



USDA Sets Hearing on Proposed Amendments to All Federal Milk Orders

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Washington, D.C., April 7, 2009 – The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will hold a national public hearing to consider proposals seeking to amend or remove the producer-handler provisions and revise the exempt plant provisions applicable to all Federal milk marketing orders. The hearing will begin at 1 p.m. on May 4, 2009, at The Westin - Cincinnati, 21 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202.

USDA will also consider a proposal seeking to amend the orders to include provisions related to individual handler pools as an alternative to the producer-handler provisions. The National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association submitted initial proposals. USDA requested additional proposals from the industry that would examine all features of the producer-handler and exempt plant provisions. USDA received proposals from dairy farmers, producer-handlers, dairy farmer cooperatives, and fluid milk processors.

Anyone interested in participating in the hearing should notify a USDA official upon arrival. The hearing notice will be published in the April 9 Federal Register. Copies of the hearing notice and additional information are available from USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, STOP 0231 - Rm. 2971, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0231, from the AMS web site: at www.ams.usda.gov/dairy, or from the following market administrator offices:

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