

My name is Bill Ramsey. My address is 7632 Columbus Road Louisville, Ohio. Louisville is located in northeast Ohio, ten miles east of Canton, Ohio. I am part owner and help operate Paradise Valley Farms Incorporated, a family farm corporation. Other family members include my father Paul, my mother Catherine, my wife Debbie, my brother Gary and our two sons Michael and Brian and their families. We also employ our daughter Jill, our son-in-law Nevin and our oldest daughter Brenda is our veterinarian. We milk 380 cows three times a day and farm about 1300 acres. We have four full-time employees. Our dairy was started in the 1950's by Paul and Catherine. I became involved in 1972 and I hope that someday I will be able to turn the farm over to my sons, since they both wish to stay on the farm. We currently have three generations working on the farm with the fourth generation being born. Our herd is 100% registered Holsteins and we supply the industry with seed stock.

I am past president of COBA/Select Sires and have been a board member since 1986. I also serve on the Select Sires board of directors and have served on the National Association of Animal Breeders board of directors and the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding.

I am a member of Paradise United Church of Christ and presently am serving as deacon on the church consistory. I am also vice chair of the church's finance committee.

I market my milk through Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. I am presently a delegate and have been for the past four years.

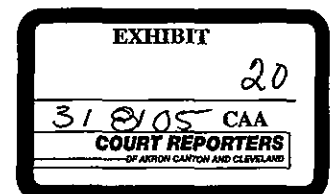
I believe that the Federal Milk Marketing Order was designed to allow all producers in a specific area to equally share in the returns in all classes of milk. In the month of April 2004, our negative ppd was \$3.83. That month our farm produced 900,860 pounds of milk. The negative ppd caused a loss of revenue to us in the amount of \$34,502.

Depooling does not cause negative ppd's. It does however, increase the severity.

The Federal Order 33 Market Administrator released information stating that depooling negatively affected the ppd by \$1.66 in April 2004. Our 900,860 pounds of milk shipped equaled a loss of \$14,954. \$1.74 in May 2004 times 907,232 pounds equaled a loss of \$6713 and \$1.29 in December 2004 times 943,043 pounds equaled a loss of \$2,734 making a three month total revenue loss of \$24,402.

As family farms we ride out the times that milk prices do not cover the cost of production. If we are expected to take the market lows we cannot afford to lose the market highs, current depooling practices reduce those market highs.

It is my understanding there is quite a lot of distant milk pooled on the Federal Order 33 market. But very little of it is actually delivered into the market. My cooperative is the main supplier to the fluid market. It is not reasonable that my coop should bear this cost when milk from Wisconsin and other states share in our pool but deliver very little



milk. The Order rules should reflect economic reality, both for the local producer and producers from a different Order. Delivering real milk costs money.

As a member of the coop I help bear the brunt of the transportation costs. It would seem fair to me that the entire market should help bear more of the cost to supply the fluid market.

The current conditions in this Order are costing our family farm real dollars! I would appreciate if the Secretary would act upon my concerns stated above with the utmost urgency

In summary, I support the proposals 1, 2, 7, 9. Thank you for listening to my concerns and I appreciate your time.

Bill Ramsey