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Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
becky.unkenholz@usda.gov
Billy Cox (202) 720-8998billy.cox@usda.gov

USDA SETS HEARING TO AMEND UPPER MIDWEST MILK MARKETING ORDER

WASHINGTON, June 7, 2001—On June 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing on proposals that would make changes to the Upper Midwest Milk Marketing Order pooling and partial payment provisions. The hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel South & Plaza Tower, 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington, Minn.

The hearing was requested by dairy farmer cooperatives and milk processors who supply and market a significant portion of milk in the Upper Midwest milk marketing area. Pooling proposals include restricting the pooling of milk on the order that is already pooled on a state-operated milk order. A proposal that would provide for separate pooling provisions for milk from areas outside the states comprising the Upper Midwest order and one that would change the advance payment to dairy farmers from milk handlers for milk delivered during the first half of the month will also be considered.

Details of the proposals and a notice of the hearing will be published in the June 11 *Federal Register*. Copies may be obtained from the Upper Midwest milk marketing order office, USDA/AMS Dairy Programs, 4570 West 77th St. Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN 55435-5037 or USDA/AMS Dairy Programs, Rm. 2968, P.O. Box 96456, Washington DC 20090-6456.

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