



Family Dairies USA

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December 15, 2005

Division of Dockets and Management (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: FDA Docket No#2003-P-0132

My name is Stewart Huber, I serve as Board President of Family Dairies USA, and a USDA qualified Cooperative headquartered in Madison, WI which has 3,677 dairy farmer members in six Midwestern states. The following comments are submitted on behalf of those members. Our members are shocked and dismayed that F.D.A. is even considering giving dairy manufacturers blanket authority to use milk and milk products from "other milk source animals"-other than cows in ice cream and frozen dessert manufacture.

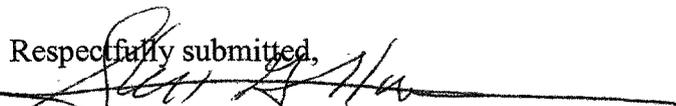
We suspect that proponents claim for the new definition has something to do, other than "making the process a lot more streamlined and efficient" as Marci Cleary, spokeswoman for ITCA contends.

We suspect it has more to do with ingredient pricing and quality which as we understand it, would allow powder from imported water buffalo milk to be mixed with U.S. cows' milk as long as the Nomenclature (C) (1) appears somewhere in fine print with a phrase on the product stating "made with milk of all milk source animals". It so happens that water buffalo milk powder imported from India costs a fraction of the cost of raw milk coming from our Midwestern farms where strict phytosanitary rules are in place.

We suggest further that the less specific nomenclature than the current rules which apply to milk from animals other than cows may be designed to confuse rather than inform customers about the ingredient source of the milk that will be used in the ice cream and frozen dessert manufacture they consume.

We respectfully request F.D.A. to reject the ITCA proposal for the above mentioned reasons, and further request F.D.A. not adopt the proposed rule that would change the definition of source milk.

Respectfully submitted,


Stewart G. Huber
President

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