



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT



AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

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AMS No. 074-12

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USDA Announces Equivalent Price Determination for Dairy Product Sales Report

WASHINGTON, April 12, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced a determination of equivalent price series notice for the Dairy Product Sales report.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the dairy product price series in the Dairy Products Sales report, as published by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), is equivalent to those prices previously released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in the Dairy Products Prices report.

As NASS has discontinued the publication of the Dairy Products Prices report and AMS has recently implemented an electronic reporting system to compile and publish these data, USDA will consider these two series as being equivalent. The AMS data, published in the Dairy Product Sales report, will be used in the calculation of milk component values and the subsequent computation of Federal milk market order minimum classified milk prices.

The notice will be published in the April 13, 2012 *Federal Register*. For additional information about this determination contact: Bret Tate, USDA/AMS/Dairy Program, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250; by email at bret.tate@ams.usda.gov; or by telephone at (202) 720-7183.

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vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world are contained in "Subpart Fruits and Vegetables" (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–47). The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) amended the fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of peppers from the Republic of Korea under certain conditions. As a condition of entry, the peppers would have to be grown in approved insect-proof, pest-free greenhouses and packed in pest-exclusionary packinghouses.

Need and Use of the Information:

Each shipment of pepper from the Republic of Korea must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate of inspection with a declaration issued by the National Plant Quarantine Service of Korea officials stating the peppers were grown in greenhouses in accordance with the regulations in 7 CFR 319–56–42 and found free of certain plant pests. Failing to collect this information would cripple APHIS' ability to ensure that peppers from Korea are not carrying plant pests and would cause millions of dollars in damage to U.S. agriculture.

Description of Respondents: Federal Government (Foreign).

Number of Respondents: 1.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 3.

Ruth Brown,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–8959 Filed 4–12–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–DA–10–0089; DA–11–01]

Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas; Determination of Equivalent Price Series

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Determination of equivalent price series.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the Deputy Administrator of Dairy Programs that the dairy products price series in the Dairy Products Sales report released by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is equivalent to the price series previously released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in the Dairy Products Prices report. The dairy product price series is used in the price discovery mechanism for raw milk component values, and the component

values are then used in determining Federal milk market order (FMMO) minimum classified milk prices. AMS previously used the NASS prices in the determination of raw milk component values; however, the responsibility for the collection of dairy product sales data was transferred from NASS to AMS effective April, 1, 2012 (77 FR 8717), at which time NASS discontinued the publication of its Dairy Products Prices report. The data collected by AMS through this new system will be used for future component value computations and the subsequent calculation of FMMO minimum classified milk prices. The establishment of an equivalent dairy products price series is essential to the continuing operation of the FMMO program.

DATES: April 18, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bret Tate, Order Formulation and Enforcement Division, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, STOP 0231–Room 2963, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250–0231, (202) 720–7183, email address: Bret.Tate@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action provides an equivalent series of dairy products prices for the calculation of milk component values and classified milk prices in all FMMOs (7 CFR parts 1001, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1030, 1032, 1033, 1124, 1126, and 1131). The Department of Agriculture (Department) has been using the Dairy Products Prices report as published weekly by NASS in the calculation of raw milk component values, as referenced in section 1000.50. These component values are subsequently used in the computation of the minimum classified prices used by the FMMO program.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674 and 7253), and part 1000 and the applicable provisions of the orders regulating the handling of milk in the previously mentioned marketing areas, it is found and determined that:

(1) In September 2010, the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–239) amended section 273(d) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) to require that the Secretary establish an electronic reporting system for reporting data under the dairy product mandatory reporting program.

(2) As such, AMS implemented the electronic reporting system (77 FR 8717) and, as part of that rulemaking, it also announced the transfer of the collection of dairy product sales data from NASS

to AMS, effective April 1, 2012. Subsequently, NASS discontinued its Dairy Products Prices report as of Friday, March 30, 2012.

(3) AMS began releasing its own dairy products price series for cheddar cheese (40 pound blocks and 500 pound barrels), butter, nonfat dry milk, and dry whey in a report titled Dairy Products Sales on April 4, 2012.

(4) Section 1000.54 provides that if for any reason a price required by the order for computing class prices is not available as prescribed in the order, the market administrator may use an equivalent price as determined by the Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs, AMS.

(5) As the NASS publication stipulated in the order is unavailable for use in the computation of class prices, the Deputy Administrator for Dairy Programs has determined that the AMS price series is equivalent to those data previously collected by NASS, in accordance with the authorities granted by section 1000.54.

(6) Effective April 18, 2012, and thereafter, the data series contained in the AMS Dairy Products Sales report will be used to compute the raw milk component values that are used in determining FMMO minimum classified prices.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674, and 7253

Dated: April 9, 2012.

Ruihong Guo,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2012–8911 Filed 4–12–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2012–0022]

Draft Guidelines on Biologics Quality Monitoring: Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) has developed a draft guideline titled "Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination." This draft guideline identifies stages of manufacture where products are to be tested and test procedures used to detect