

AMS NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ISSUES FINAL DECISION ON AMENDMENTS TO ALL FEDERAL MILK ORDERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued a final decision to amend the producer-handler definition in all federal milk marketing orders. These amendments were considered in a recommended decision published Oct. 21, 2009.

This decision amends the producer-handler definition of all federal milk marketing orders to limit exemption from pooling and pricing provisions of the orders to those producer-handlers with total route disposition and sales of packaged fluid milk products to other plants of 3 million pounds or less per month.

These amendments are subject to producer approval before they can be implemented on a permanent basis. The final decision amends all federal milk marketing orders. Each amended federal order must be approved either by two-thirds of producers supplying milk to the federal order or by producers who supply two-thirds of the milk to that order. If approved, USDA will issue a final rule.

For additional information about the decision contact: Paul A. Huber; USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, P.O. Box 5102, Brunswick, OH 44212; Tel. (330) 225-4758; email: phuber@fmmaclev.com. A copy of the decision can be found on the website at www.fmmaclev.com/hearings.htm.