



# OHIO DAIRY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

*Supporting Ohio's dairy production industry; optimizing profitability and productivity;  
addressing issues that affect dairy producers*

May 16, 2023

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

Dear Administrator Summers:

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

ODPA is a grassroots legislative, research, and producer education organization, representing and advocating for Ohio's dairy farmers from across the state, regardless of farm size, breed or production strategy, marketing preference, or political affiliation. Ohio is home to 251,000 dairy cows that live on 1,450 farms and produces 5.6 billion pounds of milk annually, valued at just over \$1 billion and dairy farms create an economic impact of more than \$4 billion. The average herd size is 173 cows. Ohio is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in total milk production in the nation, and 5<sup>th</sup> in the number of processing and receiving plants. Ohio is #1 in Swiss cheese and #2 in low fat cottage cheese production in the nation.

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

NMPF's petition is the result of nearly two years of meetings and discussions within the dairy industry and represents a consensus of the nation's dairy farmers and its processing dairy cooperatives. This includes meaningful engagement with producer associations like ours. While its specific provisions will have different impacts on literally every dairy farm in America, this proposal will benefit all producers and represents the best path for the U.S. dairy industry moving forward.

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

Sincerely,

Joe Miley  
Dairy Farmer and ODPA Board Chair

cc: Dana Coale  
Erin Taylor