

**President's Letter**  
**Ted Boersma**  
**May/June, 2005**

We have completed our 3rd Producer Forum on National Dairy Policy in Washington, D.C. and although not as well attended in numbers, the state representation was very good. It was a good beginning to the next farm bill discussions as well as informative on the consent agreement and the direction of the environmental picture. Much thanks to Kaye, Sharon, James and Ben for all of the hard work they put in to it to bring it together.

I think many of the same issues of the past will be present in the farm bill discussions--issues such as MILC, compacts and support price. One fear I have is that too often these issues seem to focus on the large vs. small rather than the efficient vs. inefficient, for efficiency knows no size limits. It applies to both small and large just as the term family farm applies to both small and large. During this summer as our delegation and your representatives visit be sure to thank them personally for their tremendous help on so many issues and for the great effort they put forth to extend to us a warm welcome and an open door whenever we are in D.C.

The month of May brings the end of school and the beginning of summer. Many consider Memorial Day the official unofficial start to summer. Memorial Day was established for us to remember and honor those who fell in battle, defending what they felt was worth dying for (families, children, freedom, morality, values and responsibility). It is a day set aside to teach our children about the sacrifices made by so many, not just a day to relax and barbecue in the backyard. This Memorial Day and everyday let us not take lightly the ultimate sacrifice made and being made by so many; that we can enjoy the freedom and prosperity that we do, for America will only continue to be the land of the free so long as it remains the home of the brave. As that brave Dutch woman Corrie Ten Boom said, "memories are the key not to the past, but to the future." Or as it reads on a headstone in Ireland, "death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."

Hope to see many of you in Ruidoso... Take care...