

# Editorial

## Backseat

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It's heartbreaking to realize the reality that Humboldt Creamery as we know it is no more. The 40 producers that did own it, before the banks stepped in and took over, are not in the driver's seat anymore. They are clearly at the back of the bus. We all wait now to hear who will become the new owners and can only hope that, along with making the creamery viable, they look out for our farmers and our valley. In the meantime, several dairymen continue their efforts to come up with partners so that producers can raise their bidding hand at an August auction. We know they are doing overtime attempting to come up with some sort of plan that keeps the farmers' hands in the pie but we, like many dairymen, worry that any momentum and cohesiveness has been lost and that now too many are just focused, understandably, on a reliable milk check.

Whatever the outcome, it is all so heartbreaking. Personal livelihoods are on the line, not to mention personal relationships, personal health, personal finances and the future of many here in the valley. Who would have thought so much could happen in four short months? The dairymen are tired, their families worried and their leaders are shouldering responsibility while at the same time trying to save any scrap of their investment for future generations.

This, unlike the floods more than 40 years ago, is manmade. Let's hope, however, this too is a disaster that we can recover from.