

nracs

N439

From: DBals@nmpf.org
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2004 2:42 PM
To: FarmBillRules
Subject: Conservation Security Program
Attachments: ATTACHMENT.TXT; final CSP comments.doc

Please find the attached comments from theNational Milk Producers Federation.

Thank you,

Daniela Bals
Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
National Milk Producers Federation

AEEC RECEIVED

OCT 06 2004



N439

National Milk Producers Federation

National Milk Producers Federation • 2101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 • 703-243-6111 FAX 703-841-9328

- Agri-Mark, Inc.
- Arkansas Dairy Cooperative Association
- Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
- California Dairies, Inc.
- Cass-Clay Creamery, Inc.
- Continental Dairy Products, Inc.
- Cooperative Milk Producers Assn.
- Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
- Dairymen's Marketing Cooperative, Inc.
- Dairylea Cooperative Inc.
- Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
- Farmers Cooperative Creamery
- First District Association
- Foremost Farms USA
- Land O'Lakes, Inc.
- Lone Star Milk Producers, Inc.
- Manitowoc Milk Producers Coop.
- MD & VA Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc.
- Michigan Milk Producers Assn.
- Mid-West Dairymen's Company
- Niagara Milk Cooperative, Inc.
- Northwest Dairy Association
- Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
- St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.
- Scioto County Co-op Milk Producers' Assn.
- Select Milk Producers, Inc.
- Southeast Milk, Inc.
- Swiss Valley Farms, Co.
- Tillamook County Creamery Assn.
- United Dairymen of Arizona
- Upstate Farms Cooperative Inc.
- Zia Milk Producers

October 5, 2004

Financial Assistance Programs Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, DC 20013-2890

Re: Interim final rule with request for comments concerning the Conservation Security Program (7 CFR Part 1469)

To whom it may concern:

The National Milk Producers Federation appreciates the opportunity to comment on the United State Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) interim final rule for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Dairy producers are encouraged by this conservation program that gives dairy producers greater options to improve water and soil quality at a watershed level.

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of U.S. dairy producers and the cooperatives they collectively own. The members of NMPF's 32 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of nearly 50,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies.

NMPF is encouraged and pleased by NRCS' effort to develop a program that is producer-friendly and offers assistance to the livestock industry. In order to allow as many producers as possible to participate in CSP, NMPF encourages NRCS to continue the selection process of watersheds based on a rotational basis so that many watersheds can be included in the program. Dairy producers are committed to making environmentally sound decisions and are optimistic about programs like CSP that can help them reach their goals of being excellent stewards of the land.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Dairy producers look forward to working with NRCS on this conservation program as well as any future environmental programs that NRCS develops.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniela Bals
Regulatory Affairs Coordinator