

United Workers

Si. Se Puede! UFW

Darigold is the largest dairy processor and cooperative in the Pacific Northwest. While their public image brags about **family farms and local milk production**, there is a dark underside to the business.... **Just ask dairy workers.**

Approximately 90% of the dairies in Washington State are members/suppliers of Darigold. **Alarmingly, there has been a fatality on a dairy every year in Washington since 2015.**

Washington State dairy workers suffer injuries requiring them to miss work or to go on disability an astounding **138% more than all Washington industries combined.** And these are just the workers who are brave enough to report their claims and seek medical attention. We've heard too often about **workers being threatened and intimidated into not filing claims.**

Now, with the **retaliatory lawsuit against the UFW and the Darigold Dozen** -- the 12 workers we told you of in last week's email who dared to speak up and were sued for this bravery -- the fear will only increase.



Margarito Martinez, one of the Darigold Dozen shares, *“What the farm is doing to us, counter suing us – the Darigold Dozen and the union – is unjust. They're retaliating against us as workers, **it's a message to us to remain silent.** Their allegations have no basis or foundation. **If they wanted to sue us for something, how come they did not do it before we exerted our rights?** It is obvious that it is retaliation meant to scare us... We will continue fighting until the end. We cannot go back and continue being oppressed. Not Ruby Ridge, not Darigold, not any large market/retailer, consumer or justice system should allow this injustice against us and those of us*

who work in the fields.”

“No Slavery or Child Labor....???”

This is the standard that Darigold CEO Stan Ryan measured against when describing working conditions on Darigold dairies in an August 20th [Seattle Times article](#).

He gives no assurances workers are being respected, that women are not being harassed, that workers are being provided their legally mandated rest and meal breaks, or that racial discrimination is not happening. He also says nothing about workers being retaliated against.



Nope, what does he say? *Only* that Darigold-sponsored audits have found “...*no child labor, slave labor, or minimum wage violation issues.*” Is this supposed to make us feel better? No children or slaves? **Really?**

As consumers, we deserve so much more from companies like Darigold. How about making sure the law is complied with at all times and that workers aren't retaliated against when they complain? Still a low bar, but as we're seeing with Darigold dairies, that would be a huge step forward.

**CONSUMERS CAN
ACTION NOW**



HELP -- TAKE

Farm Worker Ministry Northwest urges you to advocate for these farm workers and others in the dairy industry by taking the following actions

1) **Call Costco CEO Craig Jelinek**----his Exec. Assistant is Mary Ann--direct line is 425-313-8301. Tell Mary Ann you would like to speak to Craig Jelinek.

Your Message: Religious leaders and people of faith are concerned about the abuses of dairy workers at Darigold member dairies. "We request Costco tell Darigold to meet with the United Farm Workers to resolve these issues."

2) **Call Stan Ryan, CEO Darigold**, 206-216-4283. Tell him that you are supportive of the UFW and Dairy Workers and you urge Darigold to get this dispute settled as soon as possible.

FAST FOR JUSTICE

Thursday, September 20, 8:30 am – 5 pm, **Press event at noon**

The Fast of Reconciliation: Join UFW President Arturo Rodriguez and Darigold member dairy workers in a FAST at

Darigold Headquarters
5601 6th Ave. South, Suite 300
Seattle, Washington 98108

The Fast will continue same time and place on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Sept 21-24.