

From: shannon-hasselman@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 12:17 PM
To: NOP Livestock
Subject: Docket number TM-05-14

Attachments: ATTACHMENT.TXT

Dear Mr. Bradley,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the "access to pasture" clause in reference to organic dairy. I would be extremely upset if dairy cows were kept in confinement, as confinement clearly violates the spirit behind organics. For many, if not most, consumers of organic meat and dairy products, care and treatment of the animal is almost as important as the quality of the product, and, in fact, quality reflects care and treatment. I would absolutely NOT purchase organic dairy products if those products came from cows that were confined and not allowed extensive access to pasture. Furthermore, the USDA should take care to ensure that the pastures are not overcrowded. USDA Organic Certification should conform to certain standard of integrity. I sincerely hope that the USDA listens to consumers of organic products on this very important issue.

Thank you for your time,
Shannon Hasselman