



Release No. 142-04
 Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998
 Billy Cox (202) 720-8998

USDA DELAYS HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO UPPER MIDWEST MILK ORDER

Washington, D.C., July 12, 2004 – The U. S. Department of Agriculture today announced that a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Upper Midwest Federal milk marketing order, scheduled for the week of July 19, 2004, has been delayed at the request of industry participants. The hearing will now begin Monday, Aug. 16, at 1:00 p.m at the Sofitel Minneapolis Hotel (I-494 and Highway 100), 5601 West 78th Street, Bloomington, Minn. 55439.

The hearing must be completed by or adjourned by noon on Friday, Aug. 20, 2004. In order to expedite the hearing process, the presiding administrative law judge requests that the statements of all witnesses be exchanged with known participants on or before Aug. 13, 2004. Proponents of amendments to the order are listed in the original hearing notice, published in the June 23rd Federal Register.

The hearing notice date change will be published as a proposed rule in a future issue of the Federal Register. Copies of the notice of delay in the hearing date may be obtained from the USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Rm. 2971 - Stop 0231, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0231. The notice of delay will be available on AMS' web site, at: www.ams.usda.gov/dairy.

Information about the hearing is available from the Market Administrator office, as follows:

H. Paul Kyburz
 USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
 Suite 210, 4570 West 77th Street
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435-5037
 Tel. (952) 831-5292; email: pkyburz@fmma30.com

#

Exh. b. + 2B