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Farmers asked to comment on reconstituted milk

WASHINGTON, DC. — Dairy farmers, consumers and milk handlers - and anyone else who wants to may comment until January 2 on a U.S. Department of ımpact Agriculture statement concerning a petition to change the pricing of reconstituted milk under all federal milk marketing orders.

P.R. Smith, USDA assistant secretary for marketing and transportation, said the petition submitted by the Community Nutrition Institute, a processor and three inconsider removing commercially reconstituted milk from the Class I pricing provisions of milk orders

Reconstituted milk can be made by combining nonfat dry milk and butterfat with water Currently, all milk products used for fluid consumption are priced at the Class I level, the highestpriced class under federal milk orders.

Smith said that, in response to the petition, USDA had asked for public comments on whether a hearing should be held. At the same time, Smith

for a public hearing to initiated a study to determine the potential impact of the proposal on dairy farmers, consumers and milk handlers.

He said the preliminary impact study does not recommend whether a hearing should be held.

Through this current comment procedure, the public will have an opportunity to evaluate the impact statement and to provide USDA with coments within 45 days on the analysis. Also, the public is invited to submit any additional proposals that might be appropriate, considering the possible economic im-

pacts of the proposal.

Smith said this is in D.C. 20250.

keeping with administration policy to provide for increased public participation in USDA's decision-making process.

Comments should be sent to the deputy administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, 3069-S., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The impact study was published in the November 17 Federal Regiseter Copies of the study will be mailed to known interested parties as soon as they become available. Copies also may be obtained from the market administrator for each order or from the dairy division, AMS, USDA, Washington,

State ranks fourth nationally in poultry

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