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To whom it may concern,

As a dairy farmer seeing first hand, the price being paid for milk to the farmer needs to be raised. At present time to make a hundred of milk is costing the farmer \$15.00 and our pay is between \$11.00 and \$12.00 a hundred. .How can the price of milk be quoted month's in advance. Many factors change overnight. A base price needs to be established that covers the cost of making the milk. In areas where milk is to abundant, pay a base price for what is needed then a reduced price for milk produced over that amount. In areas like the Northeast where milk is short, pay an extra premium for milk produced. If the farmer is going to be paid he will produce quality milk. Speaking of quality premiums, they should be paid for quality milk shipped, regardless of which area we live in. Farmers have no say in whether our milk goes for bottled milk, cheese or butter, were at everyone elses mercy. As farmers we know our milk is trucked around to different states. Be sure of the amount of milk out their,the milk is sometimes counted twice. An account by major milk company's needs someones closer attention.Milk Company's are forcing the farmers to keep paying CEO pay raises, and to support programs that are useless to most farmers , meanwhile the farmers are being paid less. Farmers need security, we work hard only to be surcharged by everyone. Fuel has been a huge issue, farmers have been made to pay everyones increased fuel charges but as fuel prices drop the surcharges aren't being dropped. Farmers are getting 1977 milk prices but the cost to make milk has increased drastically.

A study should be done every so often to check the cost of making milk. It needs to include major factors like fuel, feed,and electricity costs. As a result of not being paid for the price increases, farmers have used their savings, refinanced, made drastic cut backs and still can't pay the feed bill every month, most of us have been forced to drop our health insurance as well.

The answer isn't an easy one but it's clear the present system is not working . Farmers need to get back the pride of supporting our country, we need less imports, that are of poorer quality and more United States quality produce. Farmers need to be above poverty levels as the backbone of America, who knows it could start a chain reaction.

Thank You
Joanne Durland