

USDA Announces Tentative Final Decision On Class III, IV Price Formulas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA recently announced a tentative final decision to amend the current Class III and Class IV pricing formulas under federal milk orders.

This decision is based on testi-

mony and data presented at a public hearing May 8-12, 2000, in Alexandria, Va., to consider proposals submitted by the industry to change the formulas.

The decision provides for separate butterfat prices for milk

used in Class III (cheese) and Class IV (butter and dry milk products) based on the value of butterfat in cheese and butter. The manufacturing (make) allowance for cheese is proposed to be reduced slightly, from 17.02 cents per pound of cheese to 16.5 cents. The make allowance for dry whey, also a factor in calculating Class III value, would be increased from \$0.137 to \$0.140 per pound of dry whey.

The make allowances used in calculating Class IV value are proposed to increase slightly, from 11.4 to 11.5 cents per pound of butter and from 13.7 cents to 14 cents per pound of nonfat dry milk.

The proposed changes are expected to have limited impact on returns to dairy farmers.

Interested persons have until Feb. 5, 2001, to file comments in response to the tentative decision. A tentative final decision is being issued because the Congressional deadlines of Dec. 1, 2000, for publication of a final decision and Jan. 1, 2001, for ef-

fectuating order amendments do not allow enough time to issue a recommended decision and receive and consider comments before issuance of a final decision.

USDA will determine whether dairy farmers approve the amended orders.

The following market administrators can provide additional information about the decision.

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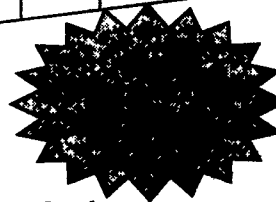
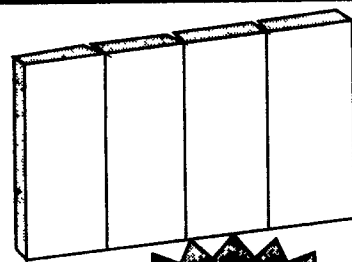
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