



## Agricultural Marketing Service

# USDA Hearing on Proposals for a California Federal Milk Marketing Order



## When and Where is the Hearing?

- Location: Clovis Veterans Memorial District Building, located at 808 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA 93612.
- Days and time: The hearing will start on Sept. 22, 2015, at 9 a.m. and continue on business days until its conclusion, unless otherwise indicated by the judge. It will not convene from Oct. 12 to 13, 2015.
- Note: The hearing will move temporarily from Oct. 22 to 23, 2015, to the Piccadilly Inn Airport Hotel at 5115 E. McKinley Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727.

## What Should I Expect?

- The setting is similar to a courtroom, with an Administrative Law Judge presiding.
- Witnesses present data and testimony on the proposals.
- A listen-only audio feed of the hearing will be webcast. The link will be posted online at [www.ams.usda.gov/caorder](http://www.ams.usda.gov/caorder) before the hearing begins.
- The hearing may continue for several weeks.
- All testimony and questions are transcribed and published at [www.ams.usda.gov/caorder](http://www.ams.usda.gov/caorder) approximately 2 to 3 weeks after the end of each hearing week.

## 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](#).

## What Happens Next?

- Under the direction of the judge, the hearing will continue until all of the evidence and testimony is presented.
- A complete record is needed to develop program recommendations.
- After the hearing is complete, the Administrative Law Judge will request transcript corrections and post-hearing briefs.
- USDA issues a Recommended Decision based on the evidence presented during the rulemaking and requests public input.
- USDA issues a Final Decision. If a Federal Milk Marketing Order is recommended, dairy farmers potentially covered by the Order vote on whether to adopt it. A “yes” vote by more than two-thirds of the dairy farmers or dairy farmers representing two-thirds of the milk produced is needed to approve the order.

## How Do I Participate?

- The hearing is open to the public. All interested persons are welcome to attend and participate.
- USDA plans to issue periodic updates to alert interested parties of the hearing’s progression. Updates will be posted online at [www.ams.usda.gov/caorder](http://www.ams.usda.gov/caorder) and tweeted via the Twitter feed of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service: @USDA\_AMS.
- 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.