

USDA Seeks Nominations For National Fluid Milk Board

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking dairy processors and other interested parties to nominate candidates for the National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board.

The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint seven individuals from those nominated to succeed members whose terms expire May 31, 2001. Newly appointed or reappointed members will serve 3-year terms from June 1, 2001, through May 31, 2004.

Kathleen A. Merrigan, administrator of USDA's Agricul-

tural Marketing Service, said, "AMS encourages all eligible women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to serve and participate in its committee and board activities. It is USDA's policy that membership on industry-governed boards and committees accurately reflect the diversity of individuals served by the programs."

The National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board was established by the Fluid Milk Promotion Act of 1990 to develop and administer a coordinated program of advertising and education to promote fluid

milk products. Of the Board's 20 members, 15 represent geographic regions and 5 are at-large members. The at-large members must include at least three fluid milk processors and at least one member of the general public. Currently, there are two members of the general public serving on the Board.

The national fluid milk program is financed by a mandatory 20-cent per hundredweight assessment on fluid milk processors who process and market

more than 500,000 pounds of fluid milk products per month in the contiguous 48 states and the District of Columbia.

USDA will accept nominations for board representation in five geographic regions and for two at-large positions. Nominees must be active owners or employees of a fluid milk processor for all regional positions and at least one at-large position. The other at-large position may be filled by a member of the general public. The geographic

regions are: Region 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont); Region 4 (Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina); Region 7 (Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin); Region 10 (Texas); and Region 13 (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming). No fluid milk processor shall be represented on the board by more than three members.

Fluid milk processors and others may submit nominations for regions in which they are located or market fluid milk and for at-large members. To nominate an individual, please submit a copy of the nomination form and a signed background form for each nominee by Dec. 15. Forms should be sent to: Promotion and Research Branch, Dairy Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Stop 0233, Room 2958-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-0233. To obtain forms or additional information, call (202) 720-6909.



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