

My husband Max and I operate a dairy farm just outside Singleton in the Hunter Valley. We milk 200 cows, supporting 2 families, and one single man. Over the years we have sustained droughts, the severe flood in 2007, deregulation of the industry, changing milk pricing, and the escalating cost of commodities.

I would like to thank for not only having a senate enquiry in to the pricing of milk, but for allowing the average dairy farmer, a voice in this matter. We have always had to take the hand that is dealt to us, and we would like to be recognized as the hardest worker in the dairy food chain.

Our dairy industry has struggled for many years to stay afloat, to try and always be ahead of the ever increasing prices of commodities, in order to not only survive, but make a decent living, and to encourage the upcoming generation to continue in the industry - We cannot afford to take another cut in pricing, particularly when the cost of fuel and electricity in on the increase.

The major supermarkets have indicated that they will absorb the cost of reducing their selling price of milk. This will apply until the milk contracts are renegotiated with the dairy farmers, and the inevitable will happen, and the farmer will cop another blow. If and when that happens, the ability of dairy farmers to sustain their business will be depleted so greatly, many will exit the industry.

Please make sure that you are handed the correct information re: the actual cost of producing milk on the farm.

Once again, I thank you for your time.  
Kind regards,  
Robyn Wake,

M.R. & R.J WAKE.