



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0201

**Action Plan on Proposed Amendments
Southeast and Appalachian Milk Marketing Orders
May 2, 2018**

USDA received a proposal on April 2, 2018, to consider adopting multiple component pricing plans for the Southeast and Appalachian Federal milk marketing orders (FMMOs), along with a somatic cell count (SCC) adjustment. Currently, producers in the Southeast and Appalachian FMMO markets are paid based on the pounds of butterfat and skim milk they produce. The proposal was submitted by National All-Jersey, Inc. on behalf of fourteen cooperative associations and four state and national producer trade associations.

Based on the information submitted by proponents, USDA is considering initiation of a rulemaking proceeding that would include a public hearing. The public hearing would collect evidence with respect to proposed amendments to the orders regarding adopting multiple component pricing plans and a SCC adjustment in the Southeast and Appalachian FMMOs.

In accordance with 7 CFR 900.23, the following table outlines the timeframe of a rulemaking to ensure that, should USDA decide to initiate a hearing, the proceeding concludes within 120 days of the publication of this Notice of Action Plan:

Potential Pre-Hearing Steps	Anticipated Timeframe
Additional Proposals	Must be received by June 1, 2018
Pre – Hearing Workshop	Will not be held
Data Requests	Ten days before the start of a hearing
Possible Hearing Date	July 30, 2018

Should USDA decide to proceed, a Notice of Hearing detailing the date, time and location of the hearing and the proposals under consideration would be published in the **Federal Register**.

A copy of the submitted proposal can be found on the Dairy Programs website:
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa/dairy/southeast-appalachian-orders>.

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