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To: Interested Parties
From: Richard Fleming, Market Administrator, Carrollton, Texas
Subject: **USDA Announces Final Rule to Establish Rules of Practice for the Federal Milk Order Hearing Process**

AMS NEWS RELEASE

Release No. 127-08

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Washington, D.C., Aug. 19, 2008 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a final rule establishing supplemental rules of practice for the federal milk marketing order hearing process. The intent of this rule is to establish guidelines and timeframes to improve the timeliness of the federal milk order hearing process.

This final rule amends the general regulations for federal milk marketing agreements and marketing orders by establishing supplemental rules of practice in accordance with section 1504 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). This rule defines supplemental guidelines, timeframes and procedures for amending federal milk marketing agreements and orders; authorizes the use of informal rulemaking (5 U.S.C. 553) to amend such agreements and orders; and establishes provisions that permit the USDA to impose assessments on pooled milk under the federal milk marketing order program to fund expedited rulemaking. Such assessments would supplement appropriated funds for the procurement of services required by USDA to perform rulemaking functions. The final rule will be published in the Aug. 20 Federal Register.

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/s/ Richard Fleming
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