

AMS NEWS RELEASE

Release No. 079-05

USDA SETS HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ALL FEDERAL MILK ORDERS

WASHINGTON, April 11, 2005 – The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it will hold a national public hearing to consider proposals seeking to amend the Class I fluid milk product definition in all Federal milk marketing orders. The hearing will begin at 8:00 a.m. on June 20, 2005, at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel, 300 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1122.

The hearing was requested by Dairy Farmers of America Inc. (DFA), who asked USDA to reconsider which dairy products should be classified as Class I products. DFA contends that many fluid consumable milk products are currently classified as Class II products because of the current formulation standard.

The hearing notice will be published as a proposed rule in the April 12 Federal Register. Copies of the hearing notice may be obtained from the USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, STOP 0231 - Rm. 2971, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0231. The hearing notice is available on AMS' Web site at: www.ams.usda.gov/dairy.

The hearing notice and additional information is available from the following market administrator office: David Z. Walker, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, P.O. Box 5102, 1325 Industrial Parkway North, Brunswick, OH 44212, Tel. (330) 225-4758, email: dwalker@fmmaclev.com.