September 27, 2004

TO:   Interested Persons - Upper Midwest Marketing Area

SUBJECT:  Final Decision to Amend All Federal Milk Marketing Orders

The Secretary of Agriculture recently issued a final decision for the Upper Midwest and all other Federal milk orders. The Decision adopts, as a final rule without change, the provisions of the interim final rule that amended the classification of milk provisions to reclassify milk used to produce evaporated milk in consumer-type packages and sweetened condensed milk in consumer-type packages from Class III to Class IV.

The proposed amendments have been in effect on an interim basis since May 1, 2004, and are based on the record of a public hearing held October 21, 2003, in Alexandria, Virginia.

The provisions in this final decision are unchanged from the interim final rule.

A paper copy of the final decision can be obtained by calling Harold Ferguson of my staff toll free at 1-888-301-8224, Ext. 231. An electronic version of the document is also available on our web site at www.fmma30.com.

Cooperative associations will be polled to determine whether producers favor the issuance of the order. The order may not be made effective unless cooperative associations representing at least two-thirds of the eligible producers favor its issuance.

/s/   H. Paul Kyburz
       Market Administrator

Enclosures