

# Dairy Crisis Intervention Request for Proposals

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According to NASS,

- 1) Milk Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,964 pounds for June 2018, 23 pounds above June 2017. The highest production per cow for the month of June since the 23 State series began in 2003.
- 2) Milk Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,939 pounds for June 2017, 13 pounds above June 2016. This is the highest production per cow for the month of June since the 23 State series began in 2003.
- 3) Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,926 pounds for June, 26 pounds above June 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of June since the 23 State series began in 2003.

It is clear too much milk is being produced per cow since 2003 and there are too many cows in production. *Whoever sold us on this economy of scale model should pay the price of this intervention.*

Moving forward, until this crisis is resolved with a quality – quantity – quota (a Q<sub>3</sub> base program), we need to...

1) Create and distribute emergency CASH to dairy farm families underemployed/unemployed who are or were milking less than 150 head at any time in 2018, 2017 and 2016 (regardless if they are still in business). I propose the amount of \$1,578.00 per week per household until national production drops below 20,000 pounds annually. Recipients may not add cows while receiving payments and the program will end once the national herd shrinks to pre-surplus size. Any producer milking over 150 head may apply for the CASH payment if they agree to drop production below 20,000 pounds per cow and agree not to expand herd size for three years. Feel free to plug in different values to come up with a similar solution.

2) Until this crisis is resolved with a quality – quantity – quota (a Q<sub>3</sub> base program), we need to create a freeze, hold, deferral or voucher for household utility bills, rent, property and school tax INCREASES, and/or some kind of energy coupon based on that same 150 head base. Any third party vendor indebted to said producer who has not started debt collection process should be considered eligible for the same. They are in crisis too. Feel free to plug in different values to come up with a similar solution.

3) There is desperate need for a USDA Dairy Crisis Waiver Coupon to be sent immediately to every single doctor's office in this country with instructions to tape a CODE RED letter to the front desk in the same way the CDC instructed offices to post the EBOLA TRAVEL ADVISORY. Send a copy of that Coupon to each and every single dairy farmer household along with a letter signed by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture and every STATE Secretary of Agriculture and GOVERNOR. Said letter stating dairy farmers, their children, and extended family, their employees and vendors can take this letter and seek help with NO QUESTIONS ASKED for anxiety, depression and panic attacks without being stopped by the receptionist over "how are you going to pay for this". Encourage agencies to ask health care providers to volunteer to do this program as a sign of good will in their community.

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4) We are in need of an immediate return to work program requiring the hiring of the underemployed or unemployed dairy farm worker - owner (who is more than likely over the age of 40; and 50% of them are women) at a wage that credits 20 years of experience managing an agri-business. The current use of online hiring system software devalues the skilled farm worker and defaults them into unskilled labor regardless of education and experience. This discrimination needs to be addressed at once. *As does the exclusion of seasonal, migrant laborer from the discussion table. Has anyone asked what they think the problem; or solution is?*

5) Entrenched, career bureaucrats and union covered, 9 to 5, vacation earning, sick day earning government and university experts - who may or may not, at one time had ties to a working dairy operation, do not have *the hands on experience* to represent these small town families, the hundreds of thousands of self-employed small business owners, their workers and their worker's families. We must bring to the table the people who have the same work ethic, the same pride in their work and the desire, and understanding of what it takes to operate a family farm - under ever tightening government regulations. Compensate these 'industry experts' to help solve and resolve this.

Lastly, I would remind you not to forget that this crisis continues to expand and winter is coming. Mother Nature has not been kind to us this year. The casualty list of feed store owners, hardware store owners, soil testing laboratories, crop management professionals, dairy technology vendors and recent college graduates in agriculture (the list is quite extensive) financially and mentally impacted by this crisis is growing.

Suggested by,

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