

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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October 2, 2007

Extension of Time to November 5, 2007, to Submit Alternative Proposals to Expand
the Pacific Northwest Marketing Area

On August 17, 2007, an Invitation to Submit Proposals for a Public Hearing to Expand the Pacific Northwest Marketing Area was mailed to interested parties upon a request from Northwest Dairy Association and Dairy Farmers of America that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) hold a public hearing to consider a proposal to expand the boundaries of the Pacific Northwest marketing area and modify certain provisions of the order. The proposal would amend the pooling standards of the order and expand the marketing area to include all of the counties in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and Lincoln and Uinta counties in Wyoming.

Before deciding whether a hearing would be held, USDA provided the opportunity for interested parties to submit additional proposals regarding the boundaries and pooling provisions of the expanded marketing order. The proposals were to be submitted by no later than October 3, 2007.

A request from Charles M. English, Jr., on behalf of Dean Foods, to extend the time to submit alternative proposals for the Pacific Northwest marketing area expansion was submitted to Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs. That request has been posted on the USDA Dairy website.

The request to extend the time to submit alternative proposals has been approved. Proposals should be mailed by no later than November 5, 2007, to: Deputy Administrator, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, STOP-0225, Room 2968-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0225. Each proposal should be accompanied by a comprehensive statement on the need for the proposal. The statement will be evaluated to determine whether the proposal will be accepted if a hearing to amend the order is held.

If USDA determines that a hearing will be held, all known interested parties will be mailed a copy of the Hearing Notice. Anyone who desires to present evidence on proposals set forth in the hearing notice will have an opportunity to do so at the hearing.