

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1280

[No. LS-99-13]

Sheep and Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Invitation to submit proposals: Reopening and extension of time to submit proposals.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is reopening and extending the time to February 1, 2000, for the sheep industry to submit proposals for a sheep and lamb promotion, research, and information order (Order) or parts of an Order as provided for by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (Act). The Act authorizes national industry-funded programs for promotion, research, and information regarding agricultural commodities. Interested parties are also invited to submit views on whether it would be beneficial to hold a public meeting during an ensuing comment period to discuss the proposals. The invitation to submit proposals was published in the *Federal Register* on November 23, 1999.

DATES: Proposals must be received on or before February 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Proposals (two copies) should be mailed to: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, Room 2627-S; Livestock and Seed Program, USDA; STOP 0251; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, D.C. 20090-0251.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch on 202/720-1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose

A request for proposals for an Order under the Act was published in the *Federal Register* on November 23, 1999.

The purpose is to establish a self-help promotion, research, and information program for the industry.

Reason for Granting an Extension

The National Sheep Association (NSA) and the National Lamb Feeders Association (NLFA) have requested an extension of time to submit proposals.

Both organizations express the need for more producers to be involved in the process to help generate industry support. They point out that meetings of the American Sheep Association and NLFA will provide the opportunity for more producer input. NSA points out that many State association and other industry meetings are being held early in the year 2000 which will provide an opportunity for additional producer input on draft proposals. NSA also believes results from other pending activities should be known before the issuance of an Order by the Secretary. These include: (1) The specific project assistance that the U.S. sheep Improvement Center will provide to the industry and (2) the dimensions of the assistance available through USDA to the sheep industry as a result of the decision to provide assistance to offset the impact of increased lamb imports. However we believe that any such delay is not necessary in connection with these issues.

Further, NSA believes the recently published draft Guidelines for AMS Oversight of Commodity Research and Promotion Programs (Guidelines) are another reason more time is needed since an Order will need to be consistent with the Guidelines. NSA requested an extension of time until February 21, 2000 and NLFA requested an extension until February 1, 2000.

After careful consideration of the requests submitted to the Agency, AMS has decided to reopen and extend the comment period until February 1, 2000. AMS believes this will provide a sufficient period of time for all interested persons to discuss and review draft proposals for an Order and to submit proposals for an Order to AMS.

Accordingly, AMS is reopening and extending the period to submit proposals until February 1, 2000.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7401-7425.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 00-694 Filed 1-7-00; 1:26 pm]

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NORTHEAST DAIRY COMPACT COMMISSION

7 CFR Parts 1301, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307 and 1308

Over-Order Price Regulation

AGENCY: Northeast Dairy Compact Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: The Northeast Dairy Compact Commission proposes to amend the over-order price regulation to make technical amendments to certain definitions and to change certain dates of required action. The proposed rule is necessary to conform the over-order price regulation to similar regulations recently reformed by the United States Department of Agriculture regarding milk marketed in the New England states. These amendments will ensure continuity of regulatory definitions and compliance dates in the New England milk market. The Commission also proposes to amend the definition of producer to specify every December since 1996 as a condition of qualification.

DATES: A public hearing will be held on February 2, 2000 at 10 a.m. Sworn and notarized written testimony, comments and exhibits may be submitted until 5 p.m. on February 16, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at Centennial Inn, 96 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire. Mail, or deliver, sworn and notarized testimony, comments and exhibits to: Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, 34 Barre Street, Suite 2, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth M. Becker, Executive Director, Northeast Dairy Compact Commission at the above address or by telephone at (802) 229-1941, or by facsimile at (802) 229-2028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Northeast Dairy Compact Commission ("Commission") was