



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC
20250

March 14, 2013

**Invitation to Submit Comments for Consideration of Changes to Product Specifications
used in the Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting Program (DPMRP)**

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is requesting comments regarding existing product specifications used in the Dairy Mandatory Reporting Program (DPMRP). Since April 1, 2012, the DPMRP has been administered by AMS. DPMRP requires qualifying industry participants to report weekly sales information to AMS for butter, nonfat dry milk (NFDM), 40-pound cheddar cheese blocks, 500-pound cheddar cheese barrels, and dry whey. AMS analyzes, reviews, and verifies the sales information and publishes a weekly report providing price averages and sales volumes. As the market information published by AMS is used by industry participants in making informed business decisions, it is imperative that products surveyed by the DPMRP depict current market conditions for dairy products.

The DPMRP requires that sales data for specific dairy products be reported to AMS if those products meet certain specifications. AMS is soliciting comments on the specifications for products reported under the DPMRP. Current specifications are listed in 7 CFR 1170.8 and include: style, moisture content, age, grade, color, packaging, as well as relevant exclusions. Comments should clearly indicate the commenter's position on current product specifications, the justification for any proposed change and include relevant information to support those views. AMS is not considering adding or withdrawing products currently surveyed under the DPMRP; rather, AMS is seeking comments on specifications for the current products surveyed.

The preferred method of submission is via email to amsdairycomments@ams.usda.gov. Comments may also be faxed to (202) 690-0552 or mailed to: Deputy Administrator, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, STOP-0231-Room 2971, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0225. **Comments must be received by April 30, 2013.**

AMS will consider all comments received. Based on those comments, AMS will determine if a proposed rule should be issued inviting public comments on specific proposed changes to the DPMRP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana H. Coale", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dana H. Coale
Deputy Administrator
Dairy Programs