



**HATCHLAND FARM, LLC
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March 5, 2009

Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
STOP-0231-Room 2971
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-0225

Re: Petitions by NMPF and IDFA to eliminate the Producer-Handler Status

Dear Ms. Coale:

We would like to comment on the proposal to eliminate producer-handlers. We don't think that there is a disorderly marketing condition in the Federal Marketing Order #1, caused by producer-handlers.

There is no way for us at Hatchland to cut production to 450,000 lbs. a month and survive. We would have to cut our work force in half and that would be a lot of people out of work. We would like to see a cap of 3,000,000 lbs. per month, if a maximum has to be put on production levels. That would give us some room for family growth.

If we have to pay into the pool on our production; we would not be able to survive very long. Our cost of production is a little over \$21.00 per cwt. and for us to pay into the pool, on top of that cost, would be prohibitive.

From starting out as a kid selling raw milk from 2 cows and eggs from 50 hens; on my way to school, to serving in the military and going to Vietnam in the Sixty's, then coming home and starting with six cows, milking them and shipping the milk in a neighbor's tank, to what I have today; I am not willing to lose it all. I have built this business with family involvement, one brother has worked with me for 41 years and we are not ready to lose this because some big Coop doesn't like a little competition.

Thank you,

Howard Hatch
Kendra Hatch
Preston Hatch
Kristen May