

ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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USDA ANNOUNCES INTERIM ORDER TO AMEND THE MIDEAST MILK MARKETING ORDER

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 25, 2002 - The United States Department of Agriculture today issued an interim order amending the current pooling provisions of the Mideast Federal milk marketing order. The interim order was approved by Mideast dairy farmers.

This interim order implements pooling standards to prevent the inappropriate pooling of milk on the Mideast order. The approved amendments to the Pool Plant provisions will: 1) eliminate automatic pool plant status for the 6-month period of March through August, 2) eliminate milk shipments to a distributing plant regulated by another Federal milk order as pool-qualifying shipments, 3) eliminate the "split plant" feature of the order, 4) eliminate the inclusion of diversions to pool distributing plants made by a supply plant located outside the marketing area as part of the supply plant's qualifying shipments, and 5) establish a "net shipments" standard for supply plants.

This interim order changes the Producer milk provisions by: 1) increasing the number of days that the milk of a producer needs to be delivered to a pool plant, 2) instituting year-round diversion limits, adjusted seasonally, for all pool plants, and 3) excluding from receipts the diversions made by a pool plant to a second pool plant from the calculation of the diversion limitation.

These interim amendments to the order will become effective on Aug. 1, 2002. Public comments on the Tentative Final Decision published on June 11, 2002, are due Aug. 9,

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