USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL DECISION TO AMEND
UPPER MIDWEST MILK ORDER

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 6, 2006 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a final decision that adopts amendments to the pooling provisions of the Upper Midwest milk marketing order that were previously discussed in a recommended decision. This decision is based on testimony and evidence given at a public hearing held in Bloomington, Minnesota, Aug. 16-19, 2004.

The amendments recommended for adoption will: 1) establish a limit on the volume of milk a handler may pool during the months of April through February to 125 percent of the volume of milk pooled in the prior month; 2) establish a limit on the volume of milk a handler may pool during the month of March to 135 percent of the volume of milk pooled in the prior month; and 3) allow the market administrator to increase the maximum administrative assessment up to 8 cents per hundredweight on all pooled milk if necessary to maintain the required fund reserves.

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:

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

#

An electronic version of this news release can be obtained via the World Wide Web at:
http://www.ams.usda.gov/news/newsrel.htm