

From: evelyn_borba@yahoo.com [mailto:evelyn_borba@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 2:11 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops
Subject: Fw: Letter for Art

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Guiomar Azevedo <igazevedo@smwireless.net>
To: evelyn_borba@yahoo.com
Sent: Thu, November 12, 2009 12:00:42 AM
Subject: Letter for Art

Hi Evelyn,

Art called and we spoke briefly since he was busy but he asked me to write a letter for him and get it to you. I have put together something rather quickly and without statistics or any really strong convictions but it was the best I could do without having much information. Please feel free to change it as you deem necessary and sign Art's name to it.

Guiomar

Art Silva Dairy
P.O. Box 885
Riverbank, CA 95367
10 November 2009

To: The Hearing Officer and Members of the Hearing Panel to Consider
Increasing the Price for All Classes of Milk

I am writing to urge you to save the California dairy industry and increase milk prices for all classes of milk. The disparity between cost of production and the price producers have been paid for their milk during the past twelve months has almost doubled. Costs of production have reached unprecedented heights while milk prices have continued to drop month after month with little relief.

I am deeply concerned for the viability of my own dairy and for the troubled and dwindling California dairy industry. Since this crisis began last year, I have witnessed several fellow dairyman lose their diaries and livelihoods and, like them, have done everything in my power to save mine. There are several days in the work week that I am working around the clock and have taken on a second job providing custom farm work to help pay my bills. My farm equity is virtually depleted and I, like many others, am running out of time. However, I am hopeful that my plea and those of my fellow dairymen will be heard by you.

California dairy producers take pride in providing a quality product to consumers and deserve a fair price for their milk. We need a cost of production allowance in order to survive the ongoing dairy crisis. I urge you to act today to keep the dairy industry alive in this great state of California.

Sincerely,

Art Silva

