

Peppers Dairy, LLP  
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Roaring Branch, PA 17765

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Hearing Clerk  
Stop 9200 Room 1031  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9200

December 29, 2006

Manufacturing Allowance #AO-14-A74

To Whom It May Concern:

Say NO to the Manufacturing Allowance #AO-14-A74. Do not "steal" anymore money from the dairy farmer.

My name is Brenda Pepper. I live in northern Pennsylvania with my husband, Tom. We have a 325 cow dairy and have formed a partnership with our 2 sons T. Andrew and Travis. We expanded our dairy in 2003 because it was cost effective to have the 3 families at one location than have 3 small farms. We saved on feed by buying in large quantities, more money for our milk because of larger quantities and saved on supplies. We needed only the tractors and equipment to run one farm. We have had a hard time financially as the milk price was very low from the time we started construction of the barn in 2002 until spring of 2005. By December of 2005 we were almost able to pay off our outstanding bills. However, the milk price fell in 2006. We have made 532,872 lbs. more milk in 2006 than in 2005. Last year we grossed \$1,219,150 in sales and this year it is \$1,076,305., that is \$142,845 less than in 2005. This does not even include the extra milk sent. Also we had a loss of \$47,735 in 2005. What will be the loss for 2006?

It is proposed that we should now pay to help process raw milk. Does anyone help pay to produce the raw product? No! We now pay for shipping the raw milk to be processed, for advertising the finished product and now we are to pay to process the milk. What we need is our own processing plant and say to hell with everyone else. Land O Lakes pays their employees great wages and the benefits are the best with health, dental, vision and paid vacation and holidays and whatever else they want. We can't pay our own sons and their families enough to make a living. Has any one asked the milk processing companies to tighten their budget, live with their means, CUT their costs???? You throw

us a little MILC money, \$19,188. to be exact, (not even close to what we have lost) This makes you feel good and the consumers believe that the government is actually helping us. We do not want a hand out!!! We want a fair price for the product we produce. This is in your hands and all you do is go out to lunch with DFA and Dean Foods and Kraft Foods and Land O Lakes and they fill your belly with good American food and then you roll over and give them any thing they want. If you guys keep this up you will be eating at Taco Bell because no one in the United States will be producing food and it will be coming from Mexico, Canada, and China etc. Everything else does, why not our food. We will then just go on welfare and all you smart "guys" can pay higher taxes.

We have had many farmers sell their cows around here. My dad sells seed corn and no one is buying because they are waiting to see what the milk price does. Most of them are going to sell if it continues as it has over the past year. All of you need to get out of Washington and get out on the farm and see for your self what is going on. I invite any and all of you to a day on our farm, see for yourself. I too will feed you and I am sure it just may be the best home cooked meal you have ever had.

How can anyone even think of asking the dairy farmer to pay for the processing? This truly should be the manufacture responsibility, not ours. Please, please consider the consequences this will have on not only the dairy farmer but also on your food source.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Pepper". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Brenda Pepper

P.S. Please call me and let me know when you would like to come to the farm. Phone number is (570) 673-3689