

AMS NEWS RELEASE

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USDA PUBLISHES NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING ON ROLE OF PASTURE IN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCTION

WASHINGTON, April 14, 2006--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program (NOP) published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the *Federal Register* April 13, exploring the role of pasture in organic management of ruminant animals—particularly dairy animals.

The ANPR gives a history of the pasture issue as it relates to the development of the NOP standards and the discussion surrounding the issue since the standards were implemented in October 2002. The ANPR also contains questions that interested parties might consider for making formal comments. The comment period is open for 60 days, ending June 12.

The ANPR may be accessed on the NOP website at www.ams.usda.gov/nop under Today's News for April 10.

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