

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>

CDFA 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 received public comments, it will publish a final decision on a California federal order. At that point USDA will hold informational meetings to provide information about the final decision. Following the informational sessions, California dairy producers will have the opportunity to vote on whether to adopt the California federal order proposal during a statewide referendum. *Since California Dairy Campaign was established it has called for California to join the federal milk marketing order system to bring California dairy producer prices and the process for determining prices in line with the rest of the federal order system. CDC welcomed the announcement of the USDA decision and will be fully engaged in the public comment process to ensure the USDA Final Decision on a California Federal Milk Marketing Order is equitable for California dairy producers.*

Mark Your Calendars: The National Farmers Union 115th Annual Convention
Will take place in San Diego, CA on March 5-8th, 2017.

NFU's 115th Anniversary Convention will gather family farmers and ranchers from across the country, industry professionals and notable speakers at the Catamaran Resort Hotel in San Diego, Calif, in March 2017. The convention provides NFU members and attendees the opportunity to learn, collaborate and grow through thoughtful discussions, breakout sessions and farm tours. We are pleased to offer attendees new learning opportunities this year while maintaining a focus on the issues that matter most to our family farmers and ranchers, such as the economy and defending the farm safety net. The state of the farm economy and the upcoming Farm Bill will be a primary focus for the convention's keynote speakers and panel discussions, while an agricultural tour day will focus on local agriculture and cooperative learning.

For more information about NFU Convention
Contact Bertha Medina at 209-632-0885 or Bertha@californiadairycampaign.com

www.californiadairycampaign.com