

Taylor, Erin

From: valleyhifarmllc@doorpi.net
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006 11:36 AM
To: amsdairycomments
Subject: [Docket No: AO-14-A74, et al., DA-06-01];[FR Doc: 06-09340];[Page 67467-67489]; Milk marketing orders: Northeast et al.
Attachments: ATTACHMENT.TXT

Dear SLrs: I am writing in comment to the proposed rule just issued by the USDA to amend the make allowances for cheese production in the US. As a farmer on a small Wisconsin Dairy, I am opposed to the increased make allowance. I understand it may be difficult for some cheese processors to be profitable and to be competitive with dairy plants in other states, but in my circumstance I don't see it. The cheese plant in Door County who processes our milk does very well for itself, selling product over the internet in addition to selling it at their local cheese store. The main reason, though, that I am opposed to the increase in the make allowance is that Wisconsin has been losing dairy farms for the past several years, and these numbers are counted every month! Some farmers cannot afford to lose even more of their milk check. According to the figures released after the tentative make allowance rates were announced, the price I receive for my milk would decrease about 25 cents per hundredweight. This may not sound like much and as a grade A milk producer it may not have that much effect on my operation. However, there are many Grade B milk producers who haul to the same cheese plant as I do and they would be affected much more. Grade B producers get paid less than those on Grade A and taking 25 cents away from them would not be good. I don't think that the 25 cents deduction would cause more farmers to exit dairy farming in Wisconsin, but it certainly wouldn't help. I don't believe that the cheese plants need the extra revenue they are asking for. If they need more revenue, they can raise the prices of their products they sell to the general public. Through all the discussion of this proposed change so far, I have not heard one person mention this. Is it taboo to suggest that the public be asked to pay more at the grocery store? Why must the dairy producer be asked to shoulder even more of the cost of production? I say pass the expense onto the general public. Thank you for your time. Tim Strnad, Owner, Valley High Farm LLC, Algoma, WI.

1/29/2007