

14 State Route 36  
Troupsburg, NY 14885  
September 29, 2006

United States Department of Agriculture  
USDA/AMS/Dairy Program  
STOP 0231-Room 2971  
1400 Independent Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0231

Attention: Gino Tosi

Dear Mr. Tosi,

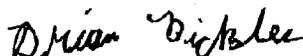
I am a dairy farmer from Steuben County, New York. I am responding to information published in a regional dairy newspaper indicating that USDA is accepting proposals from "interested parties" concerning pricing of Class III and Class IV milk.

It is absolutely essential that something be done about the current milk prices we are receiving. Ever since Federal Order Reform was enacted in 2000, dairy farmers have received milk prices that do not come anywhere near covering the cost of producing milk. I am aware of the fact that the 1937 Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act [(section 608(c)18)] requires that the farmers' costs be factored into the federal milk price. This is not being done. My farm, and all the farms in my community, desperately need fair milk prices. Our production costs are at an all-time high, and farm milk prices are at the lowest level in 25 years.

These awful milk prices are destroying farms everywhere, regardless of the size of the farm operation. Farmers are struggling to pay bills so these horrible milk prices are hurting our local farm suppliers, too.

I am requesting that USDA finally do what the law requires and correct the milk pricing formulas by including the farmers' cost of production.

Sincerely,



Brian Bicksler