

The following testimony is being presented to the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board by Arden Tewksbury, Manager of Progressive Agriculture Organization, regarding the amount of the over-order premium that all qualified Pennsylvania dairy farmers are receiving.

ARDEN TEWKSBURY

September 4, 2019

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To: The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board regarding the level of the over-order premium that can be levied on milk that is produced in Pennsylvania and consumed in Pennsylvania

Mr. Chairman and other Board members:

I am submitting my credentials only to illustrate my worthiness to address the Board today. However, I will not read them.

*In addition to operating my dairy farm in Meshoppen Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania for over 50 years, I have also been involved with many farm organizations. In the 1960s I served on the dairy committee of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, later on I served on the dairy committees of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union, and the Pennsylvania State Grange for several years. In the 1970s, I was elected to the Board of Directors of Eastern Milk Producers, which I served for 9 years. While there, I was on the Executive Board for 7 years, 2 years as Vice-President, and 5 years as President of

the Co-op. During my term as President, we were successful in bringing Leprino Foods into South Waverly, Pennsylvania, which took care of a substantial amount of milk that many times was homeless. After leaving the Board, I served as assistant to the General Manager, and later on, I did consulting work for Leprino Foods. During the 1980s, I was hired to do membership and dairy work for the Pennsylvania Farmers Union and was named manager of the Northern Tier Farmers Union Co-op. I also became a director of the Regional Marketing Cooperative Agency and also the Regional Bargaining Agency. In 1985, I was named Granger of the Year for the State of Pennsylvania. In 1991, several dairy farmers started the Progressive Agriculture Organization, which I have managed since that time.

Mr. Chairman, today in addition to representing the Progressive Agriculture Organization, I'm also representing the Dairy Sub-committee of the National Family Farm Coalition of Washington DC. The Coalition has other members in Pennsylvania in

addition to Pro-Ag. Members of the Coalition come from at least 20 other states.

In addition to my credentials, I want to add that I have been a School Director of the Elk Lake School District for 59 years. I now have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU) regional Educational Board. This Board oversees 21 schools in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania. One of the benefits of this position has allowed me to obtain the support of all of these schools to officially support returning whole milk back into the school lunch program. *

Today I want to illustrate Pro-Ag's position to continue the PMMB over-order premium at \$1.00 per cwt. until another hearing is called for by the PMMB. While we recognize the PMMB premium (which started in the middle 1980's) is not received by all Pennsylvania dairy farmers; however, the impact of the premium allows some of us to negotiate over-order premiums from milk handlers like Readington Farms of White House, New Jersey. Readington is still paying all of their dairy farmers a

\$1.00 per cwt. unqualified premium. We are again submitting a producer's receipt from Readington Farms illustrating the payment of the premium.

We are also submitting a letter from Mr. William McBride, who is in charge of developing the cost of production figures for many agricultural products, including the national average cost of producing milk, which in 2018 was \$21.66.

Obviously, the PMMB premium of \$1.00 per cwt. will help some of our Pennsylvania dairy farmers close the gap between the price they receive as compared to their cost of producing their milk. Once more, I appreciate the effort that the PMMB is making to help our Pennsylvania dairy farmers.

In my opinion, the PMMB premium will continue to be necessary until our elected officials decide to take appropriate actions to correct the pricing inequities for all of our American dairy farmers.

Sincerely,

Arden Tewksbury, Manager; Progressive Agriculture
Organization

1300 Rattle Snake Hill Rd

Meshoppen, PA 18630

Attn: Doug Ebery

TWENTY THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE AND 70/100

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07/17/19

23,671.70

*** NON NEGOTIABLE ***

7-18-19

June 2019 Settlement

Plant: Readington Farms, Inc. Date: 7/17/2019 Grade: A Soc Sec: Rte: 4000 Prod: [redacted] - 00 Name: [redacted] Pay Period: 6/30/2019

YEAR TO DATE Permit # Product 1,512,915 Gross 288,378.19 Farm Pur 0.00 Hauling 21,591.95 Dairy Col 801.96 Dues/Fees 801.96 Dairy Pur 0.00 Adver 1,603.95

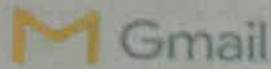
RECEIPTS

Table with columns 1-12 showing receipt details for various dates and amounts.

Table with columns COMPONENT, TEST, WEIGHT, FMO MIN, PLANT PRICE, VALUE. Lists various components like Butterfat, Protein, and SCC with their respective test results and values.

Summary table with columns for Average Price, To Partners Lbs, Adjusted Lbs, Deductions, Itemized Assignments, Hauling Charge, NATIONAL DAIRY, and XXXXXXXXXXXX7201. Includes Farm Gross Pay, To Partners \$, Adtl Compensation, Adjusted Gross, Total Asgn/Deduct, Total Deposits, Advance, and AMERICAN DAIRY.

Handwritten signature and date: 7/18/19



Arden Tewksbury
<progressiveagricultureorg@gmail.com>

ERS costs of production

1 message

McBride, William - ERS
<william.mcbride@usda.gov>
To: "progressiveagricultureorg@gmail.com"
<progressiveagricultureorg@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 27, 2019
at 9:45 AM

Arden,

Per our discussion, the USDA-ERS estimate of the total cost of milk production in 2018 is \$21.66 per cwt. You can find this on the ERS website at:

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/commodity-costs-and-returns/commodity-costs-and-returns/#Recent%20Cost%20and%>

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Google LLC
1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy
Mountain View, CA 94043 USA