

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

March 4, 2009

Dana H. Coale
Deputy Administrator
USDA, AMS-Dairy Programs
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-0225

Re: Request for Extension of Time to Submit Alternate Proposal and Comments on
Producer-Handler/Exempt Plant Hearing Requests

Dear Ms. Coale:

I am writing to request and brief extension of time to submit comments and alternative proposals to the hearing requests submitted by National Milk Producers Federation and International Dairy Foods Association. **We request that the deadline for submitting such comments and proposal be extended by one week—to March 16, 2009.**

As you are aware, in conjunction with Nancy Bryson and Al Ricciardi, I have been discussing the NMPF/IDFA proposals with several affected producer-handler organizations. Exposure to the FMMO system is new to these organizations, and the relatively short time from the publication of USDA's action plan until the receipt of alternative proposals limits the ability to develop and articulate alternative proposals. The additional week requested will facilitate our ability to provide more fully developed submissions to Dairy Programs.

I appreciate your prompt response and consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Ryan K. Miltner