



## September 18 Update

# USDA to Hold Hearing on Proposed Federal Milk Marketing Order for California

September 18, 2015 (*USDA News Release*)

### Notice to Trade: USDA to Hold Hearing on Proposed Federal Milk Marketing Order for California

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing starting on Sept. 22, 2015, in Clovis, Calif., to consider the establishment of a Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) for California. The hearing, which USDA expects to last several weeks, will begin at 9 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time on Sept. 22, 2015, at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District Building, 808 Fourth Street, Clovis, Calif. 93612. The hearing is open to the public. USDA will hear testimony and receive evidence regarding four proposals for a FMMO in California.

The hearing will be webcast (audio only) beginning at 9 a.m. PDT (12 p.m. EDT) at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_oEddbugKXA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oEddbugKXA) or [tinyurl.com/CAMilkHearing](http://tinyurl.com/CAMilkHearing)

Additional hearing information can be found on USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service website at [www.ams.usda.gov/caorder](http://www.ams.usda.gov/caorder).

The notice of hearing, which was published in the August 6, 2015, Federal Register can be viewed at [http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=AMS\\_FRDOC\\_0001-1327USDA](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=AMS_FRDOC_0001-1327USDA).

If you have questions regarding the hearing or the webcast, please contact William Francis, Order Formulation and Enforcement Division, at (202) 720-7183 or [William.Francis@ams.usda.gov](mailto:William.Francis@ams.usda.gov).

**Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP) sign up continues until close of business on September 30th.** Contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) or the California Dairy Campaign office at 209-632-0885 to sign up and for more information. USDA offers an online MPP tool which is available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool>. The Program on Dairy Markets and Policy (DMAP) web site has a range of information about the Dairy Margin Protection Program that can be found online at <http://dairymarkets.org/MPP/>.

**California Farmers Union (CFU) Vice President George Davis returns from NFU Annual Fall Legislative Fly-In** - Following three days of meetings with U.S. Department of Agriculture leaders, key White House staff and nearly every Congressional and Senatorial official on Capitol Hill, the 275 Farmers Union members participating in the organization's annual fall fly-in are returning home today. George Davis joined fly-in participants that conducted hundreds of targeted meetings with members of Congress. Davis called on lawmakers to uphold mandatory country-of-origin labeling of meat; reject the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), urge support of a Senate Agriculture Appropriations Amendment that requires a comprehensive risk assessment plan be in place before resuming trade with parts of Argentina and Brazil that have a history of Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks and other issues.



## More Information about Next Week's California Federal Order Hearing

**What Happens the First Week:** During the first stage of the hearing, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) enters documents and data into evidence. Given the volume of material, this may take several days. A USDA witness will present and explain data and analyses requested by the industry. A USDA witness will describe the Preliminary Economic Impact Analysis. Once the government witnesses conclude testifying, the judge will begin hearing testimony from proponents on their proposals. The order of testimony may follow the order listed in the [Tentative Hearing Schedule](#).

**How Do I Participate?** To participate, you must be physically present at the hearing. Upon arrival at the hearing site, please inform USDA staff you wish to testify. The judge will try to accommodate you. Dairy farmers will be given priority to testify. If you wish to schedule a specific day and time to testify, USDA will make every effort to accommodate your request. All witnesses are sworn in by the judge, and all testimony is given under oath or affirmation. All witnesses are subject to cross-examination by anyone in attendance in connection with their testimony. You may ask any witness questions about his or her testimony. When prompted by the judge, approach the microphone and identify yourself. (USDA document)

California Dairy Campaign (CDC) strongly encourages dairy producers to participate in the upcoming USDA federal milk marketing order hearing process. Since CDC was established our organization has called for California to join the federal milk marketing order (FMMO) system to bring prices paid to dairy producers and the process for determining prices in line with the rest of the federal order system. Now is the time for dairy producers to get involved in this important hearing process many years in the making. *Although dairy producers can testify anytime during the hearing process, dairy producers are encouraged to speak in support of the cooperatives proposal during the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>.* USDA has published a document outlining what to expect during the upcoming federal order process. That document can be found on the CDC web site at [www.californiadairycampaign.com](http://www.californiadairycampaign.com).

CDC has been engaged and involved in the process leading up to next week's hearing and we are available to answer your questions and assist in preparing your testimony. Contact CDC Executive Director Lynne McBride at 925-385-0217 for more information about the upcoming hearing process or call the CDC office at 209-632-0885.

CDC strongly supports the proposal put forward by the state's three major cooperatives including California Dairies Inc., Dairy Farmers of America, and Land O'Lakes. The proposal will ensure that dairy producer prices in California are in line with prices paid across the federal order system. The proposal calls for uniform prices for manufacturing milk with the rest of the FMMO system, continuation of the state quota system, all-inclusive milk pooling among other important policies. When testifying before the panel it is important to speak about your unique experience as a dairy producer and how adoption of the proposal put forward by the state's dairy cooperatives will affect your dairy operation. Although anyone can question a witness during the hearing, if dairy producers testify about their operation and specifics about how the cooperative proposal will benefit their operation, questions are unlikely.