

AMS NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ISSUES RECOMMENDED DECISION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ALL FEDERAL MILK ORDERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 21, 2009 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued a recommended decision to adopt amendments to the producer-handler definition in all Federal milk marketing orders. This decision is based on testimony and evidence given at a public hearing held May 4-19 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The decision recommends that the producer-handler definitions of all Federal milk marketing orders be amended to limit exemption from pooling and pricing provisions of the orders to those producer-handlers with total route disposition of fluid milk products of 3 million pounds or less per month.

Interested persons have 60 days to file comments in response to the recommended decision. You may send your comments by using the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

The recommended decision is published in today's Federal Register.

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