

Statement by Roy S. Remund  
before the  
Federal Milk Market Order Hearing in Salt Lake City  
April 17, 2002

I am a fourth generation dairy farmer. Thank you for holding this hearing on the federal milk market orders. It is an honor to testify concerning the financially devastating effect order reform has had upon dairy farmers in Utah. Order 135 having the lowest blend price in the country.

Class 1 utilization over the last 4 years has dropped from the high forties to the mid teens. Outside milk pooling on our order has had a huge negative pay price impact. Loose pooling provisions in 135 promotes financial gain to those who don't supply the class 1 milk market. Low milk pay price has caused financial ruin for about one quarter of the dairy farmers in the last 4 years.

I support Order 135 changes as requested by Dairy Farmers of America and Utah Dairy Association. I urge you to act as quickly as possible. Dairy farmers are tired of refinancing with many banks processing foreclosure proceedings. I am tired of going to bed at night with a sick stomach wondering how to handle creditors. It is my hope that these hearings with the Department of Agriculture will allow Utah dairy farmers to compete fairly in the market place.

I know the dairy farmers of Utah appreciate your deep concerns. Thank you again for holding this hearing.