



GEORGIA MILK PRODUCERS, INC.

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October 19, 2006

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
Zipora Bullard
FOIA/PA Officer
Rm 3517-S
Ag Stop 0202
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-0273

Copy by FAX to 202 720-1362

Dairy producers in Federal Order 7 were led to believe that little change was expected to occur in the federal order reorganization taking place on January 1, 2000. The stated position by Federal Order 7 employees was, in effect: "Federal Order 7 was expanded almost three fold July 1995. It would appear that Order 7 is already in compliance with the congressional mandate included in the 1995 (1996) Farm Bill".

To our initial and continued dismay, on January 1, 2000 a drastic change in Federal Order 7 occurred: high Class I plants were removed, only to be replaced by an area including southern Missouri that included plants with low Class I and high manufacturing milk deliveries. The net result has been a consistent drop in Federal Order 7's Class I utilization of approximately 20 points. This drastic drop in utilization and its consequential significantly lower blend prices paid to those SE producers typically supplying the needs of SE Class I plants has been devastating, with estimated hundreds of millions of dollars removed from the blend price. Georgia Milk Producers has already requested Order 7's administrator to provide us the monthly difference (in dollars & cents) of a 20 point change in utilization.

Since January 1, 2000 Georgia Milk Producers has repeatedly requested information supporting this decision by USDA. The only response we have been given: "it came from the highest level at USDA". Under the Freedom of Information Act, we officially request information be provided to us detailing:

1. Economic analysis/justification
2. All written memos, e-mails, meeting notes, relating to this decision
3. Names of individuals and organizations requesting this change
4. Names of individuals and their position at USDA authorizing this change
5. Any other information that relates to this decision

We are providing a copy of this request to all SE Commissioners of Agriculture, all SE Governors, as well as Georgia's Congressional delegation.

Sincerely,

Tom Thompson, President
Cc: Ms Dana Coale
Deputy Adm, Dairy



Tom Thompson
President
Georgia Milk Producers, Inc.

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