

AGHALOMA FARMS

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Family Owned Business Since 1955

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To: The Honorable Committee Members
Of the Joint Standing Committee on Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry

Dear Committee Members:

Good day! We're reaching out in support of our MAINE DAIRY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION.

We're a large family dairy farm, fifth generation, milking 430 head of Holstein cattle.

Our family and team work together as a community to care for the many animals it takes to feed our families. And that brings me to the purpose of this letter...we need some help!

If ever there was a day of need it's today for all Maine dairy farms, small or large. This letter arrives to you with urgency!!

Let me elaborate and help you understand the dangerous situation the Maine dairy farming industry is in. Multiple efforts from our milk cooperatives to remain viable and in business, ultimately lead back to our farmer checkbooks for funding. Additionally, by decreasing the amount of fluid milk we could produce daily, it reduced our monthly farm income. With added market fees, milk balancing fees, increased cost of transportation and fuel charges, and increased equity contributions, we've essentially gone broke to sustain our milk cooperatives. Many farms have been forced out of business.

So, cause and effect, these requirements have removed any and all financial margins of room we'd might normally have to sustain ourselves and absorb inflationary costs of doing business. However, with increased costs for purchased grain, diesel fuel and gasoline, transportation, labor wages, tractor/truck repair parts, building repairs, dairy supplies, housing, groceries, veterinary, farm ranch insurance, survival of agriculture is at its worst. These categories made the top ten!

We ask that you understand, by no fault of our own, we find ourselves in this situation, needing financial help. The Maine Dairy Industry is part of the backbone of Maine's infrastructure and it's important we don't lose it!

Sincerely,
Aghaloma Farms, LLC

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