

Lima, Montana
Sept. 15, 2000

The Honorable Dan Glickman
Secretary, U. S. Dept of Agriculture
Washington D. C.

Dear Secretary Glickman:

Thank you for taking time to consider my remarks in regard to the Western Organization of Resource Council's petition for rule making concerning the situation in beef cattle markets today.

I cannot understand why this petition has been largely ignored for the past four years. With the overwhelming evidence of market control, monopolistic practices, and the absence of competition for the procurement of finished cattle for slaughter it becomes clearly evident that action must be taken to protect cattle producers from these predatory practices.

Let us take a look at the current situation. The price of fat cattle has dropped & 10.00 per cwt. in the past 12 weeks with no corresponding drop in retail meat prices. With the lack of competition, and no price disclosure on the myriad sweetheart deals out of the major feedlots it is impossible for an independent feeder to know what the market for his product is.

My market for feeder cattle is good. Very Good. Primarily due to the fact that feed costs are at an all time low, but with fat cattle prices in the low \$60.'s and the independent feeder losing \$80 per head my market cannot hold.

Mr Secretary we have tried for four years to get your attention directed to this situation. For four years conditions have worsened. We cannot wait any longer. Our position as cattle producers is in grave danger. Please take the action requested in the WORC petition now, and restore fairness and competition to the beef cattle industry.

Sincerely



Richard Gosman
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