

EL-BERT FARM

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USDA/AMS Dairy
Programs STOP 0231-Room 2971
1400 Independence Avenue
SW Washington, DC 20250-0231

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposals to the USDA to determine the price of milk at the farm level. It has been suggested to use the average cost of producing milk as the method to determine the dairy farmers' price. I believe that this is the most obvious method to be used and we need your help in implementing the program.

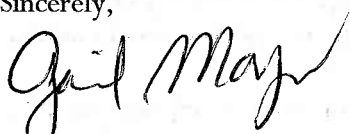
My family runs a small dairy farm in Pennsylvania and with the current price of milk, it is becoming increasingly hard to stay in the dairy industry. It is currently costing us \$13 or more per cwt to produce the milk and we receive \$13 or less per cwt. No business could survive on those numbers. Blame the costs of increased fuel, feed, electric, etc. on our increased costs, but whatever the factors, this industry and its pricing system has needed a change for many years and its high time to get one.

For example, if the local bakery has to pay more for their flour, they charge more to the consumer. The average cost of producing milk has increased dramatically and the price has declined. The farmer has his hands tied. We can't ask for more money for our milk, it's completely out of our control.

Help us to receive a fair and justified price for our product. Take the farmers cost of production into consideration. If you ask most farmers, they don't want hand-outs from the government in the form of deficiency payments, they just want a fair price on their product that they work hard to produce each and everyday for consumers like you.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Gail E. Moyer