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From: John Bunting [mailto:bunting@delhi.net]

Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 8:29 AM

To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops

Subject: Comment submission

Please see attached for Bryan Wolfe.

John

Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 11700  
Washington, DC 20001

## Comments by Bryan Wolfe, Rome, Ohio

My name is Bryan Wolfe and I am a dairy farmer from Rome, Ohio. Growing up, my greatest desire was to become a dairy farmer – my heart is in the dairy business.

When I started dairy farming, in this location, in 1980, there were at least thirteen places where I could sell my milk. At that time, on a regular basis, I would receive an offer to sell my milk to a different buyer. Additionally, five cheese plants offered a variety of premiums and perks which other buyers had to match. Farm milk checks were more than the legal minimum.

Since about 1992, things began to change. This seemed to correspond to “qualifying” changes in the Federal Milk Marketing Order "pooling" requirements. Competition disappeared.

For nearly 10 years, the only possibility relates somehow or another to Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) or Dean Foods Inc. Presently, I sell my milk through a small cooperative. While that may seem like a choice, that small cooperative is dependent upon DFA for pooling requirements.

In other words, the choices I once had have been driven out of business or are completely dependent upon DFA to meet Federal Milk Order requirements.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

s/Bryan K Wolfe

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