February 22, 2006

TO:    Interested Persons - Upper Midwest Marketing Area

SUBJECT: Issuance of Recommended Decision

Enclosed is a recommended decision for the Upper Midwest Marketing Area recently issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. A press release is also enclosed. These documents are also available on our website at: www.fmma30.com/Homepage/OrderActions.html.

Specifically, this decision recommends adoption of amendments that would: 1) establish a limit on the volume of milk a handler may pool during the months of April through February to 125% of the volume of milk pooled in the prior month; 2) establish a limit on the volume of milk a handler may pool during the month of March to 135% of the volume of milk pooled in the prior month; and 3) allow the market administrator to increase the administrative assessment up to a maximum of 8 cents per hundredweight on all pooled milk if necessary to maintain the required fund reserves.

The recommended decision is based on a hearing held August 16-19, 2004 in Bloomington, Minnesota. A partial decision issued earlier dealt with other issues from this same hearing.

Comments and/or exceptions to the recommended decision must be received not later than April 24, 2006. Comments and/or exceptions (six copies) should be sent to:

Hearing Clerk
U.S. Department of Agriculture
STOP 9200 – Room 1031
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9200

Comments may also be submitted at the Federal e-Rulemaking portal: http://www.regulations.gov or by e-mail: amsdairycomments@usda.gov. Reference should be made to the title of action and docket number.

/s/ H. Paul Kyburz
Market Administrator

Enclosures