

AMS NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ISSUES A TENTATIVE FINAL DECISION ON AMENDMENTS TO ALL FEDERAL MARKETING ORDERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 19, 2008 – The U. S. Department of Agriculture today issued a tentative final decision to amend the Class III and Class IV product price formulas in all Federal milk marketing orders. The decision was based on the record of the first session of a public hearing held in Strongsville, Ohio on February 26 - March 2, 2007, a second session of a public hearing held in Indianapolis, Ind., on April 9-13, 2007, and a third session of a public hearing held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 9-11, 2007.

The decision would amend the manufacturing (make) allowances for cheese, butter, nonfat dry milk (NFDM) and dry whey. Specifically, this decision would adopt the following make allowances: cheese - \$0.2003 per pound; butter - \$0.1715 per pound; NFDM - \$0.1678 per pound; and dry whey - \$0.1991 per pound. This decision also proposes to increase the butterfat yield factor of the butterfat price formula from 1.20 to 1.211. These amendments are subject to producer approval before they can be implemented.

The tentative final decision will be published in the June 20 Federal Register. Public comments are due Aug. 19, 2008.

For additional information about the decision contact: David Z. Walker, Market Administrator; USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs; P.O. Box 5102, Brunswick, Ohio 44212; Tel. (330) 225-4758; e-mail: dwalker@fmmaclv.com. A copy of the decision can be found on the website at www.fmmaclv.com/hearings.htm.