



PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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USDA ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE FINAL DECISION TO AMEND THE UPPER MIDWEST MILK MARKETING ORDER

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 14, 2002- The United States Department of Agriculture today announced a tentative final decision amending the current pooling provisions of the Upper Midwest Federal milk marketing order. This decision is based on testimony and evidence given at a public hearing held June 26-27, 2001, in Bloomington, Minnesota.

This decision would eliminate the ability to simultaneously pool milk on the Upper Midwest milk order when the same milk is already pooled on a State-operated milk order that has marketwide pooling. This decision also establishes a limit on the amount of milk that can be diverted to nonpool plants by pool distributing plants regulated under the order.

USDA will conduct a vote on the amended order to determine producer approval. Interested persons have 60 days to file comments in response to the tentative decision, which appears in today's Federal Register.

For additional information about the decision contact:

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