

AMS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Exhibit #4

AMS Release No. 262-01

Becky Unkenholz(202) 720-8998

becky.unkenholz@usda.gov

Billy Cox (202) 720-8998

billy.cox@usda.gov

USDA SETS HEARING TO AMEND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST MILK ORDER

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16, 2001--Dairy farmers, cooperatives, milk processors, and the public are invited to testify at a public hearing at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 4, on proposals that would amend certain pooling and related provisions in the Pacific Northwest milk marketing order. The hearing will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport, 18740 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, Wash. 98188.

The hearing was requested by dairy cooperatives who supply the fluid and manufacturing milk needs of the Pacific Northwest market. One proposal includes eliminating certain supply plant qualification standards of cooperative associations; prohibiting the inclusion of milk diverted as a qualifying shipment for pooling; and adding a provision that would provide for two or more cooperative pool manufacturing plants to operate as a system in meeting the shipment requirements for pooling.

A second proposal would reduce the amount of milk that a pool plant may divert for the months of March through August from 99 percent to 80 percent and add a "touch base" provision that would require at least six day's milk production of a dairy farmer be physically received at a pool plant in order to be eligible for pooling.

Details of the proposals and a notice of the hearing will be published in the Nov. 19, *Federal Register*. Copies may be obtained from the Pacific Northwest milk marketing order office, AMS/Dairy Programs, 1930 - 220th Street, SE, Suite 102, Bothell, Wash. 98021-8471 or AMS Dairy Programs, USDA Stop 0225, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Return to [AMS News Releases](#)