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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 11, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 219 words

HEADLINE: Professor seeks legislation capping milk prices

DATELINE: HARTFORD, Conn.

BODY:

A University of Connecticut economist renewed his call Friday for state legislation that would set limits on milk prices.

Ronald W. Cotterill, a professor of agriculture and resource economics, said legislation would limit wholesale milk prices to 140 percent of the raw fluid price - one of numerous pricing categories - and retail prices would be limited to 140 percent of the wholesale price.

Cotterill is following up a study he completed in November. He said then that consumers were paying nearly \$1 more for a gallon than supply costs.

Dairy farmers in Connecticut are not seeing any of the money, he said.

"This had been going on for some time and shouldn't have," Cotterill said. "The problem is persistent."

Grace Nome, president of the Connecticut Food Association, which represents 80 percent of the private and independent food stores in Connecticut, said legislation would raise the price of milk, not lower it.

"He wants to help the dairy farmer. That's very nice," she said. "He hates the retailer."

Legislation to limit the markup on milk prices charged by processors and retailers

is pending in the General Assembly's Environment Committee. A spokesman for Rep. Patricia Widlitz, co-chairman of the committee, said the bill is only a draft and action is not imminent.

LOAD-DATE: April 12, 2003