



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
DAIRY PROGRAMS

Office Address:
1404 Carroll
Carrollton, TX 75006-7245
Phone: (972) 245-6060
Fax: (972) 245-3211
Lab Fax: (972) 389-0823

Milk Market Administrator
SOUTHWEST MILK MARKETING AREA
Federal Order No. 126

Mailing Address:
P O Box 110939
Carrollton, TX 75011-0939

Home page: www.dallasma.com
E-mail: sw.order@dallasma.com

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To: Interested Parties
From: Cary Hunter, Market Administrator, Carrollton, Texas
Subject: **USDA Issues Final Rule Amending Fluid Milk Definition in All Milk Orders**

AMS NEWS RELEASE

Release No. 150-10
Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
Becky.unkenholz@ams.usda.gov

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued a final rule amending the definition of Class I fluid milk products in all Federal milk marketing orders effective Jan. 1, 2011.

These amendments, which were approved by producers, maintain the current 6.5 percent nonfat milk solid standard and incorporates an alternative 2.25 percent true milk protein criterion to determine whether a product meets the compositional standard for fluid milk products. This rule also amends the fluid milk product definition to provide exemptions for drinkable yogurt products containing at least 20 percent yogurt (by weight), kefir, and products intended to be meal replacements. The decision clarifies how milk and milk-derived ingredients should be priced under all Federal milk marketing orders when used in fluid milk products.

The final rule appears in today's Federal Register and becomes effective Jan. 1, 2011. For additional information about the decision contact:

Northeast: Erik F. Rasmussen
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
P.O. Box 51478, Boston, MA 02205-1478
Tel. (617) 737-7199; email: erasmussen@fedmilk1.com

Appalachian: Harold H. Friedly, Jr.
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
P.O. Box 91528, Louisville, KY 40291-0528
Tel. (502) 499-0040; email: friedly@malouisville.com

Florida and Southeast: Sue L. Mosley
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
1550 North Brown Road, Suite 120, Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Tel. (770) 682-2501; email: smosley@fmmatlanta.com

Upper Midwest: H. Paul Kyburz
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
1600 West 82nd Street, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55431-1420
Tel. (952) 831-5292; email: pkkyburz@fmma30.com

Central: David C. Stukenberg
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
P.O. Box 14650, Shawnee Mission, KS 66285-4650
Tel. (913) 495-9300; email: David.Stukenberg@fmmacentral.com

Midwest: Paul A. Huber
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
P.O. Box 5102, Brunswick, OH 44212
Tel. (330) 225-4758; email: phuber@fmmaclev.com

Pacific Northwest and Arizona: James R. Daugherty
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
1930-220th St., SE., Suite 102 Bothell, WA 98021-8471
Tel. (425) 487-6009; email: jdaugherty@fmmaseattle.com

Southwest: Cary Hunter
USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
P.O. Box 110939, Carrollton, TX 75011-0939
Tel. (972) 245-6060; email: sw.order@dallasma.com

Information can also be found on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy>

/s/ CaryHunter
Market Administrator

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