

AMS NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON AMENDMENTS TO ALL FEDERAL MILK ORDERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 23, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued a final rule amending the producer-handler definition in all Federal milk marketing orders. Producers in all Federal milk marketing orders approved the amendments in referenda held in March 2010.

This rule amends the producer-handler definition 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 were considered in a recommended decision published Oct. 21, 2009, and adopted by a final decision published March 4, 2010. The final rule appears in today's Federal Register. The amendments will be effective June 1, 2010.

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: pheber@fmacleev.com. A copy of the decision can be found on the website at www.fmacleev.com/hearings.htm.