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USDA SETS HEARING TO AMEND THE CENTRAL MILK MARKETING ORDER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19, 2001 – Dairy farmers, milk processors and the public are invited to testify Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2001, on proposals that would amend certain pooling and related provisions of the Central milk order. The hearing will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel - Kansas City Airport, 8801 N.W. 112th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64153; (816) 891-8900.

Handlers who supply the fluid milk needs of the Central order marketing area requested the hearing. The principal issue to be addressed at the hearing is the degree of association milk supplies should maintain with the Central fluid milk market to benefit from participation in the marketwide pool.

Proposals to be considered include making performance standards for participation in the pool year-round for both supply plants and producer milk, eliminating the possibility of the same milk sharing in the higher-valued returns of more than one marketwide pool, and increasing the rate of partial payments to dairy farmers. The hearing also will consider relaxing some requirements for pooling the milk of individual producers.

Details of the proposals and a notice of the hearing will be published in the Oct. 23, 2001, *Federal Register*. Copies may be obtained from the Central milk market administrator's office, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, 10801 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, Kansas 66219; P.O. Box 14650, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66285-4650, <http://www.fmmacentral.com> or USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Rm. 2968, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456, <http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/>.

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