April 16, 2002

TO: Interested Persons - Upper Midwest Marketing Area

SUBJECT: Interim Final Rule to Become Effective May 1, 2002

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture recently issued the enclosed Interim Final Rule for the Upper Midwest Marketing Area. The decision amends the pooling provisions of the Upper Midwest Federal Milk Order on an interim basis, effective May 1, 2002.

The Interim Final Rule states that disorderly marketing conditions from the simultaneous pooling of milk on the Upper Midwest Federal Order and the California State-operated order warrant these amendments. This interim order eliminates the ability to pool the same milk on a Federal and State-operated order that has marketwide pooling. It also establishes diversion limits for distributing plants regulated under the order. More than the required number of producers in the Upper Midwest Marketing Area have approved the issuance of the interim amendments.

The Interim Final Rule states that good cause exists for making these interim order amendments effective May 1, 2002, and that it would be contrary to the public interest to delay the effective date of these amendments for 30 days after their publication in the Federal Register. The amended order, therefore, is effective May 1, 2002.

/s/ H. Paul Kyburz
Market Administrator

Enclosure