPDs, and those added up to \$1.79 per hundredweight. This is why we are saying that some are winners and some are losers.

The changes were -- when made -- during the 20- -- no, wait, next page.

Failure to address these problems not only jeopardizes the livelihoods of dairy farmers, but also threatens the long-term viability of the dairy industry. I urge USDA to work collaboratively to find solutions that ensure fair compensation for dairy producers, transparency for farmers' milk checks, and the continued availability



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of high-quality dairy products for consumers. By supporting fair pricing and the overall wellbeing of our local dairy industry, we can promote economic resilience and job security in our community.

It is my hope that USDA will carefully consider the local economic impact when making formula changes moving forward.

Thank you. And I'll receive any questions if needed.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Daniels. That is excellent, solid information that you provided. I'm certain there will be questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY DR. CRYAN:

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- Q. Hello, Mr. Daniels. I'm Roger Cryan with the American Farm Bureau Federation. It's nice to see you again, and thank you for your testimony.
 - A. You're welcome.
- Q. You stated clearly you're a member of the Farm Bureau. I thank you for that.

I also understand you attended our Federal Order forum last October to consider these issues.

- A. Yes, in Kansas City.
- Q. With a wide range of folks from all kinds of organizations, including processors and co-ops, and a lot of farmers.

What -- what were your takeaways from that?

A. The takeaways that I took home with that is that



Q. Which is -- which is the primary purpose of this proceeding is to bring things up to date.

Was there a clear consensus on returning to the higher-of?

- A. I think there was a clear consensus, not only from producers but also processors, that that should be done.
- Q. And was there also a clear consensus that any Make Allowance changes should be based on audited mandatory survey data?
- A. That's my premonition is that we -- we need to have those mandatory numbers involved. There was a study by Mark Stephenson from the University of Wisconsin Madison that used voluntary numbers, but I think he was only using like 30% of the manufacturers that were out there. So it was my opinion as a producer that we should have those mandatory numbers, along with the mandatory numbers that are -- are brought forward on production and stuff like that for the processors.
- Q. Is there anything else you would like to add about, for example, the maybe proportional impacts of you and your neighbors from depooling? I mean, you talked



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about it a good bit, but was there anything else -- anything else you wanted to add on that?

A. One of the things I see as a producer is that we do need to have a trusting relationship with processors. But in the same token, we need to trust them, and having common and standard milk checks to the farmers would be very, very helpful for us to know where those dollars are coming from and stuff like that.

As we -- as we as a producer are out here, we have -- we have little control of what our import -- what our inputs are to a certain extent. But we can control on how our cows and what they produce, and by using component values we can increase the -- either the butterfat or the protein, depending on what things are being paid for. So we can increase our income that way.

So I think milk check transparency is -- would be very much a benefit to farmers and dairy farmers and producers.

- O. Fantastic.
 - Is there anything else you would like to say?
- 21 A. Not at this time. Thank you.

DR. CRYAN: Thank you very much for testifying. It appreciate your signing up early and logging in and getting through your technical difficulties. Thank you. Thank you all.

THE COURT: Are there other questions before I turn to the Agricultural Marketing Service for their questions?



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1	No. So I do turn to the Agricultural Marketing
2	Service.
3	MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, Your Honor.
4	CROSS-EXAMINATION
5	BY MS. TAYLOR:
6	Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Daniels.
7	A. Good afternoon.
8	Q. Thank you for taking time out of your day to
9	testify today. I have a few questions. I'm not sure if
10	you heard my question of the previous witness on whether
11	they met the Small Business definition. I was wondering
12	if your farm meets that definition, and I can repeat it if
13	you need me to.
14	A. No. Our entity would have more than I think
15	you had what's, again, the
16	Q. \$3.75 million or less in gross receipts.
17	A. 3.7 million? Well, there are some years that we
18	are over that, but most years we're pretty close to being
19	under that.
20	Q. Okay. Thank you.
21	And you're in Southeast Wisconsin. Do you know
22	where your milk goes to be processed?
23	A. Yes. It's purchased by a cheese company, and it
24	either goes to Brownsville, Wisconsin, or Juneau,
25	Wisconsin.
26	Q. And how far are those locations from your farm?
27	A. They are pretty close to about 100 miles away, so
28	about an hour and a half.



- A. We had the opportunity to have our own trucking business for a little while. And so when we just decided to discontinue that, we put our -- our transportation costs out for bid, and we have seen that rise up maybe less than 10% at this point. But we were paying for pretty much all of our trucking costs all the time, unlike other farms in the area that may have been subsidized in the past. But now are taking the total brunt of that transportation cost.
- Q. And am I correct then to -- I will ask if you are a cooperative member or a direct ship -- an independent producer?
- A. We do have to be a member of a cooperative in order for the cooperative to check on the testing procedures of the private cheese company. So we're a member of Edge Cooperative.
 - O. Okay. Thank you.

And I want to make sure we're clear, since I don't -- we don't have a written statement in the -- in the record. But you're supporting, specifically of the proposals in front of us today, the higher-of proposal?

- A. That is correct.
- Q. And the proposal that would eliminate advanced



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- A. Yes, that is correct, also.
- 0. Okay.
- A. Because the lag time that is -- that is developed because of that advanced pricing.
- Q. And I also took from your testimony that you support just generally changes that would reduce depooling incentives?
 - A. That is correct, also.
- Q. Okay. My last question is about risk management.

 Curious if you use any risk management tools, and if so,
 what they are?
- A. Yes, we signed up when the DMC program came into play in 2018. We signed up for the five years. So this is the fifth year, and in 2024 that will have to be revisited.
 - We also do the DRP insurance. We have used that pretty much for -- since it's been -- inception. And we feel that's -- that really is a good way of putting a base underneath our milk production -- what would be for our milk production.
- Q. And when you use DRP, on average, how far out do you lock in a contract?
 - A. On the average, it's probably six to nine months at the most.
 - Q. Okay. Thank you.
- MS. TAYLOR: I think that's all the questions from AMS.



THE COURT: Is there anything in addition,
Mr. Daniels, that you would like to say before we thank
you and move to our next farmer witness?

THE WITNESS: Again, I appreciate USDA taking up

these hearings. I know there are several proposals, more than I think close to 17 different proposals. But I -- as a producer, we do need to update these, and I appreciate the value that is being done here in the last few weeks.

THE COURT: Thank you. I, too, as a presiding officer, am in awe of the work that's been going on here and the enormity of the task before the Secretary. And so I particularly thank you for taking your time, and all of those who have participated in any way, in acquainting the Secretary with the different points of view from all around the country, all different types of activity.

THE WITNESS: Well, maybe we'll just have to do this a lot more sooner than we did the last time.

THE COURT: Thank you so much.

THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

MS. TAYLOR: Okay, Your Honor, I believe the next dairy producer in the line will be Johnny Painter, so we will try and bring him to the screen.

He does have a statement, and we accidently didn't print a lot of paper copies, but we do have enough so you can have one and the record can have its copy.

For those in the room or listening online, it is posted on the website, and it's posted as -- down towards the bottom, there is a heading "Dairy Farmers," and it's



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1	Painter-DF.
2	And I do see Mr. Painter online, and we will
3	spotlight him so he shows up. There we go.
4	THE COURT: Good. I can see I'm Judge Clifton.
5	I can see you even though you cannot see those of us who
6	are in the room in Indiana. I'm looking at your written
7	testimony dated October 6, 2023, and I'm marking it as
8	Exhibit 325.
9	(Exhibit Number 325 was marked for
10	identification.)
11	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
12	THE COURT: And for those that don't have a
13	printed copy, you can find it as Painter-DF.
14	All right. Good. Please state and spell your
15	name for us.
16	THE WITNESS: John P. Painter, II, J-O-H-N, P,
17	P-A-I-N-T-E-R, Roman numeral II.
18	THE COURT: Have you previously testified in this
19	hearing?
20	THE WITNESS: I have not.
21	THE COURT: I'd like to swear you in. Would you
22	raise your right hand, please.
23	JOHN P. PAINTER, II,
24	Being first duly sworn, was examined and
25	testified as follows:
26	THE COURT: Thank you. Now, some people like to
27	read their statement verbatim and then make comments.
28	Some people like to begin to read the statement, and as



NATIONAL FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER PRICING FORMULA HEARING you are prompted to explain further as you go along. 1 2. those are perfectly fine. You may proceed however you 3 wish. 4 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm going to give my whole 5 written statement, and then I'll take questions at the 6 end. 7 THE COURT: Excellent. 8 THE WITNESS: First of all, let me start off by thanking USDA for holding this long overdue hearing to 9 10 update our Federal Milk Marketing Orders. My name is 11 Johnny Painter. I operate Painterland Farms, a 400-head 12 organic dairy and 5,000-acre crop farm in partnership with 13 my two brothers in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. 14 Our milk is processed by Organic Valley. You may 15 have heard of our operation through my nieces' famous 16 yogurt business, Painterland Sisters. 17 I will be transparent before I -- before I begin 18 my testimony, that I understand some of my testimony will 19 contradict with my cooperative's asks, but I'm here today 2.0 representing Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members. 2.1 I currently serve on PFB's Board of Directors and 22 am the dairy and farm policy committee chairman. 23 MR. HILL: Mr. Painter?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. HILL: This is Brian Hill from USDA. We need you to slow down just a bit for the court reporter, please. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Okay. Thank you.



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I currently serve on Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Board of Directors and am the dairy and farm policy committee chairman. I offer these remarks on behalf of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and our over 28,000 members who primarily are small- to mid-sized family farms.

To provide some background on the Pennsylvania dairy industry, we have roughly 5,000 dairy farmers which produce nearly 10 billion pounds of milk annually.

I would like to start off this testimony by recognizing the importance of this hearing. The last time our industry saw a comprehensive revision was in 2000. Clearly, the economy has changed over the past two decades. Farm Bureau is concerned about the large imbalances in the pricing and pooling of milk which have recently cost dairy farms hundreds of millions of dollars.

COVID-19 caused unprecedented vitality (sic) in milk markets and highlighted the urgent need for the industry to consider ways to modernize the Federal Milk Marketing Order system.

THE COURT: Let me have you read that sentence again. When you said "vitality," I don't think that's what you meant.

THE WITNESS: Volatility. Sorry about that.

THE COURT: Yes. What a difference, right?

THE WITNESS: A huge difference. Thank you for the catch.

THE COURT: Just read that whole sentence again.

THE WITNESS: Farm Bureau is concerned over the



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large imbalances of pricing and pooling of milk which have recently cost dairy farmers hundreds of millions of dollars. COVID-19 caused unprecedented volatility in milk markets and highlighted the urgent need for the industry to consider ways to modernize the Federal Milk Marketing Order. Let me be clear, though, Farm Bureau does not want to recreate the system; rather modernizing will fix the major problems without eliminating what is currently working.

While there are multiple factors leading dairy farmers to sell their herds, one of the main reasons is pricing. In Pennsylvania, our milk pricing is twice as complicated due to the Commonwealth's high over-order premium, but the outdated FMMO system certainly do not help. Unfortunately --

THE COURT: Let me stop you again.

THE WITNESS: Okay.

THE COURT: For just a moment you slowed down as Mr. Hill requested, and I know that it's nerve racking to be testifying. And so just breathe and relax, and slow down a bit more.

THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you.

Unfortunately, our state, like many others, is experiencing a trend in declining licensed herds. In 2022, Pennsylvania averaged 468,000 cows, which is 6,000 cows less than in 2021. I can attest that farmers are leaving the dairy industry, especially Class I producers, simply because the money and labor is just not there. We



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have the chance to change that narrative by amending the antiquated Federal Milk Marketing Order system to meet the economic needs of our farmers.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supports National Milk Producers Federation's Proposal 13, to return to the higher-of Class I mover.

In the 2018 Farm Bill we changed the way Class I milk is priced to be calculated using the simple average of the Advanced Class III and IV skim milk prices plus \$0.74. While the intention of this change was good, it logistically did not make more money for our farmers. According to market tell -- Market Intel, published by American Farm Bureau Federation in 2020, nearly 40% of the time the spread between the Advanced Class III and Class IV price was larger than \$1.48. This is concerning because dairy farmers would then have to swallow the cost of a lower Class I milk price rather than receiving the higher-of.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's dairy and farm policy committee has had recent discussions on the number of farmers expanding to other classes of milk to balance out the profit loss usually seen with fluid milk. The current pricing formula does not support an affluent Class I market in addition to the decreasing trend of consumption of fluid milk. USDA must act upon this upsetting trend, listen to the stakeholders in the hearing, and return to the higher-of Class I milk.

Second, we are supporting National Milk Producers



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Federation Proposal 19 to increase Class I differentials in all locations. For Pennsylvania, the Class I differential ranges from \$2 to \$3.50. The problem here is supply and demand change frequently, so the differential must adapt to reflect those changes within the market. It simply is not fair for our farmers to get paid on fixed prices and adjustments when milk supply and market demands change daily.

We strongly encourage USDA to amend the Class I differential to adapt to supply and demand needs so that our farmers and processors have a more accurate and balanced system. Moreover, I will reiterate Proposal 21 from AFBF that asks for the Class II differential to be increased to \$1.56. These updates and increases are a result of our system not being able to adapt with economic and consumer market changes over time.

PFB's fourth recommendation supports AFBF's proposal to adjust yields and Make Allowance based on mandatory and audited survey. As AFBF raised in their proposal, we, too, understand the administrative costs behind the survey, but it is a necessary step to ensuring the price and value of milk is precise.

Make Allowances must be adjusted, and by using the mandatory cost survey, USDA will determine the exact and appropriate adjustment. There should be no Make Allowance changes without a mandatory audited survey. Since there is no such survey available, we oppose a Make Allowance change. It is unfair for us as farmers to have more of



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the profits going to processors without the necessary evidence.

Finally, I understand PFB's last request must be enacted by Congress, but since it would impact the Federal Milk Marketing Orders system, I would like to mention it. During my time at PFB, the two biggest complaints I have heard from farmers is about Class I milk pricing and bloc voting. Farm Bureau believes that dairy farmers should have an opportunity to directly vote on Federal Milk Marketing Order order issues as they impact milk prices and farm profitability.

Currently, only dairy farmers who are independent and not members of a cooperative may cast individual ballots. Cooperatives may allow their members to vote independently, but then lose their ability to bloc vote on behalf of their non-participating members. Modified bloc voting would allow for co-op members to be able to vote independently and confidentially, while allowing cooperatives to cast ballots for farmers who choose not to vote individually.

Again, I recognize this is not something that USDA can adopt, but we would encourage any Congressional offices listening today to bring about this much needed legislative change to the system.

I appreciate USDA's time and consideration of PFB's recommendations for the Federal Milk Marketing Order system. It should be noted that any proposal I did not explicitly mention in my testimony but has been proposed



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by AFBF we support as well. The recommendations I laid out today were a result of what our staff hears the most about from PFB's dairy farmers.

As I said in the beginning of my testimony, USDA must act upon stakeholders' proposals in modernizing the system in a timely manner for the sake of the future dairy farmers. We must improve pricing formulas for all classes of milk, but especially for Class I, as fluid milk is supposed to be the most profitable, but the current system does not allow for that to happen. Most importantly, though, it is crucial for producers and processors to be able to be at the table discussing how to best modernize the system together.

Again, I thank USDA for your time. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

THE COURT: Mr. Painter, I thank you. That's very comprehensive. Very thorough. Very well thought through.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

THE COURT: You're welcome. I should have asked at the beginning your business address, please.

THE WITNESS: 571 Howland Hill Road, Westfield, Pennsylvania 16950.

THE COURT: And how do you spell the name of that road?

THE WITNESS: H-O-W-L-A-N-D, H-I-L-L.

THE COURT: Very fine.

We do have our first questioner at the podium.

THE WITNESS: Okay.



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CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. ENGLIS	H:

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- Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Painter. My name is Chip English. I represent the Milk Innovation Group. I know you can't see me. Organic Valley is a member of the Milk Innovation Group.
 - A. Good afternoon.
 - Q. Yes, good afternoon.

Sir, in your testimony you said you were a member of Organic Valley and ship your milk -- your organic farm milk with them?

- A. That's correct.
- Q. The organic milk co-op has made it known that they have been challenged with large annual pooling obligations with no perceived benefit.

Do you think organic milk is being fairly treated within the orders?

- A. Absolutely not. And the reason why I say that is we have to pay that fee in, and Organic Valley and other organic dairy companies have a supply management system. And so we are controlling our own, so it's very unfair that we have to pay in if we're not putting milk, spot milk, into the -- into the market.
- MR. ENGLISH: Thank you, sir. That's all I have.

 I hope you have a greet day. There may be other

 questions.
 - THE WITNESS: Thank you.

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CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. HANCOCK:

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Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Painter. This is Nicole Hancock with National Milk.

I just wanted to first start off by extending
National Milk's gratitude for supporting their proposal on
higher-of in the Class I differentials. We really
appreciate your support there.

- A. You're welcome.
- Q. I just had a couple of questions pertaining to your quota system within Organic Valley.

Do you participate -- do you have a quota for the milk that you deliver to Organic Valley?

- 14 A. We have a quota system or supply management 15 system, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And does that -- do you sell your milk to Organic Valley under a fixed price agreement?
 - A. Well, we get component pricing, but we kind of have base prices, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And then if you produce more milk than what is allowed or accepted under the quota system, what happens with that milk?
 - A. There is a penalty for that. For example, if my quota is 500,000 pounds a month and I ship over that, they take the milk, but there's a \$20.00 a hundredweight penalty for taking that milk. But the milk gets blended with everybody else's, and Organic Valley has been pretty fortunate under -- because of good management that we have



- 1 98% utilization of our milk within the co-op.
- Q. Okay. And then that other 2%, do you know where that goes?
 - A. I'm guessing most -- I don't know exactly, but some of it is line loss. I'm sure, you know, between the bulk tank and it's getting processed and all that, you know, so...
 - Q. Okay. And do you have any milk that ever makes it into conventional milk fluid systems?
 - A. Not that I am aware of. None of it.
- 11 Q. Okay. All right.

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- MS. HANCOCK: Again, thank you for your time
- 13 | today. I appreciate it.
- 14 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. Thank you.
- 15 THE COURT: Even though you cannot see us, it is
 16 very fun for me to watch as people who are talking to you
 17 look up at your screen here and --
 - THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- DR. CRYAN: In fact, I'm going to take a picture.
- THE WITNESS: Awesome.
- 21 DR. CRYAN: So I can -- so I can send it to you 22 and other folks. I'll send it to you as well.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 24 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 25 BY DR. CRYAN:
- Q. Mr. Painter, I'm Roger Cryan with the American
 Farm Bureau Federation. It's nice to see you.
 - A. Nice to see you again, Roger. I met you a couple



1 | years ago in Hershey, I believe.

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- Q. Oh, very good. When I was with -- I don't know when that was.
 - A. You were there in November explaining some milk issues.
 - Q. Okay. Very good. I think I remember that. I hope I remember that.

So you have established you are with the Farm Bureau. I appreciate that. You are -- and you support the Federal Order system on behalf of Farm Bureau.

You support the Federal Order system overall; is that correct?

- A. Absolutely.
- Q. And you also support the increase in the Class II differentials?
 - A. Uh-huh. Yes.
 - Q. And you support taking steps to -- taking steps generally to eliminate and reduce negative PPDs in the order pool?
 - A. Absolutely. That's been a huge issue in the Northeast, probably everywhere.
 - Q. Can you talk about that? Talk about what an issue the negative PPDs have been, both generally and with respect to perhaps you and your neighbors and the impacts that's had?
 - A. I can a little bit generally. Because we're organic, we haven't seen that negative PPD on our milk checks. But depending on where the milk goes and the



price that I have seen neighbors that get differences in milk check prices of -- there could be 2 or \$3 spread, so we need to come to some -- some formula that is simple and fair and causes equality across the board I guess would be the right word.

- Q. Very good. I really do appreciate your participation, and thank you very much.
 - A. You're welcome.

DR. CRYAN: And I'm done. Thank you.

THE COURT: Are there any other questions before I turn to the Agricultural Marketing Service for its questions?

There are none other, so I turn to the Agricultural Marketing Service.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. WILSON:

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- O. Good afternoon, Mr. Painter.
- 18 A. Good afternoon.
 - Q. This is Todd Wilson. I'm with the Agricultural Marketing Service, and I've got a couple of questions.

Have you heard Ms. Taylor question previous witnesses about if they meet the Small Business?

- A. Unfortunately, I'm under 3.75 million.
- O. Thank you.

Also, we have asked other producers for the past several, many days maybe, about their usage of risk management tools, and wanted to know if you utilize any such.



A. I do. And I haven't I have used the Dairy
Revenue Protection insurance at different times, and I
have it's kind of been a wash for me. I guess I'm a
firm believer in those programs that you have to be in,
it's kind of like college education, if you paid a little
something for it, you understand it better. So I've used
that. I am signed up for the dairy market loss coverage.
And then part of our risk, being in the supply management,
is you try to manage your milk so you don't go over your
production, and then you can also manage for your
components and stuff.

- Q. Thank you for that answer.
- Also, on the DRP, how far out do you look to lock in any prices?
- A. Most of them have been in the six to nine months.
 - Q. Okay. Thank you very much.
 - A. You're welcome.
- Q. In your testimony, I know we have talked a lot about Class I and PPDs and different things. You mentioned at the top of page 2 something about Class I producers, and I just wanted to understand more of what you -- what does that mean to you. As I read the sentence: "I can attest that farmers are leaving the dairy industry, especially Class I producers, simply because the money and labor just is not there."
- A. Well, I think Class I kind of meant Grade A, but then in Pennsylvania, I went on to say about our over-order pricing system. And some of that has to do --



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1	we were in a time of couple years ago where the lower
2	the other classes paid more than the fluid class was
3	paying, so people were looking for ways to change their
4	market, where we ought to be looking for everybody to get
5	paid a fair price across the board and have some kind of
6	uniformity to it.
7	MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Painter.
8	That's all I have. And I just want to thank you for the
9	time that you took out today to, be here with us.
10	THE WITNESS: You're welcome. My pleasure.
11	THE COURT: Mr. Painter, is there anything else
12	you would like to add before we thank you and turn to our
13	next producer witness?
14	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. I'm sorry you
15	had to stop me, slow me down a couple of times, but it was
16	a privilege to be able to participate, so thank you.
17	THE COURT: Thank you.
18	Let's take a five-minute break before we go on to
19	our next farmer witness. You'll have room to stretch a
20	little bit. Don't go too far, but you are welcome to
21	leave the room if you'd like.
22	(Whereupon, a break was taken.)
23	THE COURT: We're back on record. It is 2:17.
24	I have an image on my screen. I'm Judge Jill
25	Clifton. Pleased to see you.
26	Would you state and spell your name for us.
27	THE WITNESS: My name is Martin Hallock,



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M-A-R-T-I-N, H-A-L-L-O-C-K.

1	THE COURT: Mr. Hallock, I have here at my
2	fingertips a written statement, and I'm going to mark that
3	as Exhibit Number 326.
4	(Exhibit Number 326 was marked for
5	identification.)
6	THE COURT: And at the right-hand top of that
7	statement there's also a designation that it is Exhibit
8	NMPF-66. I'd like to swear you in unless you have
9	previously testified in this proceeding.
10	THE WITNESS: No, I have not.
11	THE COURT: All right. Please raise your right
12	hand.
13	MARTIN HALLOCK,
14	Being first duly sworn, was examined and
15	testified as follows:
16	THE COURT: Thank you.
17	DIRECT EXAMINATION
18	BY MR. PROWANT:
19	Q. Good afternoon. Bradley Prowant on behalf of
20	National Milk.
21	Mr. Hallock, could you please provide your
22	business address for the record.
23	A. Yeah. It's W962 County Road NN, like Nancy Nancy,
24	Mondovi, M-O-N-D-O-V-I, Wisconsin, 54755.
25	Q. And, Mr. Hallock, did you prepare Exhibit NMPF-66,
26	which has now been marked Hearing Exhibit 326?
27	A. Yes, I did.
28	Q. All right. And would you proceed with reading



that.

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A. Okay.

My name is Marty Hallock, and I'm a first generation dairy farmer from Mondovi, Wisconsin. I milk 1100 cows with my wife and son as partners. Our farm name is Mar-Bec Dairies. I have been farming for 33 years, 30 years as a member of the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery. I have attended River Falls -- UW River Falls, received a Bachelor's degree in animal science, a minor farm management and dairy emphasis.

I have been a member of the Ellsworth Cooperative board for 16 years, serving as vice chair. I have served on the Professional Dairy Producers Board --

THE COURT: Mr. Hallock, I'm sorry, this is Judge Clifton.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

THE COURT: This is excellent, but I want you to slow down your testimony.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry about that.

THE COURT: Start with -- where I would really like you to start is, "I have been a member of."

THE WITNESS: Okay. I have been a member of the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery board for 16 of those years serving as vice chairman. I have served on the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin board, which is a national program based in Wisconsin. I have served on the Executive (sic) as Vice President for two of those two years, and president as one. I have also sat on the Dairy



Sustainability Council of Wisconsin for two years. I have served on our local Gilmanton School Board for 19, ten as president. I have also served on the CESA, Cooperative Education Service Agency 10 Board, for ten years, including three as president.

I am usually the numbers farmer on our board, and recent departures of block and barrel has been -- the barrel -- let me start over.

The recent departure of the block and barrel pricing has had and continues to have a great impact on my livelihood and for those of our member owners. I, as a farmer, and as a farmer of the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, are being harmed by this widening of the barrel block split. This is detrimental to the members of the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery as we have a barrel plant. It is within the power of the Federal Order system to make it equitable and by providing order marketing.

I'm here to support National Milk's proposals in total to amend and modernize Federal Milk Marketing Order as it will provide a holistic approach to having all farmers benefit from an equitable milk marketing order.

In particular, I am here to support the elimination of barrels in the calculation Class III milk prices. By eliminating the calculations, we have a better ability as barrel manufacturers at Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery to work with the industry to create a more fair and equitable pricing system, whereas if it stays where it is, we do not.



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Our income as a cooperative only has the potential to increase with the elimination of barrels from the calculations of our income derived from the sale of products. In the worst case scenario, we will still get the same income as barrels were included in the calculation. We have the potential to gain more value in pooling in the milk and the order system by including only blocks in the calculation.

Far too long there's been freeloaders in the system that have been using the barrel in the price of Class III -- no, I'm going to start over.

Far too long there's been freeloaders in the system that have been using barrels in the price of Class III protein to subsidize their own operations. We can no longer tolerate as individual cooperative members or as a collective group. We need to stop having freeloaders into the system and have an equitable system where farmers are paid fairly so that we can continue to have orderly marketing in the system.

As a member of the Ellsworth Cooperative Board of Directors, we continue to look over ways to increase our members' value, including a stopping of barrel productions which we -- which would greatly make the problem for the industry worse. Should the cooperative stop making barrel cheese, there's no barrels in the Federal Milk Marketing Order system to include in the calculations.

We're at a critical point in the Federal Milk

Marketing system that we need to fix the problem that had



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unintended consequences that include using barrels as proxy for block cheese is one of those. My understanding that fellow cooperative members are concerned about the unknown of how to price barrel cheese and processed cheese, but it's far better to work with the future where you can designate and guide a more equitable future than stay with the misery of the current system we have.

At present, using our cooperative's numbers of \$0.95 for barrels and blocks differential from historical values, my farm has lost \$1.9 million since 2017, or about \$0.95 had barrels been properly priced to proxy for block cheese. See Table 1.

THE COURT: Let me stop you. I just want you to read that again, and when you give the price, just add "per hundredweight," if you will. So just read that sentence again, but make sure that we know what that \$0.95 is about.

THE WITNESS: Okay. At present, using our cooperative numbers of \$0.95 per hundredweight for block and barrel differentials -- difference from historical values, my farm has lost \$1.9 million since 2017, or about \$0.95 per hundredweight had barrels have been properly priced proxy to block cheese.

So what I'm saying here -- this isn't on the script -- but what I'm saying is the barrel-block spread would have continued at \$0.03 -- \$0.03 to \$0.04 was historical. That's the difference that some of these ups and downs have cost us.



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We need to view all of the proposals in National Milk in its entirety so that equitability to all members that pool their milk and not pick and choose winners and losers, or as the unintended consequences of change in the market since 2017 have made losers out of barrel producers.

THE COURT: Now, your Table 1 comes next, and it's hard to read into the record a table, and I'm not going to ask you to do that. But in general, describe for me what this table signifies.

THE WITNESS: So what the table really signifies is if you look on, it has the years. The second column is the pounds of milk that our farm produced. And I would note that 2023, it's only the first four months. When I put this project together, it was quite a while ago to get in here. I used a spread of what it would have been if it was \$0.03, what the variation is. And then the total dollars are in the far right column, with the totals being added up at the bottom.

THE COURT: Are you telling me that in the first four months of 2023 the current pricing mechanism cost your farm \$460,509?

THE WITNESS: I would tell you that it cost my farm and every farm that -- that's making a barrel plant, it did.

When you have a discrepancy of \$0.45, when it should have been -- historical means would be 3 to 4, I used 3 in my calculations here, you know, that's -- that's



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real money, you know. And that's not just -- that's not just a little bit, that's -- you will see -- you will see less barrels if this continues, because farmers can't continue to make barrel cheese and get paid that much less.

I have been dairy farming since I graduated from college, and I have never seen -- up until 2017, there was not much fluctuation. Since then, you can see 30, \$0.40 in a heartbeat.

You know, if you look at it, in '22, believe it or not, we were actually higher. Barrels were actually higher than blocks. So that's why there's a positive 29.643 in 2022.

THE COURT: And that was the only year in your table where you were advantaged, all the others are disadvantaged?

THE WITNESS: Correct.

THE COURT: And you may continue to read the end of your statement.

THE WITNESS: I just want to thank the USDA for taking time to listen to farmers and their concerns. I'm sure they are quite aware that there's a lot of pressure on farms to be profitable as we try to continue to grow and deliver the best quality of milk in the world.

THE COURT: Your statement is a cry for help and, nevertheless, inspiring.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

THE COURT: I thank you.



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1	And now you invited the opportunity to be
2	questioned, and we will allow that to occur.
3	MR. PROWANT: Your Honor, I don't have any more
4	questions for Mr. Hallock. He's available for
5	cross-examination.
6	THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
7	And if you will just sit tight, Mr. Hallock,
8	people have to come up to the podium here in Indiana
9	before they speak into the microphone to ask you
10	questions.
11	THE WITNESS: That's fine.
12	CROSS-EXAMINATION
13	BY DR. CRYAN:
14	Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Hallock. My name is Roger
15	Cryan. I'm here with the American Farm Bureau Federation.
16	I'm impressed with the extent of your involvement
17	with your local community and farm organization.
18	It's my understanding you are also a member of
19	Farm Bureau; is that correct?
20	A. I am.
21	Q. You serve as a delegate and voting member?
22	A. Yeah. I'm on I'm going to leave the community
23	in a better place when I'm gone, so I'm I know that's
24	our goal.
25	Q. That's a that's a common thread with farmers.
26	I appreciate that. And I appreciate your being here to
27	testify.



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Could you elaborate on the kind of impacts that

negative PPDs and depooling have had on you and your neighbors?

A. Well, you know what, it just seems that -probably my number one problem is with this barrel-block
spread and some of these negative PPDs, is it directly
affects my cash flow, number one.

But probably the biggest problem that I have with this whole barrel-block spread is -- first of all, I want to commend for us getting -- farmers being able to carry DMC coverage, LGM coverage, DRP coverage. Okay? That's crucial in trying to make, you know, somewhat of a stable income. Okay?

But the problem is, is when I can't lock in that barrel-block spread, there's nowhere in the formula that I can say, if I contract milk at \$18 -- I'm going to use that as an example, and you pick whatever number you want -- if I make a contract \$18, but the barrel-block spread happens to be \$0.20, that's going to cost me \$2 under our where I contracted. So I didn't really contract -- my contract says \$18, but my plant says \$16, and I -- there's no way I can buy that insurance or get that coverage on that barrel-block spread.

I think as the cheese buyers have to come back and say, we're going to use one in the formula and, you know, if you are producing barrels, we'll have to have whatever that Make Allowance or not -- I wouldn't say

Make Allowance -- whatever premium we set between the two of us, if it's a minus \$0.03 or if it's a minus \$0.04,



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1 | maybe it's a minus \$0.08, but at least it's locked.

This variation of being higher or lower, you know, it -- I can't contract and sleep good at night to know that I'm protected.

Do you understand what I'm trying to say? Because T --

O. I do.

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- A. -- I don't know how to explain it.
- Q. There's one other thing I guess I would like you to explain for the benefit of the folks who are going to be making the decisions here.

When you shared the losses you have because of the block barrel spread, that's because -- because your co-op is dependent on the value of barrels, correct? So when there's a spread, you can't -- your co-op cannot capture that value for you; is that right?

A. Correct. And, you know, it -- you know, for a long time there was a \$0.04 spread, or \$0.03 to \$0.04 spread between barrels and blocks, and now I don't know what it will be tomorrow. It was almost even two months ago, and now it's -- then it got up to \$0.30, and now I don't -- I didn't look at the market today, sorry.

But that -- that spread is -- is huge, because it directly impacts me. You know, it's the old adage of ten pounds of cheese per hundred pounds of milk is still true pretty much today, and so when something is up or down \$0.20, that's \$2 when you compare the pounds per hundredweight.



A. I do.

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Q. And it's been the position of American Farm Bureau and National Milk and IDFA that in the long run we would like to see Make Allowances set based on mandatory audited surveys of costs and yields.

Do you -- do you support that as well in the long run?

- A. I would have to -- me personally, I would. I'm not going to be -- I don't want people to take this out of context. I'm not speaking for the creamery or for the board or anything of that, but myself, we got to get rid of these negative PPDs and get some transparency in how we're going to get paid.
 - Q. Very good. I appreciate that.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

A. I do appreciate that people are going through this effort. And I know it's -- I mean, it is a momentous task to take on, but we got to get this right. You know, it -- you are better off to take time and do it and do it right and get it fixed right.

I do think that reviewing it a little more often than we have in the past, times are changing faster and quicker in operations, and individuals are changing faster and quicker, and maybe that's something we should keep in mind going down the road.

Q. So you would suggest some of these hearings maybe



should happen more often than every 23 years?

A. Well, you know, I'm just -- 23 years ago I was a young man, so I'm just saying, you know, I'd like to see it done before I die I guess is what I'm getting at. So, you know, all kidding aside, you know, where else do you go back and look at how people are paid or how things are calculated every 20-some years? That's, you know -- yeah, we're just in -- we're in a world where it's turning faster. I think people have to be more willing to open up and look at changes faster.

I mean, I'm sure glad I don't have my old cell phone when it first came out. I think everybody else would agree. I don't know, we've probably had ten versions since then.

O. Yeah.

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A. So I'm not saying to do it that often, but I'm just saying that, you know, farmers can't be looked at as -- in a way -- and sometimes I think of everybody wants to look back at that farm and remember generations from past. They have to realize that the farmers of the future are always going forward. They are always moving ahead. They are always looking at new technical advances, new challenges, be it environmental, be it regulatory, be it pricing.

I think we have to get onboard with that guy, because that's the guy that's farming today, not grandpa that they remember on the farm. And I'm not -- by no means am I criticizing the older gentleman or the farmer



that stayed the same for the last 30, 40 years. But we also have progressive farms out there that we have to look after, too.

Q. I appreciate that. I thank you again for your involvement in your community and your farmer organizations, and I thank you for your testimony today.

DR. CRYAN: I'm finished. Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Hallock, I want you to pause for just a moment. There will be others who will ask you questions.

I would like to move your body so that I can see that Mar-Bec logo. Yeah, and go -- there you go. Mar-Bec Dairy, and you have the most gorgeous cow. That's beautiful. And I thank you for that.

THE WITNESS: Well, that's -- that's Marty and Becky, that's me and my wife, and we're first generation farmers. And we've worked hard at it and had to be aggressive. I didn't get here without a lot of help. And I -- that's what I look forward to as -- you know, the next generation has to have some transparency and some help, especially in this pricing. We got to fix that pricing so the guy knows what he's going to get paid so he can do some budgeting.

You know, you look at the money that I lost or made or whatever, when you look at that 1.9, you go, well, I can see why I couldn't expand, I can see why this farmer or that farmer could do what they did in their region. I would just like some equality there.



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1		THE COURT: Who else has questions for
2	Mr. Hall	lock?
3		I'm going to turn to the Agricultural Marketing
4	Service	for questions.
5		CROSS-EXAMINATION
6	BY MR.	WILSON:
7	Q.	Good afternoon, Mr. Hallock.
8	Α.	Good afternoon.
9	Q.	Hi. I'm Todd Wilson. I'm with the Agricultural
10	Marketi	ng Service.
11		I'd like to ask you a couple questions. We have
12	asked s	everal producers in the past, or all producers in
13	the pas	t, if they meet the Small Business Administration
14	definit	ion of a Small Business.
15		Have you heard that question before?
16	Α.	Yeah. Only clarity is, my gross revenue is
17	greater	than that, but mine by far is not even close to
18	that.	
19		Does that question I I didn't quite hear all
20	the defi	inition but
21	Q.	Yes. The threshold is \$3.75 million
22	Α.	Gross.
23	Q.	gross.
24	Α.	Yeah. I'm over that.
25	Q.	Okay.
26	А.	I want to stress we. That's my son, my wife, and
27	myself.	
28	Q.	Yes.



A. Okay.

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Q. Thank you.

The other question I had, we have had a couple of I think -- or at least one producer from Ellsworth as well, and we asked him about their delivery of milk and where their milk was delivered to and how far.

I was wondering if you might be able to speak to your particular dairy and where it is delivered to?

- A. So I'm located in Mondovi, Wisconsin. Ellsworth has multiple plants, a couple of different plants. The main plant is in Ellsworth. It's 57 miles from my driveway to their doorstop. And if it went to Menominee, it's actually a little closer. But Menominee is not a full running and they don't need as much milk, so sometimes the milk will go there, but mainly it goes to Ellsworth. And if we go to Menominee, it's 46 miles or something like that. 44, 46.
- Q. Okay. So we have also asked other producers about how they have seen the impact of different things affecting your fuel or affecting your hauling costs.

Have you also experienced that?

A. Oh, yeah. Well, I'm fortunate -- well, fortunate or unfortunate -- the farmer does pay for trucking one way or the other, be it the co-op pays for it and takes it out of base price or if they pay for it direct. And, yes, there's been a direct correlation between, labor, fuel, equipment, it's gone up. I mean, there's -- my guess is in the last two years, probably 10%.



I'd have to go back and look at the numbers, sir, but off my head, you know, it's -- it's getting -- it's just not a cheap deal. There's a shortage of truck drivers around here, and unfortunately we have to haul seven days a week. So I mean, you know, you start to add in overtime or you start to add in weekend pay, it's not a cheap deal.

- Q. Right. The last question I have is on risk management tools. Just wondering if you utilize any tools in your dairy?
- A. Yes, I do. We -- we are on a dairy margin coverage up to the maximum amount. And then we do use -- we have used DRP in the past. We now use, I would say in the last couple years a lot more LGM, Livestock Gross Margin program. And we typically are booking six to eight months out -- or six to nine months out. Usually, LGM, I'm almost always seven months out plus. About a week or two ago, because I was worried about the government shutdown, I did lock in May's milk of 24 already.
- Q. Well, thank you very much. It's amazing how Zoom, you can read my mind, because that was my next question.
- A. Well, I listened to previous ones too, so that's fine.
- DR. CRYAN: Thank you, Mr. Hallock. Appreciate your time here and taking time out today.
- THE COURT: Mr. Hallock, I have a couple spelling questions.



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1	The other place you sometimes ship, Menominee, how
2	do you spell that?
3	THE WITNESS: It's "me-no-money," so M-E
4	M-O-N I'd have to sit down and look at it. Menominee
5	is how they say it, but it's spelled like "me-no-money."
6	THE COURT: Me-no-money. That's great. So
7	THE WITNESS: That's how I remember it. I'm not a
8	perfect speller. I can quickly look it up if you need.
9	THE COURT: Okay. Yeah. So I think we can find
10	it based on that.
11	And then I didn't catch, when you told me the name
12	of the street for your business, I didn't quite get that
13	down.
14	THE WITNESS: W962 County Road NN, as in Nancy
15	Nancy.
16	THE COURT: County Road NN.
17	THE WITNESS: Yep.
18	THE COURT: Okay. Good.
19	MR. PROWANT: Thank you, Mr. Hallock.
20	Your Honor, we move for admission of Exhibit 326.
21	THE COURT: Is there any objection to the
22	admission into evidence of Exhibit 326?
23	There is none. Exhibit 326 is admitted into
24	evidence.
25	(Exhibit Number 326 was received into
26	evidence.)
27	MR. HILL: And while we are discussing that, Your
28	Honor, I think Exhibit 324, Ms. Perkins, I'm not sure that



1	was admitted, and Exhibit 325 by Mr. Painter.
2	THE COURT: It doesn't hurt to admit them twice.
3	I admit into evidence Exhibit 324.
4	(Exhibit Number 324 was received into
5	evidence.)
6	THE COURT: I admit into evidence Exhibit 325.
7	(Exhibit Number 325 was received into
8	evidence.)
9	THE COURT: All right. Thank you so much,
10	Mr. Hallock, and we will now call producer number five of
11	this afternoon session.
12	MR. WILSON: Your Honor, number five is George
13	te Velde. And I might have pronounced that wrong. I
14	apologize, Mr. te Velde.
15	Maybe it's te Velde. Is that correct?
16	THE WITNESS: Yes. Can you hear me okay?
17	te Velde is the pronunciation.
18	MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. te Velde. Appreciate
19	you being here.
20	Your Honor.
21	THE COURT: All right. Now. Let me make sure I
22	can spell that. Your name was up a minute ago there it
23	is. It's the small T-E and then a capital V-E-L-D-E.
24	THE WITNESS: That's correct.
25	THE COURT: And it is pronounced te Velde?
26	THE WITNESS: te Velde, yes. It is a Dutch name.
27	THE COURT: Ah, it is Dutch. Wonderful.
28	And I'd like you now now that I have got it



1 written down -- I want you to state and spell your name. 2. THE WITNESS: George te Velde, G-E-O-R-G-E, T-E, 3 V-E-L-D-E. 4 THE COURT: Have you previously testified in this 5 hearing? 6 THE WITNESS: No, I have not. 7 THE COURT: I'd like to swear you in. GEORGE TE VELDE, 8 9 Being first duly sworn, was examined and 10 testified as follows: 11 THE COURT: Would you state for us your business 12 address? 13 THE WITNESS: Yes. It is 27815 Dodds Road, that's 14 D-O-D-D-S, in Escalon, spelled E-S-C-L-O-N -- I'm sorry, I 15 misspelled my hometown name -- it's E-S-C-A-L-O-N, 16 California, 95320. 17 THE COURT: You are speaking with the perfect 18 Thank you. tempo. 19 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 2.0 THE COURT: You may proceed. 2.1 THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm a third generation dairy 22 farmer in California, located in Escalon. Escalon is a 23 small town right about in the middle of the Central 24 Valley. I have been milking cows for 30 years, and for a 25 majority of that period of time I was a shipper to a 26 Class I plant in Modesto nearby. And we were of course 27 during most of that time operating under the California 28 Milk Marketing Order up until November of 2018.



The California order had some different cooling rules. Of course, we had a quota system attached to it, which was very contentious, which some people, if you know about it, it is a Byzantine problem, and it probably is not going to be solved right away.

But that's not what I'm really speaking about.

My -- I left my Class I plant in 2020, and it had to do with the fact that under the new Federal Order, Class I plants were forever and always part of the pool. We were always getting paid pool price. Other classes could pool and depool and repool at will in the new Federal Order, it seemed, which left me at the Class I plant with either the pool price or a price lower than other dairymen who were shipping to a plant that had depooled. So we were either being paid the price everyone else is or something less.

And to me that was not an acceptable way to market milk. I approached my creamery about this, but our Federal Order Administrator in the area assured us that there was really no way around this situation. So in early 2020, this was actually before the pandemic hit, I approached my creamery and told them that I intended to leave because of this issue.

In the spring of that year the Class I plant that I was still shipping to, they hadn't been accepted at another creamery yet, eliminated some of their premiums, their shipper premiums that they had. We called it the Sweet R premium. It was a \$0.20 premium just to keep us there.



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And they also eliminated their quality program.

They did these, I think, in response to marketing shocks that they were experiencing in their fluid milk sales, and that really gave me no reason at all to stay with them.

So I put out applications at a couple of different cheese -- a local cheese company and another cooperative that's heavily involved in the Class IV market at the time.

But then when the summer of 2020 rolled around, the problems with the lax pooling rules in the Federal Order really hit home. This was when the government got into the business of buying lots of cheese for the COVID lunchbox program, and it drove the price of Class III milk -- of course we all know this -- up into the mid 20s, meanwhile our pool price was hovering around 13, \$14.

It -- it was a terrible time for those of us who were still stuck being paid pool prices with that high value cheese milk out of the pool.

It wasn't until June of 2021, where I was finally able to leave the -- that Class I plant and am now shipping to a predominantly Class IV plant. They have a position in Class III, and of course, they are attached to the pool through their Class I sales with the creamery I used to ship with.

Since then I have seen my own price occasionally go up when Class IV depools since it's such a heavily Class IV position, and they do pay somewhat of a premium for that. Of course, since it is a cooperative, they are



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not obligated to pay at all, and that's not really the issue with the Federal Order.

But I'm retelling this story, I was asked to tell this -- my -- this story of events surrounding my leaving them because of the penalty that a dairyman in the Federal Order is being subject to by being at a Class I plant, always and forever being in the pool or being paid less than other depooled dairies.

During that time of the vast difference in the two classes, the Class III depooled in the summer of 2020, there was a lot of finger pointing, there was a lot of bad feelings among dairymen. Some were making gobs of money, and some were going broke. And happily that situation rectified itself. Of course, we all know there's quite a bit of government payments that came back in the form of COVID payments and all the rest of it, which was helpful.

But coming off of the California pooling rules, it was really -- one of the things that really gave people pause in California to vote to join the order was these lax pooling rules. It was -- in California our program before that was dairies individually would depool, and if you wanted to do that, you would go Grade B, and then you were ineligible for rejoining the pool for a year.

This -- the risk of doing that kept people in the pool. It really maintained the integrity of the pool.

And what we have seen since then in the Federal Order, I don't think there's been more than an accumulated six months since we joined five years ago where all classes



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have been utilized in the pool. We're either all III is out or all IV is out. Currently I imagine IV will be pooled with the butter prices going up.

But this -- this inability to -- to predict what is going to happen with pooling and depooling and repooling, like the other panelists who have spoken today, it makes hedging against that sort of thing almost impossible. I participate in the DRP as well. I buy at DRP policies according to class, Class III or Class IV, at about 50% each going forward. But during those depooling periods, I find myself way overhedged on one class and way under on another, and therefore we're not really doing the job that the DRP needs to be doing.

I didn't provide a written statement today. I also would have to defer to some of the former panelists today with their expertise on the Federal Order and the nuances of it. I think they have some very good points to be made.

But my contention is that I think that it would be wise for the USDA to take a look at these pooling rules, and tighten them up some way or another, whether it is through a larger Class I mover to incentivize participation in the pool or go toward more the old California model where if the creamery depools, it stays out for a long enough period of time that the risk is too high to do it.

So that's all my testimony is. It's not a written statement. It's just a retelling of the events



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1	surrounding my leaving of the Class I plant and the
2	reasons I did it.
3	THE COURT: Mr. te Velde, that is very dynamic
4	impact testimony. And it's fine that you don't have a
5	written statement. Your evidence is preserved in the
6	transcript.
7	I'm going to invite now anyone who has questions
8	for Mr. te Velde to come to the podium here in Indiana.
9	And although you cannot see us, Mr. te Velde, we
10	have a very good picture of you
11	THE WITNESS: Okay.
12	THE COURT: right up on the screen, and the
13	people who come to the podium are looking right at your
14	picture on the screen.
15	CROSS-EXAMINATION
16	BY DR. CRYAN:
17	Q. Hello. My name is Roger Cryan with the American
18	Farm Bureau Federation. Thank you for your testimony.
19	I understand are you a Farm Bureau member?
20	A. Yes, I am.
21	Q. I appreciate that. And I appreciate your you
22	know, your overview of the some of these impacts.
23	Are there any thoughts that you have on remedies
24	beyond what you have already shared?
25	A. Not really. I I have to admit, after five
26	years of being in the Federal Order, marketing milk under



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it, I haven't spent a lot of time studying the ways that

it could be repaired or changed or improved. It's a gripe

1	among a lot of California dairymen that we experience this
2	depooling problem, so much so that it like I for the
3	reasons I mentioned, it makes operating so much more
4	difficult. Anything that can be done to tighten those
5	rules up to keep people in the pool, to keep III and IV in
6	the pool, would go a long way toward stabilizing our milk
7	prices, and also to allow us to kind of budget and also to
8	do our hedging that we need to do.
9	I can't say I have any specific remedies that I

I can't say I have any specific remedies that I would recommend.

- Q. That is -- that points in a direction of some, and I appreciate that. Thank you.
- DR. CRYAN: That's all I have. Thank you.
- 14 THE COURT: Are there other questions before I
 15 turn to the Agricultural Marketing Service?
- 16 I now turn to the Agricultural Marketing Service.
- 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MR. WILSON:

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- 19 Q. I think it's still morning out there,
- 20 | Mr. te Velde; am I correct?
- 21 A. For four more minutes, that's right.
- 22 | O. Good morning.
- 23 A. Good morning.
 - Q. This is Todd Wilson. I'm with the Agricultural Marketing Service. I would like to ask you a few questions that we have asked all of our dairy farmers, and we do appreciate you being here to take the time out of your busy day and testify for us. So it is a good to have



you here.

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So we have asked dairy farmers about their -- if they meet the Small Business Administration's threshold for Small Business.

Have you heard that question or do you know what that is for you?

- A. Yes. My gross revenue is above the limit.
- Q. Okay. Yes. Thank you then. Appreciate that.

Also, you mentioned about your -- you talk a lot about your supply in the past and -- or your supplier in the past. You also mentioned that you changed to another -- another processor.

Can you tell me how far your milk travels to get to that plant for processing?

- A. It's roughly 30 miles from my dairy to the -- to the processing plant that -- that is accepting my milk.
- Q. So this maybe an apples-and-oranges comparison, but looking back over maybe the past time period, how have you seen your transportation costs affected? And if maybe it's sometimes the difference in processor, if you can kind of note that. But what's your transportation cost been?
- A. Yeah. Well, I have been with -- my new Class IV plant that I'm with since June of 2021, in that period of time alone in California, I mean, we have seen costs increase 40, 50% for hauling. It is not just a marginal amount. Fuel prices, labor costs are huge. Equipment costs have really increased that too.



So where before the -- let me back up a second. The previous fluid plant that I was shipping to was maybe ten miles closer. That ten miles doesn't really make much of a difference. It has more to do with all these other costs I was talking about. Since probably 2016, '17 -- 2016, '17, and '18, until now, like I said, it's probably gone up 40 or 50% for the reasons that I have stated. And that's -- like I said, with not -- with just a small difference in distance. Our transportation costs out here in California are completely out of control, and it is going to get worse.

O. I can understand.

Last question I have is on risk management. You mentioned a little bit about that in your testimony. But if you could, kind of give us a feel about what you use if you use risk management tools.

A. Yes. I sign up for the DMC of course every year.

But DRP, I buy -- I've heard some of the previous questions. I'm buying DRP policies four or five quarters in the future if I can. That seems to be the sweet spot, I think. Sometimes it's not offered beyond that. There's not enough liquidity, especially in the Class IV side, to really establish a price. A lot of those are delayed until like a year out.

I have found occasionally, and we're not sure what goes on in the black box formulation for some of these DRP premiums, occasionally you will find a really good deal four or five quarters in the future, and we'll grab some



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of those if we can.

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I cover about any 80% of my milk production through the DRP for Class III and IV. I separate those, like I mentioned, evenly.

And then also on the feed side, I'm buying corn calls and soybean calls according to the dairy ration formulations that we have. So we're hedging actually both sides of the equation, which is the -- in my opinion, the proper way to do it. It -- it -- it works out fine.

Like I said, when we establish these DRP positions, and we don't see depooling, but if that does happen, it throws a monkey wrench into the formulas, into the plan.

- Q. Can you talk any about your unique situation about your maybe possible changes in your -- in your risk management strategy as it relates to the Federal Order, as it relates maybe to the state order prior to 2018, as it relates to different people you are selling your milk to. How has your strategy changed over time?
- A. Well, I mean, like I mentioned in my testimony, the first risk that I wanted to assuage some is the problem of being stuck in the pool all the time with -- at a Class I plant, and shipping to the Class IV plant that I do now does provide somewhat of a premium. Like being a co-op, of course, they are not required to pay us anything, but they do pass some of that along to us out of the co-op's coffers for this Class IV depooling that takes place occasionally.



I have been hedging milk since 2009. Back then, of course, it was all done with milk puts. I rarely did any sort of forward contracting on milk through commodity -- through the CME or anything like that. The options are I think a better way to go.

But since the DRP came along with its subsidized premiums, it is foolish not to engage in that in my opinion if you are a dairyman. It is a way to -- to allay risk rather cheaply.

When it comes to the Federal Milk Marketing Order I think -- I'll just have to restate that it loses -- the DRP loses some of its -- its impact because of this lax pooling that takes place. We have had before where when -- like I said, like a class depools, like in 2020 when Class III milk depooled, I found myself way overhedged on Class IV, simply because that was my only hedges I had.

So it would be -- it would be helpful I think to -- for the operation of the DRP, especially, if there was a way to keep milk inside the pool. And I mention as one of the specifics -- and I don't know if this is a proposal that's been brought up, but to have some sort of a time limit for rejoining the pool, for any class that decides to depool. It would be better to have them stay in.

Q. Okay. Well, thank you, Mr. te Velde. I appreciate your being here and testifying for us. Thank you very much.



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1	A. Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the USDA for
2	going through this process. I am hearing that this hasn't
3	been done for 23 years. I hope that it's more often than
4	that. Our industry is changing so fast with the different
5	risk management tools we have, like we have talked about,
6	and and different stresses on markets around the
7	country. This is something that probably should take
8	place more often than that than every generation.
9	THE COURT: Well said, Mr. te Velde. That's a
10	frequently expressed sentiment here. Thank you so much.
11	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
12	THE COURT: We now move to our final producer
13	testimony for the day.
14	MR. WILSON: Yes, I think we have Mr. McAfee on.
15	THE COURT: All right. And I see Mr. McAfee's
16	face, and how I see his face. Great. Good.
17	MR. WILSON: If you might speak, Mr. McAfee, I
18	think you will activate our video.
19	THE WITNESS: Can you hear me now?
20	MR. WILSON: There we go.
21	THE COURT: Excellent.
22	THE WITNESS: Excellent.
23	THE COURT: Before I ask you your name I'm going
24	to write down what I see on the screen. What I see is,
25	M-A-R-K, last name M-C, A-F-E-E. So
26	THE WITNESS: That's correct. That's correct.
27	THE COURT: I'm now going to ask you,
28	Mr. McAfee I'm Judge Clifton, by the way. I'm going to



1 ask you to state and spell your name. 2. THE WITNESS: My name is Mark, M-A-R-K, McAfee, M-C-A-F-E-E. 3 MR. WILSON: Your Honor, I have just noticed --4 and we have been having some technical difficulties -- but 5 6 on our website we do have two documents that just now got 7 They are named McAfee-DF1 and McAfee-DF2. And 8 believe DF1 is his written testimony, and DF2 is a 9 PowerPoint presentation he will be going through. I just 10 wanted to let everybody know that that is available now. 11 THE COURT: Excellent. 12 Mr. McAfee, before we keep going, would you just 13 hold up your DF1 to the screen a little bit just so we can 14 get a -- just a guick look. 15 THE WITNESS: Well, I have this presentation right 16 here, which is in written form that's been submitted via 17 e-mail. 18 THE COURT: Good. Thank you. I see it. And 19 then --2.0 THE WITNESS: And then there's a PowerPoint, which 2.1 I have running in the background right now. If I had 22 share screen, I could bring that up. 23 THE COURT: No need. No need. But that's good 24 that you also prepared a PowerPoint. And these will 25 become part of the record. Right now I'm going to give 26 them exhibit numbers so that we will not lose our place on



those.

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1	will be Exhibit 328.
2	(Exhibit Numbers 327 and 328 were marked for
3	identification.)
4	THE COURT: Very good.
5	Have you previously testified in this hearing?
6	THE WITNESS: Not in this hearing. I did testify
7	a couple years at the FMMO meeting in Clovis, California.
8	THE COURT: Very fine. I was there.
9	Would you raise your right hand, then I'll swear
10	you in.
11	MARK MCAFEE,
12	Being first duly sworn, was examined and
13	testified as follows:
14	THE COURT: Thank you.
15	You may proceed.
16	THE WITNESS: If I can get share screen to be able
17	to have my PowerPoint ready, that would be great.
18	Do you see it there?
19	THE COURT: Yes. Excellent.
20	THE WITNESS: Very good.
21	Okay. I thought I would bring some color to the
22	conversation. And I really, really thank you for the
23	opportunity to speak on behalf of all dairymen here in
24	California that I represent as the Vice President of the
25	California Dairy Campaign here in California, which is the
26	home of the growth management proposal that's been sitting
27	around for years and we've talked about for a long time.
28	I'm also a member



1 MR. HILL: Mr. McAfee? 2. THE WITNESS: Yes. MR. HILL: This is Brian Hill from the USDA. 3 4 are going to need to have to slow down here, sir. We have a court reporter who is taking down your words, and we're 5 6 not going to be able to get it if you don't slow down. 7 Thank you. THE WITNESS: Absolutely. I will slow it way 8 9 down. 10 I'm also a member and sponsor of the International 11 Milk Genomics Consortium, which is funded partially by 12 dairy checkoff dollars here in California, which is a 13 fascinating place to go get science about milk and raw 14 milk and breast milk and camel's milk and every kind of 15 milk. 16 That said --17 THE COURT: Now, I'm going to stop you. I am able 18 to look at this slide, and I see the logo for that. And I would just like you slowly to read that logo into the 19 2.0 record. 2.1 THE WITNESS: International Milk Genomics 22 Consortium. And that was founded 20 years ago by 23 Dr. Bruce German at UC Davis in California. 24 THE COURT: And would you spell his last name if 25 you can? 26 THE WITNESS: G-E-R-M-A-N, Dr. Bruce German. 27 THE COURT: And its logo has the letters IMG?



THE WITNESS:

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IMGC.

THE COURT: IMGC. Good.

All right. Continue, please.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Clicking to the next slide here.

This is kind of late breaking, but last evening I was contacted by our friends at Farm Bureau from Wisconsin and others, Dairy Together, which I participate in, and they said they were having a very hard time getting dairymen to testify.

So my hat is off to those dairymen who have testified today. When they searched far and wide to get more testimony to come forward from dairymen, they could find none because of the fear of retaliation by processors.

So it's very clear that dairymen are scared and they live in the fear of processors and the loss of contracts, which are very hard to come by nowadays. So I think that's very important to say that.

I also would like to say that I strongly support, strongly support, the testimony of Lynne McBride and Joaquin Contente of the California Dairy Campaign, and they have already testified. The technical research and data is very, very good there, and I strongly support that. And I don't want to go through their pages of testimony and have it just be reiterated again.

But one of the key takeaways to their presentations is that we must include mozzarella cheese in the Class III formula, the price formula. Mozzarella



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cheese is now exceeding 4.49 billion pounds, far more than 1 2. cheddar cheese, which is sitting at 3.96 billion pounds in the U.S.A., but yet it is not used in the class formula. 3 4 The moisture levels are much, much higher in mozzarella, and that if it's added to the pricing formula, farmers 5 would be paid a much higher price point, and that's being 6 7 ignored and overlooked. And it's really, really 8 important. It would give several dollars per 9 hundredweight to the farmers because they are not being paid currently under the price formulas under Class III. 10 11 Super important to get this included in any changes going 12 forward. THE COURT: Would you, for the benefit of those 13 14 who are not looking at the slide, spell the names of those 15 two, people who have already testified? 16 THE WITNESS: Joaquin Contente, J-O-A-Q-U-I-N, 17 C-O-N-T-E-N-T-E, is the president of California Dairy, the 18 CDC. And also, Lynne McBride that would be, L-Y-N-N-E, 19 M-C-B-R-I-D-E. She's the director of California Dairy 20 Campaign. They have already testified. 2.1 THE COURT: Thank you so much. And now --22 THE WITNESS: As -- yes. 23 THE COURT: We're looking at your next slide. 24 THE WITNESS: As a member of the International 25 Milk Genomics Consortium and a sponsor to it, and as a 26 dairyman, a Fresno County dairyman, the milk research 27 points to high value for dairy products, very high value



for -- for dairy products.

I just got back from Cork, Ireland, attending my 12th annual International Milk Genomics Consortium meeting, and I'm the only farmer in the room. There's nobody else there. And I'm surrounded by Ph.D.s with all kinds of information, that processors are not -- processors are not using in their development of new products.

There's a total disconnect, or almost total disconnect, between the research being performed on behalf of farmers and being funded by some farmers' checkoff dollars, especially if you are here in California, but yet that research is not being used in the development of new innovative products. This is a very important problem.

Consumers, the market research is very clear, it became clear just last week at the California Milk Advisory Board Processor's meeting: Less process, easy to digest, delicious, gut friendly, immune system building dairy products. They want to keep -- the consumers want to keep the bioactives in milk and keep them bioactive.

In fact, that saying -- Dairy Council of California's top trending thing was, you see this, it is, "food is medicine," top trending thing. Processors are not doing that.

Processors respond by saying, highly processed,
"shelf stable ESL products" that are hard to digest,
gut-inflammatory, allergenic, have added sugars, with
cartoons on them. That's the concept of how to push more
milk into this market. That's the response that



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processors have in the background of the research.

The science says, we need to make more easy-to-digest, bioactive, less processed, or alternatively processed, very important, delicious dairy products that are gut friendly, build the gut microbiome, which is home to 80% of the human immune system.

And I have three pictures down below here. They admit that per capita consumption of milk is shrinking. They want to find more customers by exporting. We have 350 million people in America that are hungry for products if we made them properly. So they are really saying export to China, export someplace else to find new customers because the ones we have don't like our products.

In fact, the right-hand side shows, put the cartoon on the caricature where the ESL ultra-pasteurized products -- not just pasteurized -- ultra-pasteurized products. But with 90- and 120-day shelf lives --

THE COURT: Let me stop you, Mr. McAfee. You are going great. You are very enthusiastic. And the court reporter is struggling to catch all your words. So back up and just repeat what you just told me more slowly.

THE WITNESS: Sure. The per capita consumption of milk is shrinking. That's an admission by the data from the consumers and the processors. So they're seeking new places to sell their milk instead of securing more interest in the 340 million, 350 million people we have in America today, by innovation and making products that



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consumer market research says we should be making.

THE COURT: That was almost more slowly.

THE WITNESS: Oh, boy, I'll have to slow to way down.

THE COURT: Yes.

THE WITNESS: The ESL or extended shelf life milk opportunity is kind of being relied upon by processors who can't sell more product in America and are being suggested to perhaps go to China or some other place.

I'm not against export. What I'm against is failure to innovate to provide products that will be welcomed by customers at home.

The right-hand bottom corner shows cartoon characters being added to ultra-high temperature processed dairy products for children. And that is exactly the opposite direction this science says, and consumers say, we are supposed to go.

Science has the answers. We have invested greatly in this science. But the processors don't listen, and they are not innovating.

And I don't blame them solely. The FDA and the NCIMS, the National Conference of Interstate Milk
Shippers, has blocked innovation by saying we don't want to look at HPP, high pressure pascalization. We don't want to look at UV, ultraviolet pasteurization. We don't want to look to ultra-filtered milks like the French do.
We don't want to look at HACCP plus PCR and perhaps less processed or unprocessed products. The only solution is



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pasteurization, which has some serious problems.

Look at this milk trend.

THE COURT: Now, on your slide I want you to go through these innovations again, even though you just said them, and make sure that the record is clear what capital letters you just told us, so that all of that is captured.

THE WITNESS: We have the answers, but processors don't listen and they are not innovating.

The latest IMGC study, presented in Cork, Ireland, which I witnessed myself, said there's not really true lactose intolerance. Instead, there's a loss of biodiversity in dairy products, and the loss of that same biodiversity in consumer's gut.

The Maasai, the Maasai, the King in Kenya in Africa, and Mongolians in Outer Mongolia and Asia are proof of this. Their milk products contain the bioactives necessary to make lactase, therefore, they don't have lactose, and none of them have the lactase persistence gene.

So what's that point us to? Lactose intolerance should be renamed pasteurization intolerance. It's a processing problem, not a consumer gut problem.

THE COURT: Now --

THE WITNESS: We need to produce products that actually can be digested and absorbed, and the consumers are saying it. The science is saying it. Processors are not doing it.

So we really need to lift all the innovation



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barriers so we can look at these alternatives to pasteurization and look at innovations that can take care of our markets. Other countries in the world are doing so.

THE COURT: Let me stop you, Mr. McAfee, spell Maasai from your slide.

THE WITNESS: Yes. M-A-A-S-A-I.

THE COURT: Then down on the same slide, the phrase, "where is the innovation," and for example, you start, you have, capital H-P-P. You see that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: I want you to read each one of those, state how it should look on the transcript page, and what it stands for.

THE WITNESS: Innovation being looked at around the world aggressively. Because the scientists are saying that heat really damages bioactives and it changes all these other things, the proteins, the whey protein for instance, and destroys an incredible number of enzymes found, including anti-inflammatory enzymes. The alkaline phosphate enzyme has been found by French investigators to be very anti-inflammatory and perhaps part of the French paradox.

They are looking at alternatives to just heat for pasteurization, including HPP, which is high pressure pascalization, not pasteurization, but pascalization, which is they're using high pressure of 50 to 80,000 pounds per square inch to destroy pathogens. But



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it has a different kind of effect on other bioactives, so it can be used as an alternative to heat. It's just an innovation that needs to be researched and perhaps approached and thought of.

Ultra-filtra- -- excuse me -- UV, ultra light, which is sunlight, used at higher levels, can be used to inactivate or destroy pathogenic bacteria found in some milk. And it causes different damage. It's not the same damage, it's different damage.

Ultra-filtration which filters out bacteria, it has its limitations as well.

HACCP, hazard analysis critical control points, where you have a known source of milk. That milk is collected from the cows, and they are very, very clean. We achieve pasteurization standards without pasteurizing, less than 10 coliforms, less than 15,000 standard plate count without pasteurizing.

And using PCR testing --

THE COURT: Now, before you go to PCR, what are the capital letters for HACCP?

THE WITNESS: HACCP is hazard analysis critical control points. It's a well-known food safety management tool here in America.

THE COURT: And I'm going to read it for you. What I'm looking for is H-A-C-C-P.

THE WITNESS: Correct. Hazard analysis critical control points. It originally started in NASA for space astronauts' risk management mitigation. It is used



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broadly in other food production systems besides milk.

PCR is polymerase chain reaction, which is a system of detecting the genetics of whether a pathogen is present or not in a sample.

THE COURT: Thank you. So again, I'm sorry, I'm thinking of how the transcript will look. Capital P-C-R.

THE WITNESS: Correct.

THE COURT: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: These are examples of some innovations. There are many more. But we are not looking at these things, but we are riding on this downward curve of plummeting milk production -- or I should say consumption in America.

So why don't we change? Why don't we innovate?

There's some really important things to be considered here as a background conversation about this whole thing.

Consolidation is a national food safety issue, not only on the processor side, but also on the dairy side.

THE COURT: Slow down, please.

THE WITNESS: Consolidation is a national food security issue. We are losing five dairies a day. I'll get into that more in just a minute.

In the 2020 food chain stress test, we call it COVID, it served as a big lesson. You look at the pictures down below, and you see that dairies are dumping milk in March, April, May of 2020, and you see a picture of milk coming out of the silo tank being spilled onto the ground, probably going into the milk -- or I should say



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the lagoon on the dairy. The processors could not adapt, and the stores' shelves were empty off and on for months. And you see pictures of store shelves that are empty.

Some local brands stepped up and were able to serve the local stores, but that was a rare and kind of an exception. And you can see in the right lower corner there a local brand filled the entire shelf with their space, but there were still empty shelves around it.

So if we don't learn or listen from prior lessons, we are going to continue down a trend of building an even more fragile food system which points right to consolidation. The fewer dairies you have, the farther they are from processors, the fewer processors we have, the more fragile our food system, the more remote our food is from those that consume it. That's what the stress test of 2020 showed us clearly.

And we have Albert Einstein up here saying basically, doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results is insanity. So we don't want to do that. We're smart. We want to change and adapt.

We have lost 103,000 dairies since 1992. We are losing five dairies a day, every day. My neighbor who is about 20 miles from here is having his dairy auctioned this morning. Four more happening someplace in America.

We need to have resilience, the ability to adapt. We have to be local and have regional milk sources. We are creating a more fragile food system by doing more of what we're doing. This impacts jobs and community tax



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base support. It's also building a more carbon-heavy fragile long distance food chain.

So processors wanting a higher Make Allowance subsidy with guaranteed profits is a reward for lack of innovation and failing the American dairies, and ultimately, and most importantly, American consumers.

We look at the curve on the right-hand top of PowerPoint slide. You see the number of licensed dairy operations dropping dramatically from 130,000, to today, about 25,000, maybe 26. But five more dairies a day being put out of business.

The things we can do to build a stronger dairy system for America. These are the five things we can do today.

We can listen to consumers, we can look at the market data and where it points to for growth and success.

2: We can listen to the microbiome science and innovate. The processors' Make Allowances assure more of the same with a guaranteed payment. They don't have to innovate.

We can, 3, fairly pay the farmers to match growth in supply with growth in demand. Our three-legged milk stool we have here at CDC explains that in detail. We can no longer be robbing our farmers, paying less than the cost of production. It's just not right.

4: We can teach about dairy products using influencers on social platforms, but first, we need to create the innovative, gut-friendly, delicious, bioactive



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products that influencers would want to associate themselves with and would be excited about.

Lastly, today, we need to add mozzarella to the Class III pricing formula and fairly give that return back to the farmers. Currently farmers are being cheated multiple dollars per hundredweight because mozzarella is not included in the Class III pricing formula.

A stronger dairy system must serve the entire food chain in America. The farmers, hard working, very hard working, diligent, the people that have testified here today, hard-working, multi-generation, resourceful, hard working people, are not being paid fairly by the processors because of the structural issues we have with how our system is developed, that the FMMO is supposed to protect us against, but it is not.

And ultimately, we must serve our customers and our consumers with foods which they can digest, are delicious in building the immune system, and are fantastic to the health of their lives.

So that's my presentation for today. And I really thank you for letting this kind of unusual voice speak.

I'm an unusual dairyman in that I own my own processing plant and I make these products for customers here in California.

I'm open to questions. But I think innovation is absolutely critical if we want to see progress. The scientists have the answers. The consumers are demanding these products. Thank you.



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1 THE COURT: Mr. McAfee, I thank you. 2. I'm going to now invite questions. THE WITNESS: Did I leave you speechless? 3 4 THE COURT: Not speechless, but we had told people that we would be finished today at 3:00 p.m., and some of 5 6 them had planes to catch, so we lost some of the people 7 who would have been asking questions. THE WITNESS: I understand. 8 9 THE COURT: However, all of this is captured, as 10 all of this is evidence which will be very valuable, as is 11 everyone's evidence. 12 And I would now turn to the Agricultural Marketing 13 Service. 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION 15 BY MR. WILSON: 16 Good afternoon, Mr. McAfee. How are you doing? Ο. 17 Α. I'm doing quite well. Thank you. It's an honor 18 to be here. 19 Well, thank you for being here. This is Todd Ο. 2.0 Wilson. I'm with the Agricultural Marketing Service. 2.1 I do have a couple of questions I'd like to ask 22 pertaining to your dairy farm and your operation. 23 you -- considering the questions we have asked other dairy 24 farmers, maybe you have heard the questions relating to do 25 you qualify as a Small Business according to the Small 26 Business Administration?



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Okay. Thank you for that.

I do not. I am far in excess of the 3.7 million.

1	The other question I'd like to ask is relating to
2	risk management tools that dairy farmers utilize and
3	wondered if you might speak to those in your own
4	operation.
5	A. We try to take advantage of whatever opportunities
6	there are to return something for our investment. We do
7	participate in the DMC program, but none others at this
8	time.
9	Q. Okay. Well, thank you very much.
10	MR. WILSON: I do thank you for taking the time
11	out today to be here with us and to share share your
12	thoughts, and look forward to another day. Thank you,
13	Mr. McAfee.
14	THE WITNESS: You're very welcome. Just remember,
15	five dairies every day. Thank you so much.
16	THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. McAfee. All right.
17	It is my job now to bring us to a close, and we
18	start again 8:00 a.m. Monday morning. And I look forward
19	to seeing you back at that time.
20	Thank you. We go off record at 3:32.
21	(Whereupon, the proceedings concluded.)
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1	STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2	COUNTY OF FRESNO)
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4	I, MYRA A. PISH, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do
5	hereby certify that the foregoing pages comprise a full,
6	true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes, and a
7	full, true and correct statement of the proceedings held
8	at the time and place heretofore stated.
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10	DATED: December 7, 2023
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