

USDA Suspends Milk Marketing Provisions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has announced a six-month suspension of rules which would require milk pools operating within the Middle Atlantic Federal milk order to dispose (sell) 40 percent of their milk for fluid use.

According to a statement from Eugene Branstool, assistant secretary of marketing and inspection services, "As a result of the suspension, a pool distributing plant must dispose of at least 30 percent of its monthly milk receipts for fluid purposes in these months."

In the statement, Branstool said, "The suspension was requested by several cooperatives that represent producer show supply a large portion of the milk for the market, and is necessary to assure that producer milk which has been historically associated with the market will continue to be pooled under the order."

The suspension in the requirement is to run from Sept. 1 this year through next February.

According to the notice, the suspension of rules has been reviewed

and has been determined to be a "non-major" and thus legal action.

It will not be retroactive and does not preempt any local laws, unless local law is in conflict with the rule. Also, administrative actions must be exhausted before anyone can file suit in court to stop the rule.

Complete notice, of the suspension of the rule mandating 40 percent or more of milk sold be used for Class I purposes, has been published in the June 29, 1993 (58 FR 34725) issue of the Federal Register.

The change in requirement specifically means that, for six months starting September, each milk pool within the Middle Atlantic federal marketing order will sell at least 30 percent of its milk for the top-paying Class I use, instead of requiring each pool plant to sell at least 40 percent for Class I.

What it means for the producer is a larger market for the fall and winter holiday season, when cheeses, butter and specialty markets, such as egg nog, which are not necessarily included in the Class I

use, but are included in the higher demanded Class II and Class III use markets.

The cooperatives which have requested the change represent 90 percent of milk supplied for market, according to the USDA notice.

The changes are in effect immediately, as any delay would not be in the interest of the common good, nor in the interest of the milk producers, according to the statement.

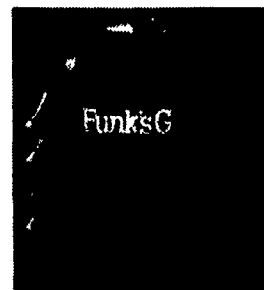
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stance Breener, marketing specialist, (202) 720-7311, or write her at: USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2968, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington D.C., 20090-6456.



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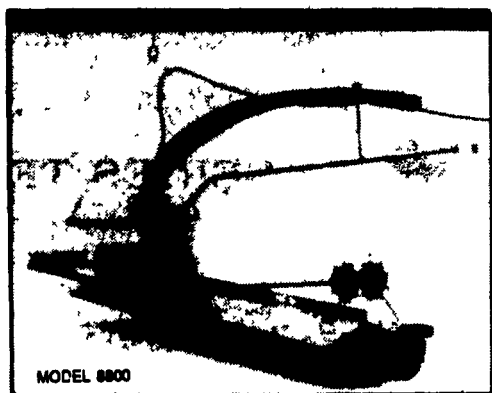
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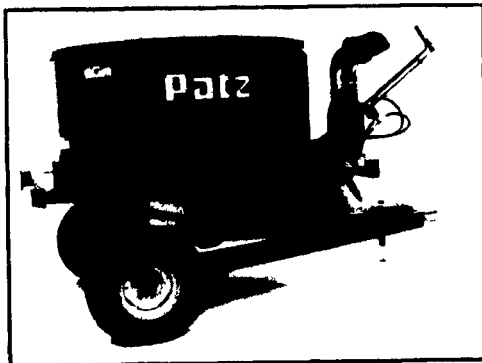
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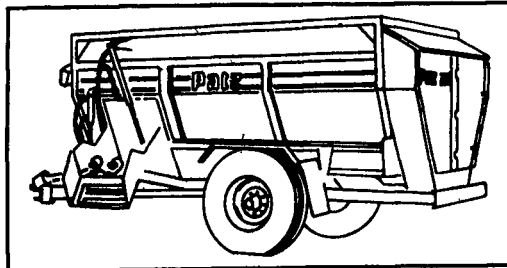
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