

The Vermont General Assembly established the Task Force to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry (Task Force) to review the milk pricing system for dairy farmers in Vermont and assess the long-term sustainability and fairness to the Vermont dairy farming community of the federal milk market order pricing system and current market conditions.

As part of its charge, the Task Force is reviewing recommendations or alternatives for revising regulated dairy pricing and market regulation in the State. The Task Force is seeking input from milk handlers in Vermont regarding potential pricing alternatives that Vermont could implement to support dairy farms and provide them with a more equitable milk price than what is provided under the federal milk market order.

The Task Force reviewed how other states established systems or adopted orders to provide dairy farmers in those states with a fair price that accounts for markets conditions and costs of production. The Task Force intends to explore options similar to what other states have implemented. To inform Task Force's decision making, the Task Force invites your input on milk pricing alternatives such as:

- Establishing an over order price on all milk purchased by milk handlers in the State for processing in the State;
- Increasing the milk handling fee to provide assistance to dairy farmers in the State; and
- Setting a fee per packaged milk sold in the State to fund improved marketing of Vermont Dairy Products.

Input that milk handlers will provide will be greatly appreciated by the Task Force and will aid the Task Force in making its ultimate recommendations.