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Proposal made to extend Mid-Atlantic milk area

LANCASTER — Proposals have been received to extend the Middle Atlantic Order No. 4 marketing area.

Additionally, a proposal was received to extend the New York-New Jersey Order No. 2 marketing area. Therefore, interested parties are being provided the opportunity to submit additional proposals.

On the basis of a request for a hearing to change the transportation allowances under the New York-New Jersey Federal milk order, USDA invited additional proposals from the industry for consideration at a possible hearing for that market.

In response, the Department received several proposals to expand the New York-New Jersey marketing area.

The proposals would add the following 20 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania: Bradford, Carbon, Clinton, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Lycoming. Also, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, and Potter.

Also Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne and Wyoming.

A proposal also was received to expand the Middle Atlantic Federal order marketing area to include 11 of the above counties plus three others.

The 14 Pennsylvania counties that would be added are: Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne and Monroe.

Plus Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union and Wyoming.

The proposals have not yet been approved for inclusion in a notice of hearing.

Before deciding whether these proposals should be considered at a public hearing, which may need to be a joint hearing for the two orders, interested parties are invited to submit additional proposals for consideration at a possible hearing. Particular attention should be given to order modifications, such as the applicable Class I prices for any newly regulated area, that may need to be made in each order if the marketing areas are expanded as proposed.

Proposals should be stated in specific terms so that the hearing issues would be clearly set forth.

Four copies of the proposals should be mailed to: Deputy Administrator, Marketing Program Operations, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, by May 2, 1980.

Each proposal should be accompanied by a brief but comprehensive statement on the need for the proposal. The statement will be used in deciding whether the proposal should be considered at a hearing.

A hearing would be limited to the proposals included in a hearing notice. However, appropriate modifications of proposals included in the notice also may be considered at the hearing if the modifications would not enlarge the marketing area or regulate persons not now subject to the order.

Any proposals that would extend regulation should be accompanied by the names and addresses of persons who proponents believe would be affected by the proposed extension and an estimate of the number of additional dairy farmers involved.

In addition, proposals that would enlarge the marketing area should be accompanied by the following data and views with respect to each territory proposed to be added:

The approximate quantity of fluid milk products sold by proponent in each territory (county, town, city or other locality) proposed to be added in the marketing area;

The approximate percentage that the sales in Item 1 are of the proponent's total fluid milk product sales;

The names and addresses of all handlers (including

own) selling fluid milk products in each territory proposed to be added to the marketing area, with an estimate of the proportion that each handler's sales are of the total sales in each proposed area;

The approximate number of dairy farmers associated with each area proposed to be added who would become producers if the marketing area were enlarged;

The name and address of each cooperative association having members associated with the territory proposed to be added in the marketing area; and

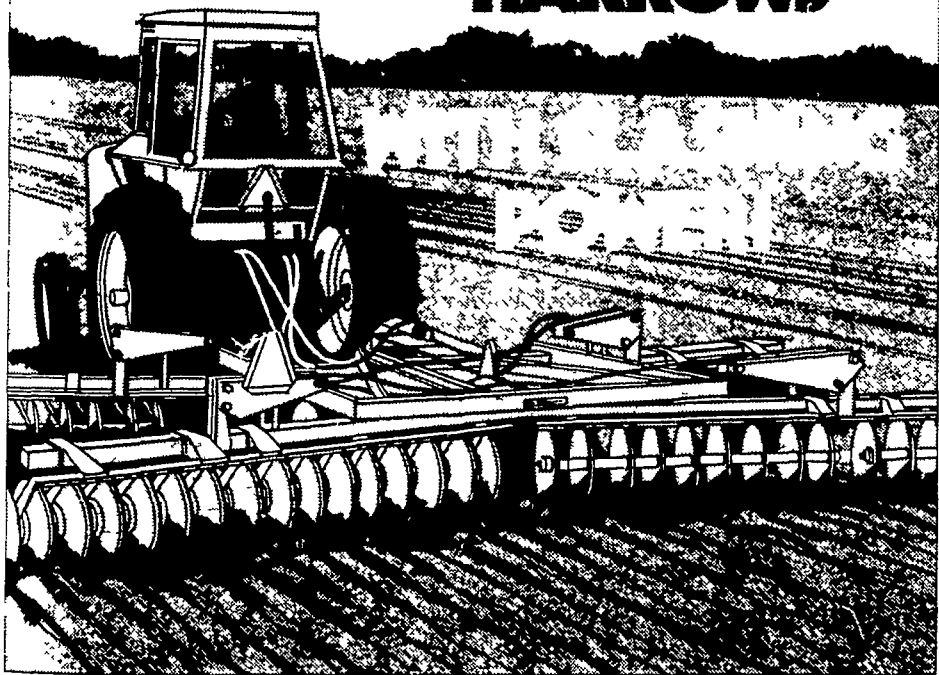
A brief but comprehensive statement in support of the proposal to enlarge the marketing area.

If the Department concludes that a hearing should be held, all known interested parties will be mailed a copy of the hearing notice. Anyone who desires to present evidence on proposals set forth in the hearing notice will have an opportunity to do so at the hearing.

Once a hearing notice is issued and until the issuance of a final decision Department employees involved in the decisional process may not discuss the merits of a proceeding on an ex parte basis with any person having an interest in the proceeding.

For this purpose, the market administrator and his staff are considered to be involved in the decisional process.

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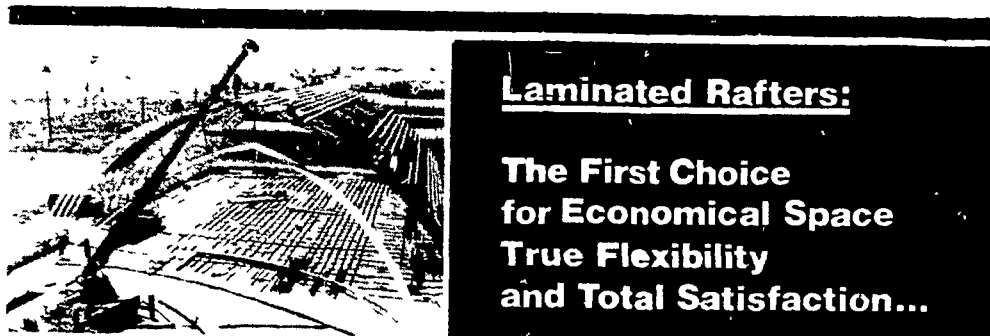
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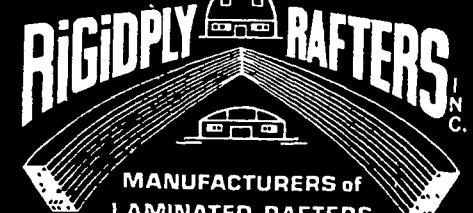
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