

CALIFORNIA DAIRY CAMPAIGN

Dairymen working for Dairymen



February 17, 2017



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USDA Public Meeting on the Proposed California FMMO February 22 in Clovis, CA:

USDA will hold a public meeting on the proposed California Federal Milk Marketing Order from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon (PT), Wednesday, February 22, 2017 in the Liberty Room at Clovis Veterans Memorial District located at 808 4th Street in Clovis, CA. The public meeting will also be webcast. The webcast link will be posted at www.ams.usda.gov/caorder before the hearing begins. More information on the February meeting can be found online at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/MilkMeetingHandout2017.pdf>

C DFA Denies Dairy Institute Petition to Increase the Make Allowances on Class 4 –

This week, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary Karen Ross denied the petition put forward by the Dairy Institute that would increase the amount dairy producers pay for the manufacturing cost allowances on Class 4a and 4b milk. California Dairy Campaign joined Milk Producers Council and Western United Dairymen in a joint letter calling on Secretary Karen Ross to deny the petition because it would further depress California mailbox prices, leading to dairy closures and dairies moving out of state. In her announcement of the hearing denial Secretary Ross stated, "It is in the best interest of the California dairy industry and the Department to obtain clarity on the meaning and impact of the Recommended Decision prior to holding such a public hearing." (*Referring to the USDA proposal*)

World Agriculture Expo in Tulare – Thank you to everybody who stopped by our booth at the Tulare Farm Show this week. We had some excellent discussions with dairy producers from around the state about the upcoming federal farm bill debate, water, environmental, labor and other policies and issues, but particularly the USDA recommended decision on a federal milk marketing order for California. The full 213-page decision can be found online at the USDA web site located at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa/dairy/ca>. The decision was published on February 14th in the federal register and a *90 day comment period will continue until May 15* when dairy producers and other interested parties can comment on the recommended decision. Once USDA has re-