

USDA Amends Dairy Products Inspection and Grading Rules

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is changing regulations of its voluntary inspection and grading program for dairy products to limit appeals for reinspection or regrading of products to limit appeals for reinspection or regrading of products found to be contaminated by filthy, putrid or decomposed material.

Under the dairy products inspection and grading program, any interested party who disagrees with the original inspection or grading of a product may appeal the findings. When a product is found to be contaminated, such an appeal will

now be limited to a review of the sampling procedures and a reinspection of the official sample. Such appeals are being limited because the contaminants may not be evenly distributed throughout a product. Thus, reinspection using a different sample, as may be done in other appeals, might in this case result in inaccurate findings.

Changes are also being made to update some wording in present regulations to reflect current inspection and grading practices and organizational structure.

The amendments to the regulations were proposed June 5, 1972 (USDA Press Release

1969-72) and details were published in the Federal Register June 8, 1972. As a result of comments received, a change was made in the description of the type of contamination which, when found, would limit appeals from the original findings. The description had read: "... to be contaminated with filth or to contain a deleterious substance." It will now read: "contaminated with filthy, putrid, or decomposed material."

The dairy products inspection and grading program is administered by the Dairy Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, and is provided on a fee-for-service basis.

The amendment to the regulations will become effective upon publication in the Federal Register, scheduled for October 19. Copies are available from the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Wheat Exports Payment Rate

The Export Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has been asked whether any wheat has been exported at the zero export payment rate in effect since Sept. 22, 1972.

Thus far, 926,976 bushels have been so exported. This brings the total amount of wheat exported or under contract to be exported commercially since the beginning of the 1972-73 marketing year to 958,617,340 bushels.

Unlike export payment contracts, or "bookings," exporters may either book at the zero rate or merely report the export. In either case, it is usually done at time of shipment.

The total of zero payment exports is useful only because it confirms a somewhat larger total of commercial exports than is revealed by export payment bookings alone. It is not conclusive as to commercial sales activity at the zero rate, since wheat may have been sold for export since Sept. 22 but not yet shipped.

The Export Marketing Service will make further announcements of zero payment registration or exports as significant changes occur in the total.

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FEED LETTER

MHA!

There has been quite a lot of talk about methionine hydroxy analogue lately, as an additive to dairy feeds. Some claim increased milk production, some say it helps fat test. There is other benefits too, so I hear.

Well digging through my files I came upon a paper out of the University of Illinois about the subject. I'll share some of it with you. "It must be kept in mind that these implications are based on a very few observations and have not been substantiated in other controlled experiments." "However in this study, the groups of cows were not balanced for milk production prior to the start of the experiment, which makes it difficult if not impossible to establish the effect of feeding MHA on milk production." "The results showed no beneficial effects of methionine feeding on milk production or protein content of the milk."

The rest of the report is available on request

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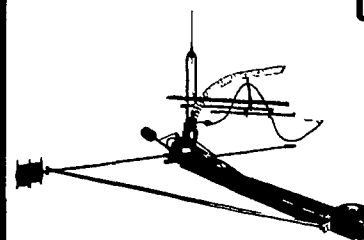
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