

## USDA Seeks Nominations For Rechartered Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced that the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee has been rechartered, and that USDA is seeking nominations for membership.

The original committee, whose two-year term expires Aug. 6, was created to provide suggestions and ideas to the secretary of agriculture on how USDA can tailor its programs to meet the fruit and vegetable industry's needs. The rechartered committee will consist of up to 25 industry members appointed by the agriculture secretary to serve two-year terms.

The members will represent the fruit and vegetable industry and will include representatives of fresh fruit and vegetable growers or shippers, fresh fruit and vegetable wholesalers, brokers, retailers, fruit and vegetable processors and fresh cut processors, foodservice suppliers, state departments of agriculture, and trade associations.

Individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above are invited to

nominate individuals for membership on the reestablished committee. Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership to the committee, and list their name, title, address, telephone, and fax number.

In appointing individuals to the committee, USDA is seeking a diverse group of members interested in providing suggestions and ideas on how USDA can tailor its programs to meet the fruit and vegetable industry's needs.

Nominations will be accepted until Sept. 6 and should be sent to Robert C. Keeney, Deputy Administrator, AMS Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Room 2077-S/USDA Stop 0235, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C. 20250-0235; e mail: robert.keeney@usda.gov. Individuals nominated to the committee or receiving nominations should contact Sandra Gardei, the federal designated official, to receive the necessary forms for membership: phone (202) 720-0988; e-mail: sand-

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## Milk Marketing Board Announces July Class I Price

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Milk Marketing Board (MMB) this week announced the prices to be paid to Pennsylvania dairy farmers for July Class I milk (beverage) as an average of \$13.82 in the western areas of the Commonwealth; and an average of \$14.31 in the central and eastern areas of the Commonwealth. These prices do include the over-order premium of \$1.65 per one hundred pounds of milk.

Farmers, whose milk production is pooled under a federal order, will receive a market-wide blend price based upon the value of all classes of milk. However, the blend price received will vary as the component composition of a farmer's milk differs from the established benchmarks of 3.5 percent butterfat, 2.99 percent protein, and 5.69 percent other solids.

Since 1988 the MMB has mandated over-order premiums on Class I milk due to adverse conditions affecting the Pennsylvania dairy farmer.

Chairman Boyd E. Wolff announced that since the inception of the MMB's over-order premium, Pennsylvania dairy farmers have received over \$307,000,000 in additional income.

## Land O'Lakes, Dairy Marketing Services Enter Into Agreement

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. — Dairy Marketing Services (DMS) and Land O'Lakes, Inc. announced an agreement to jointly market milk from both organizations in the northeastern U.S.

This agreement will involve approximately 16 billion pounds of milk produced annually by dairy producers represented by the two organizations in that region.

Officials of DMS and Land O'Lakes said the focus of the agreement is to provide greater efficiencies and increased savings in the areas of milk marketing, assembly, and transportation. The ultimate goal of this agreement is to enhance returns to all members.

"This agreement is based on our common dedication to operational efficiency and a shared commitment to benefit the dairy producers we represent," said Land O'Lakes President and Chief Executive Officer Jack Gherty. "It will enable us to leverage the combined resources and

expertise of our two organizations to reduce costs, while enhancing service to our customers."

"By jointly marketing milk supplies and redirecting milk to the closest destination, we will generate savings for both organizations," said DMS Chief Executive Officer Rick Smith. "These administrative and operational savings will enable the two organizations to better serve dairy farmers and customers alike."

Gherty and Smith added that the marketing alliance recognizes the intensely competitive and rapidly consolidating dairy marketplace, Land O'Lakes and DMS' commitment to customers and the two companies' overlapping geography. The agreement applies only to the marketing of commodity milk. Both organizations will retain separate operations for membership, member services and programs, producer payroll, and cooperative governance.

Dairy Marketing Services,

LLC (DMS) is a milk-marketing organization that serves dairy producers and the industry by combining the milk supplies of independent and cooperative farms for the purposes of creating efficiency and reduction of cost on milk assembly, field services, and transportation. DMS was created as a result of a joint partnership between Dairy Cooperative and Dairy Farmers of America's Northeast Council.

Land O'Lakes (www.landolakesinc.com) is a national, farmer-owned food and agricultural cooperative, with sales approaching \$6 billion. Land O'Lakes does business in all 50 states and more than 50 countries. It is a leading marketer of a full line of dairy-based consumer, foodservice, and food ingredient products across the U.S.; services its international customers with a variety of food and animal feed ingredients; and provides farmers and local cooperatives with an extensive line of agricultural supplies (feed, seed, crop nutrients, and crop protection products); and services.

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