



National Milk Producers Federation

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Agri-Mark, Inc.
Associated Milk Producers Inc.
Bongards' Creameries
California Dairies, Inc.
Cayuga Marketing
Cooperative Milk Producers Association
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
First District Association
Foremost Farms USA
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Lone Star Milk Producers
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Mid-West Dairy Farmers' Company
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association
Northwest Dairy Association
Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
Premier Milk Inc.
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
Southeast Milk, Inc.
Tillamook County Creamery Association
United Dairy Farmers of Arizona
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.

April 15, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to assist producers as they continue to provide Americans with a stable food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, the pandemic is severely harming the dairy sector across the entire country. Half of the cheese and about 60 percent of the butter manufactured in the U.S. is sold through food service and other non-retail outlets – markets which have virtually disappeared during this period. These displaced products are made from milk produced on farms of all sizes, in all regions of the country. As a result, all dairy farmers are enduring a collapse in milk prices at a time when the industry was finally approaching a light at the end of the tunnel after five years of low prices. Projected milk prices in last week's U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate (WASDE) indicate a decline of over \$8.6 Billion in dairy farm cash receipts this year from USDA's forecast one month earlier, just prior to the COVID-19 social distancing directives.

To this point, as your Administration works to finalize plans to provide robust disaster assistance to farmers, we strongly urge you not to impose arbitrary payment limits that would prevent dairy farmers from being able to receive coverage on much of the milk they produce. The majority of the milk supply in the United States is produced on farms that would receive very limited benefit from payment limits similar to those that have been implemented in previous assistance programs, such as the trade mitigation program. Because of the economic damage caused by this pandemic, such a limit would undermine the viability of many operations that are essential to providing Americans with a steady, nutritious supply of dairy products.

All the nation's dairy farmers are suffering from the economic catastrophe resulting from the market collapse and all should be treated equitably by being able to cover all their production. The CARES Act is providing needed assistance to numerous businesses throughout our economy, and we are not aware of stringent payment limits being placed on other sectors. Farmers should not be singled out for arbitrary low limits on such disaster assistance.

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Thank you for your consideration of this important request. It is imperative that any program to provide relief to farmers accounts for the significant losses that all U.S. dairy farmers are facing.

Sincerely,



Jim Mulhern
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Russell Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget