2675 Squab Hollow Road
Troupsburg, NY 14885
September 29, 2006

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

ATTN: Deputy Administrator Dana Coale

Dear Deputy Administrator Coale:

We are New York dairy farmers who are very disturbed by the low milk prices we have been receiving. These prices are outrageous particularly when you see how much dairy farmers' costs have been increasing. Fuel,feed, fertilizer, insurance, veterinary and breeding fees, machinery parts, to name just a few of the more obvious expenses, are among all the farm costs that have been skyrocketing while the price we get for our milk is at the same level it was 25 years ago!

This is an incredible situation that must be corrected! The farmers' cost of production must be considered in the federal milk pricing formula. We were told that USDA is inviting proposals concerning Class III and Class IV milk pricing. We are strongly insisting that a new milk pricing method be developed that will fairly take into consideration the farmers' cost of producing the milk. Anything other than a cost of production is unjust and unreasonable. No other business is expected to operate without considering the real cost of running the business. Dairy farmers deserve this right, too!

The 1937 Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act requires that USDA include farmers' cost of production in the federal milk pricing formulas. Please do that now.

Sincerely,

Brian Schol
Amanda Shahan