Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

(c) Forward contracts must be signed and dated by the contracting handler and producer (or cooperative association) prior to the 1st day of the 1st month for which they are to be effective and must be received by the Federal milk market administrator by the 15th day of that month. The disclosure statement must be signed on the same date as the contract by each producer entering into a forward contract, and this signed disclosure statement must be attached to or otherwise included in each contract submitted to the market administrator.

(d) In the event that a handler’s contract milk exceeds the handler’s eligible milk for any month in which the specified contract price(s) are below the order’s minimum prices, the handler must designate which producer milk shall not be contract milk. If the handler does not designate the suppliers of the over-contracted milk, the market administrator shall prorate the over-contracted milk to each producer and cooperative association having a forward contract with the handler.

(e) Payments for milk covered by a forward contract must be made on or before the dates applicable to payments for milk that are not under forward contract under the respective Federal milk marketing order.

(f) Nothing in this part shall impede the contractual arrangements that exist between a cooperative association and its members.

Subpart C—Enforcement

§ 1145.3 Enforcement.

A handler may not require participation in a forward pricing contract as a condition of the handler receiving milk from a producer or cooperative association of producers. USDA will investigate all complaints made by producers or cooperative associations alleging coercion by handlers to enter into forward contracts and based on the results of the investigation will take appropriate action.