



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 2968-S, STOP 0225
Washington, DC 20250-0225

April 7, 2009

USDA to Hold a Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed Amendments to the Producer-Handler and Exempt Plant Provisions in All Federal Milk Marketing Orders

A national public hearing is being held to consider and take evidence on proposals seeking to amend or remove the producer-handler provisions and revise the exempt plant provisions applicable to all Federal milk marketing orders. Additionally, a proposal seeking to amend the orders to include provisions related to individual handler pools will be considered as an alternative to the producer-handler provisions. The news release announcing the hearing is enclosed for your reference.

The hearing will begin at 1:00 p.m. on May 4, 2009. The hearing will be held at The Westin-Cincinnati, 21 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, phone (513) 621-7700.

The hearing is open to the public. To participate and testify at the hearing, a person must be physically present and be available for cross-examination by other parties. Interested parties who wish to introduce exhibits should provide the Administrative Law Judge at the hearing with four copies of such exhibits for the official record. Additional copies should be made available for use by other hearing participants. Proponents that submitted a proposal included in the Notice of Hearing, are required to make their testimony and any other exhibits available to USDA officials prior to the start of the hearing on the day of their appearance. Individual dairy farmers are not subject to this requirement.

Requests to USDA, including Market Administrator personnel, for data to be used or presented at the hearing must be received by April 24, 2009.

The Notice of Hearing, all proposals received and additional information pertinent to this proceeding are available on Dairy Programs website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy>. A copy of the hearing notice may be obtained by contacting a Market Administrator listed in the news release or Dairy programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dana H. Coale'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Dana H. Coale
Deputy Administrator
Dairy Programs

Enclosure