

Commissioner F. Philip Prelli  
Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
165 Capitol Ave  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

1 Feb 2009

Dear Commissioner Prelli:

As legislative Chair of the New London County Farm Bureau, and a man who was raised on raw milk, which of course attributes to my activism, and physical prowess at age 70, I am ashamed and saddened that a man of your character and stature could, with such insensitivity level an attack on almost each and every dairy farmer, and our families, who were raised, neither sickened or killed by the raw milk we consumed. We know, and so does the Food and Drug Administration - hopefully that the pre pasteurized enzymes in raw milk do in fact allow the nutrients to provide health at a higher level than the pasteurized milk. Why else, do you suppose, many dairy families drink the pre pasteurized milk prior to shipping, feeding it to our children as a more nutritious food supplement?

Would your insensitivity on this matter accuse us all of ignorant practices which CAN result in sickness. Lets stick to the DO, and not waste taxpayers dollars on the cans.

Your Department has done remarkable work over the years dedicated passionate staff while, serving farmers, friends and neighbors in our communities over the years, has about it a sometimes impeccable quality.

However with the recent invasion of fear invoked by regulators who use vernacular filled with "concern" "may cause" "possibilities of"....we are drifting off into fantasy land.

Do you recollect when raw cider scare blew away most of our Connecticut Grown raw cider producers with an alleged infliction of Ecoli 0157:H7 as reported to the press by the Department of Public Health as 'CONNECTICUT GROWN APPLES' When in fact the producer testified the apples were from upstate new York? This lie devastated an old and historic industry in our state and who got inured by this "little white lie"?

These days it is difficult to stand by the codes of our parents, or our ancestors. These days it is hard to stand up and fight as the creators of our Constitution expected us to do.

On this issue Commissioner I ask you to please look at the record, here in our state, and lets respect our ancestors, and the record of THEIR actions reflected in the here and the now. Most of all be honest with yourself in knowing full well no one in the Town Farm Dairy Crew was a trained dairy farmer..yet you attack us anyhow. Why is this?

As I write this I wish these were the feelings of just myself, but you are lighting a dangerous fire, kindled by a total lack of weighing in the real issues, against theories, not facts.

I invite you to stand on solid ground, visit our farms, inspect our record AS IT IS... Be one with the farm community, and you will learn that the pathogenic demons that lurk in the minds of the FDA et al are mostly there in production facilities which are NOT being overseen with diligence by their own staff.

Respectfully,

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cc: all Ct. county Farm Bureau Presidents, all legislators of concern as an "open letter".