

1 March 2007

Bill # 1155

# Elm Knoll Farm

294 East Canaan Rd  
East Canaan, CT 06024

Chairman Finch, Chairman Roy, Members of the Environmental Committee:

My name is David Jacquier residing @ 294 East Canaan Rd in East Canaan, Ct. I am a landowner in Connecticut and I operate Elm Knoll Farm Partners with my partner Melody O'Dell. Elm Knoll Farm operates a dairy farm with 675 animals of which 325 are currently providing milk.

We produced 801,342 gallons of milk in 2006 at a price of \$ 1.07 per gallon. Adding in Governor Jody O'Rell's emergency supplement in brought the price to \$ 1.15 per gallon which compares with prices received by dairy farmers in 1981.

Milk prices have collapsed while cost of production has skyrocketed. In 2006 my cost to produce a gallon milk was \$ 1.52 per gallon without any return on investment or personal income.

Unless the State of Connecticut helps dairy farmers the State will lose the greater percentage of their stewards of the great land of Connecticut.

There are only 163 dairy farms left in the state right now and I myself have been contacted by farmers who have offered me their dairy herds.

I feel that the allocation of 100 million dollars for land preservation is definitely un-necessary as there will not be farmers to carry on the stewardship of this land.

4 to 6 million dollars in calendar 2007 may be able to provide 140 farms with additional funding to remain in business with a long term goal of \$ 2.00 per gallon for milk (17.00 per cwt )

If the body of elected officials continues to do nothing for the dairy farmers in this state I believe that this will certainly be the last time I am here to ask for assistance.

Along this line, I believe the Connecticut consumer is paying too much money for this staple in their diet and are being confused by the processors and retailers in regards to rBST, organic, and rBST free milk. This has become a pricing ploy to allow them to raise their profit margin at the cost and reputation of the dairy industry. rBST is naturally found in dairy products and rBST "free" milk is non-existent but it is being marketed daily to the consumer.

Price increases @ the farm are quickly escalated @ the retail level and blame is put on the farmer. When dairy prices fall retailer-processors continue to "milk" the consumer at the higher prices dropping ever so slightly at the consumer level.

The Connecticut Milk Commission MUST be able to regulate pricing at the farm level AND be fully supported by the bodies of the State of Connecticut - namely YOU legislators!

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

