

AMS NEWS RELEASE

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USDA AMENDS FLUID MILK PRODUCT DEFINITION IN ALL FEDERAL MILK ORDERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 14, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued a final decision to amend the definition of Class I fluid milk products in all Federal milk marketing orders. These amendments were considered in a recommended decision published May 17, 2006.

Under the final decision, a product will meet the compositional standards for fluid milk products if it contains at least 6.5 percent nonfat milk solids or 2.25 percent true milk protein. This decision also amends the fluid milk product definition to provide exemptions for drinkable yogurt products containing at least 20 percent yogurt (by weight), kefir, and products intended to be meal replacements. The decision clarifies how milk and milk-derived ingredients should be priced under all Federal milk marketing orders when used in fluid milk products.

The final decision will be published in the June 14 Federal Register. These amendments are subject to producer approval before they can be implemented.

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