

September 25, 2006

USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs

STOP 0231 - Room 2971

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-0231

Attention USDA:

I am a concerned farmer writing to you in reference to how the price of our raw milk is determined. I believe that if you make a good product you should get paid for a good product. On our farm we have clean, hormone free milk.

This past year the price of gas was way up for farmers to pay but what did farmers get, lower milk prices. We need to use the cost of production as a method to determine the dairy farmers milk price. The cost of machinery, seed, fertilizer, feed, etc. has risen steadily but milk prices may only rise for a short time and then drop back down. The farmer needs a \$20.00 base price in order to make ends meet and may possibly have a little leftover at the end of the month.

The family farm in our neighborhood is steadily on the decrease and if the government does not do something about the milk price to keep it up and steady I am afraid that they will soon be extinct.

Very truly yours,

Hew Valley Farm (William, Ginger, Cooper, Abbey & Frances Hewitt)

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