

May 31, 2023

Mr. Bruce Summers
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Summers:

On behalf of Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), I write in support of the National Milk Producers Federation's (NMPF) comprehensive proposal for modernization of the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) system submitted on May 1, 2023.

DFA is a national dairy marketing cooperative that serves and is owned by 11,000 dairy farmers on nearly 6,000 farms. As the nation's most diverse manufacturer of dairy products with 83 processing facilities across 33 states and supported by nearly 19,000 employees, we take seriously our responsibility to provide safe, high-quality, and nutritious milk and other dairy products to consumers around the country. Reflective of the U.S. dairy industry, our farmer-owners are diverse, located in nearly every state on every type of operation. Over 3,000 trucks a day pick up fresh milk from farms with fewer than 20 cows in Pennsylvania, to herds of thousands in California — all committed to caring for their animals and land, and producing safe, quality milk for families around the world.

For the past several years DFA has been participating in a NMPF-led process which included its member cooperatives, dairy-farmer leaders and industry experts from across the country to identify challenges to the FMMO system, to analyze potential solutions and to develop a broad, comprehensive proposal that, we believe, will provide meaningful reform to the current system and benefit the nation's dairy industry.

I urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to move forward with a national federal order hearing as requested in the NMPF proposal, which includes policy proposals on several critical elements of the FMMO system including:

- Updating the make allowance
- The discontinuation of the use of barrel cheese in the protein component price formula
- Returning to the "higher-of" Class I mover
- Updating the milk component factors for protein, other solids, and nonfat solids in the Class III and Class IV skim milk price formulas
- Updating the Class I differential pricing surface throughout the United States



These changes would more accurately reflect the market value of milk and milk components in the federal order system and would ensure the FMMO system remains a tool to ensure the stable, orderly support of milk across the United States.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of the NMPF proposal. I appreciate all you do to support America's dairy farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Rodenbaugh", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dennis Rodenbaugh
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dana H. Coale, Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs, AMS/USDA