



1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 2530-S, STOP 0225
Washington, D.C. 20250-0225

July 24, 2023

Mr. Robert Wills, President
Cedar Grove Cheese, Inc.
Plain, Wisconsin 53577

Dear Mr. Wills:

This letter is in reply to Cedar Grove Cheese's proposal submitted in response to a Request for Additional Proposals relating to the pricing formulas of the Federal milk marketing order (FMMO) program. USDA received Cedar Grove Cheese's proposal on June 14, 2023, seeking to amend the regulations to prohibit cooperatives from reblending proceeds to their producer members.

The Secretary has determined the hearing will be limited in scope to amendments directly impacting the uniform pricing formulas of all FMMOs. USDA received several proposals that did not relate directly to the uniform FMMO pricing provisions and are beyond the scope of the upcoming rulemaking.

Regarding the proposal submitted by Cedar Grove Cheese specifically, the legislation authorizing FMMOs, the Agriculture Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA) (7 U.S.C. 608c(5)), expressly grants cooperatives the authority to reblend. No such authority is granted for proprietary handlers. Therefore, the proposal is denied.

A Hearing Notice has been published in the Federal Register announcing a hearing will convene at 9:00 a.m. ET on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 502 East Event Centre in Carmel, Indiana. We encourage Cedar Grove Cheese to participate in the hearing. Please refer to the Hearing website (www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/moa/dairy/hearings/national-fmmo-pricing-hearing) for full information on how to participate.

Thank you for your interest in the FMMO program.

Sincerely,

/s/

Deputy Administrator
USDA-AMS-Dairy Program