

CALIFORNIA DAIRY CAMPAIGN

Dairymen working for Dairymen



March 30, 2018



325 Mitchell Ave. Turlock Ca. 95380 — Phone: 209 632-0885 Fax: 209 632 0706

USDA Announces Final Decision on California Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) –

Today, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced its final decision on a California federal milk marketing order. The full 244-page decision can be found online at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2018-06167.pdf>. The entire hearing record, including the Regulatory Economic Impact Analysis, is available at www.ams.usda.gov/caorder. No changes were made to the provisions in the recommended decision which was published in February of 2017, but the document does contain responses to the comments it received during the public comment period last year. **The decision will be published on Monday, April 2nd in the federal register, ballots will be mailed to all eligible dairy producers and voting will take place from April 2 to May 5, 2018.** On Tuesday, April 10, USDA will hold an informational meeting to provide details about the final proposal for a California Federal Milk Marketing Order.

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 final decision and start of the statewide referendum on a federal order for California. According to USDA's analysis of the economic impact of the proposed federal milk marketing order, the proposal would increase U.S. producer revenue on average by \$740 million per year for the nine year projection period.

U.S. Representative David Valadao, CA-21, introduced the "California Federal Milk Marketing Order Act" passed in the last farm bill that enabled California dairy producers to establish a federal milk marketing order and continue the statewide quota program in the federal order system. In response to the announcement of the final federal order decision today, Congressman Valadao said, **"California dairy producers are at a serious disadvantage in comparison to producers throughout the United States. Under the current pricing system, dairies throughout California have closed down, resulting in fewer employment opportunities in the community."** He went on, **"As California's largest agriculture industry, dairy production contributes greatly to the economy of our state as well as the regional economy of the Central Valley – it's only right dairy producers have a say regarding their pricing system."**

USDA Public Meeting on the Final California FMMO Proposal Tuesday, April 10 Clovis, CA and available to be viewed via webinar: USDA will hold a public meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in Clovis, Calif., to answer questions related to how the proposed California FMMO would operate and how eligible dairy producers can participate in the referendum. Interested parties will have the opportunity to attend in person or watch the meeting live via webcast. Meeting details, as well as information regarding the producer referendum, are available on the AMS website at www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa/dairy/ca. (Source: USDA)

www.californiadairycampaign.com