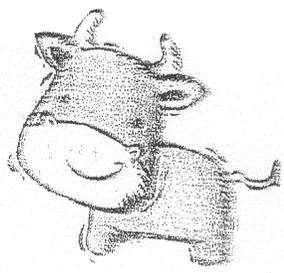


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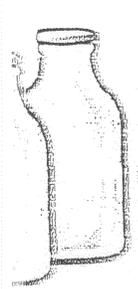
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*SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL!*

# Wake up, Washington!

*JUST FOR INFO  
Sent 20 of these to those  
good irresponsible folk in DC*

*Cheers Ken*

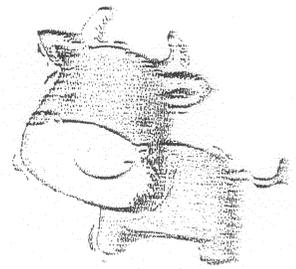


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Members of Congress:

What happened to the land of the free, home of the brave with liberty and justice for all?

Have our civil and constitutional rights been violated repeatedly since Ronald Reagan struck parity from the system of pricing farm milk in 1980 and installed supply side economics as a pricing method.

This has resulted in the strangulation of four fifths of our independent family dairy farms that existed in 1980 (250,000) today only 50,000 remain and are constantly being strangled again with low milk prices and high operating cost. Taxes, insurance, energy of all types and anything made of steel are out of sight.

The last time we had farm milk prices below \$12/CWT the cost of production was \$16/CWT. This time the cost as published by USDA-Economic Research is \$26/CWT but Ag. Marketing Service (AMS) administers a pay price of less than \$12/CWT.

"Manipulation" and imports are two of the factors most affecting low producer pay price. Ag Marketing Act Sect 608C says milk price will be determined based on feed cost and "Quote" other economic factors.

This current pricing formula does have a feed cost factor but all other cost factors are ignored. "Government Math".

Hopefully after you return to work September 8<sup>th</sup> a bill will make it to the floor for pricing milk based on the "Cost of Production" and that would stop the homicide or genocide that has been and currently is taking place in the countryside on family farms across this nation.

Written nominations must be received on or before September 28, and should be sent to Judith Lindsay, secretary to Brandon Willis, Deputy Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Farm Programs, USDA Room 3612-S, Stop 0501, Washington, D.C. 20250-0501; faxed to (202) 720-4726; or e-mailed to: judith.lindsay@wdc.usda.gov

New York City is probably the largest single market for dairy products in the world or at least the United States.

New York State is still the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of dairy products in the nation. However, in recent years at high demand times we import milk from the West. After this current flush of New York farms we are likely to be importing on a daily or weekly basis. The dollars that pay for out of state milk are gone forever out of the New York Rural Economic System.

If a cost of production bill (happens) and makes it to the floor, I urge each and every one of you to vote for it and stop this Holocaust in the countryside.

New York's rural economy 50% of which runs on daily dollars is in shambles at present after 6 months of farm prices at less than half of the cost of production. Price gouging of consumers has been going on during the past 6 months actually forever.

New York consumers should be allowed to support New York Farms without excessive retail prices.

Note: There are fewer than 5,000 producers left in New York and only 50,000 in the nation down from 250,000 in 1980 a national disgrace!

Now on to healthcare: We need revision that we can afford. Reducing Medicare cost by 20% can easily be done if we eliminate the fraud.

No increase (cost of living) for two years is unbelievable. Just the increase in food cost will exceed a 3% cost of living adjustment.

Stimulus: Nothing in this nation needs stimulating more than America's dairy farms.

We are in our 8<sup>th</sup> month of pay price less than ½ the cost of production.

Livestock prices have dropped 50% in the past 2 months so now there is no equity to borrow against.

Currently the New York Senate is requesting 150 million from the state hoping to get 75 million. Anything less than 100 million is an absolute insult.

Is it time to give up the free trade parade and or collect Social Security tax on the imports from China and Mexico. That is where the jobs are so why not?

Protect Americans first!

Consider this a call to arms.

Time for a change,



Ken Dibbell

November 30, 2009

Once again I feel compelled to write to you, my elected representatives to try to impress upon you the dire straights that you have placed the dairy farmers in due to your lack of any meaningful action to correct this crisis.

The \$290 million not yet disbursed is an absolute insult to our integrity.

The dairy farms in Federal Order One have been shorted \$145million per month, versus the previous year which was basically a break-even year.

New York has been shorted \$50 million per month, Pennsylvania and Vermont \$50 plus million and the balance spread over the other eight states in Order One.

This situation has gone on for too long. We are not only losing farms but agri-businesses as well. Feed dealers, equipment dealers, dairy supply trucks and repair shops are all pretty much on the edge.

It is way past time for some responsible action from Washington on this issue. We are destroying the rural economy from within due to lack of any sensible action by the U.S. Congress and/or USDA. The Ag Marketing Act still on the books calls for action by the secretary under Section 608c to adjust farm gate milk price due to feed cost and "other economic factors" such as taxes, insurance, and energy cost which is devastating.

The last time milk went below \$12 per cwt, it cost about \$16 to cover cost of production. This year that cost averaged \$26 per cwt as per Economic Research Section (ERS) of USDA.

Apparently the agriculture committees never consider using our in-house numbers (ERS) for cost of production. This is more than just incompetence. This is sinful on the part of our government.

Dairy policy as administered by Ag Marketing Section (AMS) has destroyed in excess of four-fifths of dairy farms in the nation since 1980, when President Regan did away with parity by the stroke of his pen.

Of course manipulation of markets is also a major concern. Pricing of farm milk based on the cheese trading at CME which involves only 2% of production is outrageous.

Failure of the CFTC commission to properly oversee operations at the CME which when called to their attention resulted in a \$12 million fine levied upon two prior co-op officers. Who gets the \$12 million? It sure was not the farmers, but they did get to pay the fine.

The justice department did an in depth investigation four years ago but no action was taken on their findings. The quote from those doing the investigation was that "this is the Enron of the milk industry!" Where is the justice? Justice delayed becomes justice denied.

Seems to me that with ten senators from milk producing states on the Senate Judiciary Committee and twelve more on the House Judiciary from milk producing states, we could do a much better job pursuing justice for all!

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is a basic right for all U.S. citizens. Government needs to insure that it happens!

Government oversight has had too many failures as of late. The SEC knew about Madoff way back in 1999. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were not monitored properly as well as real estate in general and the banking industry.

No one is too big to fail!

No one needs stimulating more than the remaining 50,000 dairy farms in the nation.

Farmers are being cheated and consumers are being robbed in too many markets with milk at \$4 per gallon – that only yields the producer less than \$1 per gallon.

Where is the government oversight and where is the justice?

Solutions:

What is commonly referred to as the Casey-Specter Bill has been around far too long without consideration to solve this horrific pricing situation. SEN 1645 was written by real people and it would solve the problem once and for all. It has a farmer funded supply management. The floor price should be \$20 per cwt to help fill the hole on dairy farms all across this nation.

Health Care:

Only fix what is broken – don't destroy the whole system.

Medicare should be monitored more carefully to prevent over billing.

No cost of living increase for social security recipients is a shame!

The \$250 payment does not even cover the increase in prices at the grocery store, much less energy costs. The fuel surcharge from two years ago is still with us with every item on the shelf. Farm diesel is currently up to \$2.90 per gallon from .69 cents six years ago.

It is past time to act and in a positive manner. The tail has been wagging the dog for far too long!

Government of the people, by the people and for the people needs to be restored with liberty and justice for all.

Looking forward to the Congress and Administration doing the right thing for once.

Shamefully yours,



Ken Dibbell