



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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Release No. 050-06

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USDA ISSUES RECOMMENDED DECISION ON AMENDMENTS TO ALL MILK ORDERS

WASHINGTON, May 16, 2006 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued a recommended decision to amend the Class I fluid milk product definition for all federal milk marketing orders. The decision was based on the record of a hearing held June 20-23, 2005, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Specifically, the decision recommends maintaining the current 6.5 percent nonfat milk solids criteria and incorporating an equivalent 2.25 percent true protein criteria in determining if a product meets the fluid milk product definition. It also proposes to clarify how milk and milk-derived ingredients should be priced under all orders.

USDA is also proposing that, regardless of packaging, “drinkable” yogurt products containing at least 20 percent yogurt, kefir and products designed to be meal replacements be exempted from the fluid milk product definition.

The recommended decision will be published in the May 17 Federal Register. Public comments are due July 17, 2006 and should be sent to the Hearing Clerk, Stop 9200-1031, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9200. Comments may also be submitted at the Federal E-Rulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or through e-mail to amsdairycomments@usda.gov.

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This press release has been retyped by the
Minneapolis, Minnesota Market Administrator's office
from the original AMS release number 050-06.