World's first milk price set by consumers

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Sunday 23 October 2016 6:05



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A new milk brand which pays producers a fair milk price set entirely by the public hit supermarket shelves in Paris and the Rhones-Alps region this week.

"C'est qui le patron", or "who's the boss", part of the Consumers Brand in France, pays €0.39/litre (35p/litre) to its 50 farmers. This is €0.10/litre (9p/litre) more than dairy giant Lactalis, which buys 20% of all milk in the country, pays its producers.

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The price was set according to a consumer survey in which 48% of respondents said they were willing to pay a premium price for their milk, with just 3% saying they would pay no more than current global market rates (€0.29/litre).

The milk will be stocked in over 5,000 Carrefour stores across France

The make-up of the milk was also dictated by the consumer survey, with 87% of respondents stating they wanted the cows fed on non-GMO feed, while 84% wanted herds to be at pasture for a minimum of three to six months a year.

Even the type of packaging was dictated by consumer choice - 78% wanting a carton with a lid.

The milk's distribution will expand to 5,200 stores nationwide on 2 November and milk production from the organisation's 50 producers is expected to grow from 1.2m litres a year to between 7m and 10m litres.

C'est qui le patron predicts that its milk will cost consumers just €4.00 a year more than current prices, but guarantee producers will receive "a fair price that allows farmers to have a social life".

6,850

Number of respondents to the survey

48.3%

Stated they wanted to pay producers €0.39/litre to allow them to have free time to themselves. It's worth noting 44.6% were willing to pay farmers a 'proper' price of €0.37/litre

96.2%

Wanted the milk to come from French producers

84.4%

Said the cows should be at pasture for a minimum of 3-6 months a year

86.9%

Did not want the cows fed on GMO's

68.3%

Wanted clover and alfalfa in feed to promote omega-3 within the milk

67.9%

Said they wanted local feed, less than 100km away from where the cows were reared

77.6%

Preferred a carton with a lid to a plastic bottle

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