

PROPOSAL NO. 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SOUTHEAST FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER – MARKETWIDE SERVICE PAYMENTS

Amend the following provisions of 7 C.F.R. § 1007.81, § 1007.82, and § 1007.83 as indicated (amendments are highlighted):

§ 1007.81 Payments to the transportation credit balancing fund.

(a) On or before the 12th day after the end of the month (except as provided in § 1000.90), each handler operating a pool plant and each handler specified in § 1000.9(c) shall pay to the market administrator a transportation credit balancing fund assessment determined by multiplying the pounds of Class I producer milk assigned pursuant to § 1007.44 by ~~\$0.30~~ **\$0.60** per hundredweight or such lesser amount as the market administrator deems necessary to maintain a balance in the fund equal to the total transportation credits disbursed during the prior June - February period to reflect any changes in the current mileage rate versus the mileage rate(s) in effect during the prior June - February period. In the event that during any month of the June - February period the fund balance is insufficient to cover the amount of credits that are due, the assessment should be based upon the amount of credits that would have been disbursed had the fund balance been sufficient.

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§ 1007.82 Payments from the transportation credit balancing fund.

(a) Payments from the transportation credit balancing fund to handlers and cooperative associations requesting transportation credits shall be made as follows:

(1) On or before the 13th day (except as provided in § 1000.90) after the end of each of the months of January, **February** and July through December and any other month in which transportation credits are in effect pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, the market administrator shall pay to each handler that received, and reported pursuant to § 1007.30(a)(5), bulk milk transferred from a plant fully regulated under another Federal order as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section or that received, and reported pursuant to § 1007.30(a)(6), milk directly from producers' farms as specified in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, a preliminary amount determined pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section to the extent that funds are available in the transportation credit balancing fund. If an insufficient balance exists to pay all of the credits computed pursuant to this section, the market administrator shall distribute the balance available in the transportation credit balancing fund by reducing payments pro rata using the percentage derived by dividing the balance in the fund by the total credits that are due for the month. The amount of credits resulting from this initial proration shall be subject to audit adjustment pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this section.



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(b) The market administrator may extend the period during which transportation credits are in effect (i.e., the transportation credit period) to the month of February or June if a written request to do so is received fifteen (15) days prior to the beginning of the month for which the request is made and, after conducting an independent investigation, finds that such extension is necessary to assure the market of an adequate supply of milk for fluid use. Before making such a finding, the market administrator shall notify the Deputy Administrator of Dairy Programs and all handlers in the market that an extension is being considered and invite written data, views, and arguments. Any decision to extend the transportation credit period must be issued in writing prior to the first day of the month for which the extension is to be effective.

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(d) Transportation credits shall be computed as follows:

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(3) For the remaining milk described in paragraph (c)(2) of this section after computations described in paragraph (d)(1) of this section, the market administrator shall:

(i) Determine an origination point for each load of milk by locating the nearest city to the last producer's farm from which milk was picked up for delivery to the receiving pool plant;

(ii) Determine the shortest hard-surface highway distance between the receiving pool plant and the origination point;

(iii) Subtract ~~85~~ 15 percent of the miles from the mileage so determined;

(iv) Multiply the remaining miles so computed by the mileage rate for the month computed pursuant to § 1007.83(a)(6);

(v) Subtract the Class I price specified in § 1000.50(a) applicable for the county in which the origination point is located from the Class I price applicable at the receiving pool plant's location;

(vi) Subtract any positive difference computed in paragraph (d)(3)(v) of this section from the amount computed in paragraph (d)(3)(iv) of this section; and

(vii) Multiply the remainder computed in paragraph (d)(3)(vi) by the hundredweight of milk described in paragraph (d)(3) of this section.

(viii) The market administrator may revise the factor described in (3)(iii) (the mileage adjustment factor) if a written request to do so is received

fifteen (15) days prior to the beginning of the month for which the request is made and, (15) days prior to the beginning of the month for which the request is made and, after conducting an independent investigation, finds that such revision is necessary to assure orderly marketing, efficient handling of milk in the marketing area, and an adequate supply of milk for fluid use. The market administrator may increase the mileage adjustment factor by as much as ten (10%) percent up to twenty-five (25%) percent or decrease it by as much as ten (10%) percent, to a minimum of five (5%) percent. Before making such a finding, the market administrator shall notify the Deputy Administrator of Dairy Programs and all handlers in the market that a revision is being considered and invite written data, views, and arguments. Any decision to revise the mileage rate factor must be issued in writing prior to the first day of the month for which the revision is to be effective.

§ 1007.83 Mileage rate for the transportation credit balancing fund.

(a) The market administrator shall compute the mileage rate each month as follows:

(1) Compute the simple average rounded to three decimal places for the most recent four (4) weeks of the Diesel Price per Gallon as reported by the Energy Information Administration of the United States Department of Energy for the Lower Atlantic and Gulf Coast Districts combined.

(2) From the result in paragraph (a)(1) in this section subtract ~~\$1.42~~ \$2.26 per gallon;

(3) Divide the result in paragraph (a)(2) of this section by ~~5.5~~ 6.2, and round down to three decimal places to compute the fuel cost adjustment factor;

(4) Add the result in paragraph (a)(3) of this section to ~~\$1.91~~ \$3.67;

(5) Divide the result in paragraph (a)(4) of this section by ~~480~~ 497;

(6) Round the result in paragraph (a)(5) of this section down to five decimal places to compute the mileage rate.

(b) The market administrator shall announce publicly on or before the 23rd day of the month (except as provided in § 1000.90 of this chapter), the mileage rate pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section for the following month.