

March 21, 2006

Via Email (Dana.Coale@usda.gov) and US Mail

Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Room 2968-S, South Building
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0225

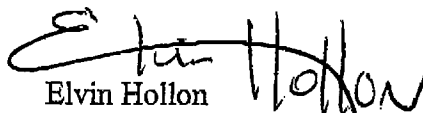
In Re: Regarding Milk in the Appalachian and Southeast Marketing Areas Proposed Amendments to Orders Docket Nos. AO-388-A17 and AO-366-A46; DA-05-06

Dear Ms. Coale:

Please include the attached letter and comments in the Hearing Record for the Appalachian and Southeast Order Hearing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,


Elvin Hollon

Enclosures

cc: Honorable Peter M. Davenport (via email - Davenport@usda.gov)
Dana Coale (via email - Dana.Coale@usda.gov)
Gino Tosi (via email - Gino.Tosi@usda.gov)
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Before the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Regarding Milk in the Appalachian and Southeast Marketing Areas
Proposed Amendments to Orders

Docket Nos. AO-388-A17 and AO-366-A46; DA-05-06



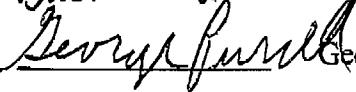
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George Purcell, Larry Jagers and Bill Newell are all dairy farmers from Kentucky. They are members of Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) elected representatives of DFA and elected members of Board of Directors of the Kentucky Dairy Development Council (KDDC) – an industry and trade group broadly representing the Kentucky Dairy industry.

Mr. Newell and Mr. Jagers attended the hearing and together with Mr. Purcell have reviewed the issues, evidence and the testimony with their DFA constituents, dairy industry representatives and other members of the KDDC. The KDDC has declined to take an official position on any of the proposals made at the Hearing on brief even though they did participate in the Hearing.

However, the DFA dairy farmer members in Kentucky have encouraged Mr. Jagers, Purcell and Newell to endorse proposals 1 & 2 and 3 in writing on their behalf. They feel it important to indicate this position to the Secretary to indicate that they think the proposals will benefit Kentucky dairy farmers.

They feel that proposals 1 & 2 & 3 do provide significant assistance to the Southeast dairy farmers in recovering market service costs and are done so in a reasonable and fair manner. They endorse the positions as testified to by the Southern Marketing Agency (SMA) witnesses (including the dairy farmer witnesses) that the decision be processed on an emergency basis. The costs to service the Southeast are real and paid for mainly by the dairy farmer members of SMA. In light of the near term price collapse which will affect all dairy farmers we would ask that this decision proceed on an emergency basis.


Larry Jagers

Bill Newell

George Purcell