

**BATEMAN'S MOSIDA FARMS**  
**ELBERTA, UTAH**

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of Utah dairy farmers and my 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family farm. My name is Brad Bateman and along with my dad and 3 brothers I farm in Utah County, a little over an hour south of Salt Lake City.

As a result of the Farm Bill of 1996, and with the stroke of the bureaucratic pen, Utah dairy farmers have fallen victims to the Federal government once again. The Utah Dairymen's Association and other farm related groups lobbied heavily to the fact that the Utah dairy farmers and the Idaho dairy farmers are producing milk for two different markets. The Idaho dairymen for a cheese or manufacturing market and the Utah dairymen with over 50% class 1 utilization in 1999 and an increasing population along the wasatch front are and will produce milk for a fluid market. Utah and Idaho should have never been merged together in the new Western order, and even of more devastating consequences are the practically none existent performance standards of pooling that we argued against. Of course as we know the facts fell on deaf ears, or could it have been because the past President finished third in the state of Utah and along with the Escalante grand staircase national monument was democratic payback?

The economic losses to Utah dairy producers and rural Utah have been enormous. I only know the effect it has had on my own family farm, but can only imagine the struggles that other dairymen in the state have had. The number of dairy farms that have gone out of business in the last few years should send a signal that something is amiss. I know that there will always be dairy farmers who will go out of business for one reason or another, but the bottom line is the bottom line and if we are financially strong and making money, how many dairymen would willingly choose to exit out of the business?

Because of Order Reform our price in Utah has been altered significantly. First consider that in 1999 the Great Basin order (139) averaged 50.96% class I utilization. After Order Reform in February 2002 we had 17.35% class I utilization, that's a .64-cent per cwt change on just that issue. We therefore support the proposed changes to Order 135 proposed by DFA (#3 thru #9). We would ask the department to please do the right thing and change the amount of milk eligible for diversion to 70% and to tighten the pooling provisions in Order 135. We all know that a large part of the milk in Idaho never was intended to be associated with the class I market or to be reserve. If the FMMO system cannot be sensitive to certain geographic situations and concerns, but punish or reward producers because they happened to be in that area encompassed by the map, then perhaps the FO system has run its course and its time for a change.

Brad Bateman