



# PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

## AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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## USDA ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDED DECISION TO AMEND UPPER MIDWEST MILK ORDER

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 21, 2006 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a recommended decision to adopt amendments to the pooling provisions of the Upper Midwest milk marketing order. This decision is based on testimony and evidence given at a public hearing held in Bloomington, Minn., on Aug. 16-19, 2004.

The amendments recommended for adoption would: 1) establish a limit on the volume of milk a handler may pool during the months of April through February to 125 percent 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 percent of the volume of milk pooled in the prior month; and 3) allow the market administrator to increase the maximum administrative assessment rate up to 8 cents per hundredweight on all pooled milk if necessary to maintain the required fund reserves.

The recommended decision will appear in the Feb. 22 *Federal Register*. Public comments are due April 24th.

For additional information about the decision contact:

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This press release has been retyped by the  
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