

# USDA Revises Standards For Dry Whole Milk, Effective April 13

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States Department of Agriculture has revised the United States Standards for Grades of Dry Whole Milk. They will become effective April 13.

The changes will:

- Lower the maximum bacterial estimate for U.S. Extra Grade to not more than 10,000 per gram and for U.S. Standard Grade to not more than 50,000 per gram;
- Include protein content as an optional test;
- Incorporate a maximum titratable acidity requirement for U.S. Extra Grade and U.S. Standard Grade;
- Expand the "Test methods"

section to allow product evaluation using latest methods included in Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products in the Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, and in standards developed by the International Dairy Federation;

- Reference the Food and Drug Administration's standards of identity for dry whole milk;
- Relocate information concerning the optional oxygen content determination; and
- Make editorial changes to provide consistency with other U.S. grade standards for dairy products.

The changes will strengthen

the quality requirements of this standard to reflect improvements in dry whole milk quality and provide consistency with other dry milk standards.

A notice soliciting comments to the proposed changes was published in the Federal Register on July 28, 2000 (65 FR 46399-46421). Based on information received during the comment period, USDA determined that changes appropriate and revised the standards accordingly. The revised United States Standards for Grades of Dry Whole Milk were published in the March 14 Federal Register and will become effective on Apr. 13.

USDA grade standards are voluntary standards developed to

facilitate the marketing process. Manufacturers of dairy products are free to choose whether or not to use these grade standards.

The revised Standards are available from Duane R. Spomer, Chief, Dairy Standardization Branch, Dairy Programs, Agri-

cultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2746, South Building, Stop 0230, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456 or by accessing the AMS home page at, [www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/stand.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/stand.htm).

## 2002 Farm Bill: Less Government Is More For Beef Industry

WASHINGTON DC — At a House Agriculture Committee hearing recently, Wythe Willey, President-elect of the National

Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), urged House committee members to minimize government programs for agriculture

businesses. Willey emphasized that subsidies do not work and a free market economy is best.

"The members of NCBA understand that farm programs are a major component of US domestic policy and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Therefore, NCBA has been and will continue to be focused on ensuring that farm policy does not benefit one part of agriculture at the expense of another," Willey stated. "NCBA will not consent to US farm policy that is financed out of the pockets of the beef industry."

"We do not spend time or political capital trying to enact programs to deal with market downturns that in the end would only encourage overproduction and extend the downside life of the cattle cycle," NCBA director of legislative affairs, Bryan Dierlam said. "The market is truly a powerful force and is the beef industry's greatest strength."

The beef industry is concerned about government programs that inadvertently affect the price of feed grains or result in distorted market signals. Because all beef cattle account for nearly 30 percent of total grain consuming animal units, these actions can have major impacts on the economic well being of the beef industry. NCBA does not support direct price or income supports for the beef industry but is concerned about efforts to increase farm income by raising input prices on the beef industry.



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