



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 2968-S, STOP 0225
Washington, DC 20250-0225

April 7, 2009

USDA to Hold a Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed Amendments to the Producer-Handler and Exempt Plant Provisions in All Federal Milk Marketing Orders

A national public hearing is being held to consider and take evidence on proposals seeking to amend or remove the producer-handler provisions and revise the exempt plant provisions applicable to all Federal milk marketing orders. Additionally, a proposal seeking to amend the orders to include provisions related to individual handler pools will be considered as an alternative to the producer-handler provisions. The news release announcing the hearing is enclosed for your reference.

The hearing will begin at 1:00 p.m. on May 4, 2009. The hearing will be held at The Westin-Cincinnati, 21 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, phone (513) 621-7700.

The hearing is open to the public. To participate and testify at the hearing, a person must be physically present and be available for cross-examination by other parties. Interested parties who wish to introduce exhibits should provide the Administrative Law Judge at the hearing with four copies of such exhibits for the official record. Additional copies should be made available for use by other hearing participants. Proponents that submitted a proposal included in the Notice of Hearing, are required to make their testimony and any other exhibits available to USDA officials prior to the start of the hearing on the day of their appearance. Individual dairy farmers are not subject to this requirement.

Requests to USDA, including Market Administrator personnel, for data to be used or presented at the hearing must be received by April 24, 2009.

The Notice of Hearing, all proposals received and additional information pertinent to this proceeding are available on Dairy Programs website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy>. A copy of the hearing notice may be obtained by contacting a Market Administrator listed in the news release or Dairy programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dana H. Coale'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and 'C'.

Dana H. Coale
Deputy Administrator
Dairy Programs

Enclosure



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
DAIRY PROGRAMS**

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April 8, 2009

To: Interested Parties
From: Cary Hunter, Market Administrator, Carrollton, Texas
Subject: **USDA Sets Hearing on Proposed Amendments to All Federal Milk Orders**

AMS NEWS RELEASE

Release No. 062-09

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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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/s/ Cary Hunter
Market Administrator