Arlene Hughson
141 Swiss Hill Rd
Jeffersonville, NY 12748

Re: Pitiful Dairy Situation in U.S. 12/02/09

Dear Sirs or To Whom It May Concern: God Bless you

Thank you for taking on this task. I have been working on a dairy farm and am an owner w/ my husband for over forty years. As far as DFA is concerned, they give us little info about the running of DFA such as their salaries and what we do not know is a feather in their cap. They are working for us but it is more like the other way around. DFA has a lot of control, a lot of power in decision-making. Farmers are not really an aggressive-type so I would not be surprized if the milk processors did indeed do some illegal activities. Farmers are very trusting to those who provide services to them by nature. DFA is in denial but they do need to be investigated along w/ Hood, Dean Foods and DMS. If the farmer's "cow" is drying up, how come "they" are still getting the same salaries as always?!! doesn't seem right, and isn't.

The dairy farmers on the board are being duped. Why is a banker the head of DFA? He, Greg Wickham, does not even say "hello" to the farmers at a meeting!

DFA needs to be overhauled in the way it is run; too much secrecy! What the farmer does not know will not be given up by them easily!

As far as former Adm. Cheryl Nelli stealing $600,000 from Dairylea over 8 yrs; sounds like another possible plea deal made. This woman SHOULD →

go up the river to prison for a few years to set an example to deter the next employee who thinks they can do what she did. Too many people in DFA have stolen money such as the former CEO who retired taking an extra $1,02,000 (1M) with him that is allegedly also being returned. These felonies have got to STOP! DFA must be outside-audited every month! Now there are more possible felonies

I also think the DFA CEO's are the "ones" being sued by the 2 Vt. dairy farmers and NOT THE MEMBERS of DFA as Brad Keating and Mr. Wickham wrote in their Nov. newsletter!! — always addressing the farmer as though he is dim-witted! We, as farmers, are also "offended," by the way, as these 2 men put it. I am sick and tired of the way the farmer is being treated. We are unable to pay a lot of our farm bills; this has gone on since last March past. Also DFA always wants to sell us insurance for these so-called volatile milk prices, in effect, reducing us to a stock-market like profile. This is very insulting! We cannot continue in business w/ all these negative factors and being bad for our credit! to boot.

As a dairy farmer and wife we ask you help us right the wrongs done us. Let us not call good bad and bad good. I stay on the farm all these yrs. watch what's been happening and don't keep MY head in the sand. Sincerely, Mrs. Arlene Hughson

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