

No limits to retailers' greed?

Dairy Farmers of Scotland are furious that *downward* pressure is being put on farm milk prices having been made aware of one supermarket telling a supplier that they're paying their farmers too much for their milk!

A spokesman for DFOS warned, "Milk buyers in the UK dare not cut prices to farmers no matter how much pressure retailers exert on them. They must stand firm or they themselves will follow farmers out of business – it's like killing the goose that lays the golden egg".

"It's becoming obvious that milk buyers and retailers see no need for sustainable dairy farming in this country and seem only too happy to import milk – but for how long will this be possible? And, in an age where farmers are forced to cut carbon emissions so that retailers can claim carbon efficiency, they're encouraging food imports and increasing food miles – where's the logic in that?"

"Consumers think that because the retail milk price has increased in the shops, dairy farmers are doing ok now – nothing could be further from the truth!"

The **silent exodus of dairy farmers** continues... whilst most retailers have increased the milk price to consumers by around 4 - 5 ppl, the proportion of the increase passed back to the farmer is, at best, 1 ppl - with some producers having to sign up to intrusive business costings and many producers not receiving any increase at all. The farmgate price remains below the real cost of production for most and dairy farmers continue to leave the industry with monthly milk production reaching record lows... this despite most processors and retailers continuing to make substantial (even record) profits.

He added, "All we need to make dairy farming profitable is a few more pence share of the huge profits that many of the retailers are making – and this would have no impact on price to the consumer."

"Make no mistake, further pressure on a dairy farming industry that has already been forced to its knees by receiving an unfair share of the pie, will result in even more farmers throwing in the towel and our consumers having to rely more and more on imported milk/milk products. At a time of impending global food shortages, what a disastrous state of affairs!"

Ends.

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