



PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture _ 1400 Independence Ave., SW _ Room 3510-S
Washington, DC 20250 _ (202) 720-8998 _ World Wide Web: <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

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Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998

becky.unkenholz@usda.gov

Billy Cox (202) 720-8998

billy.cox@usda.gov

USDA ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE FINAL DECISION TO AMEND THE CENTRAL MILK MARKETING ORDER

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 18, 2002 – The United States Department of Agriculture today announced a tentative final decision amending the current pooling provisions of the Central milk marketing order. This decision is based on testimony and evidence given at a public hearing held Nov. 14 and 15, 2001, in Kansas City, Mo.

This decision will eliminate the ability to simultaneously pool milk on the Central milk order when the same milk is already pooled on a state-operated milk order that has marketwide pooling. The decision also: adopts provisions that will establish lower but year-round supply plant performance standards; will not consider the volume of milk shipments to distributing plants regulated by another Federal milk order as a qualifying shipment on the Central order; excludes from receipts diverted milk made by a pool plant to another pool plant in determining pool plant diversion limits; and establishes a "net shipments" provision for milk deliveries to distributing plants. This decision recommends adopting provisions to limit supply plant system formation, but not on an emergency basis .

USDA will conduct a vote on the amended order to determine producer approval. Interested persons have 60 days to file comments in response to the tentative decision, which will appear in the Nov. 19 Federal Register. For additional information about the decision contact:

Donald R. Nicholson USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs P.O. Box 14650, Shawnee Mission, KS.
66285-4650 Tel. (913) 495-9300; email: donald.nicholson@fmcentral.com

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