



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
Becky.unkenholz@usda.gov

USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL PARTIAL DECISION TO AMEND UPPER MIDWEST MILK ORDER

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 5, 2005, - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a final partial decision that permanently adopts amendments to the pooling and transportation credit provisions of the Upper Midwest milk marketing order that were previously implemented on an interim basis. This decision is based on testimony and evidence given at a public hearing held at Bloomington, Minn., on Aug. 16 – 19, 2004.

The adopted amendments allow only supply plants located in the states that comprise the Upper Midwest marketing area to use milk delivered directly from producers' farms for qualification purposes, eliminate the ability to pool as producer milk diversions to nonpool plants outside of the states that comprise the marketing area, and limit the transportation credit received by handlers to the first 400 miles of applicable milk movements. USDA will issue a separate decision on proposals concerning pooling and repooling of milk, temporary loss of Grade A status, and increasing the maximum administrative assessment.

USDA will conduct a vote on the amended order to determine producer approval. If producers approve the order as amended by this final decision, a final rule will follow to implement these changes on a permanent basis. For additional information about the decision contact:

Upper Midwest: H. Paul Kyburz, Market Administrator
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
4570 West 77th Street, Suite 210
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435-5037
Tel. (952) 831-5292; e-mail: pkyburz@fmma30.com.

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