



FEDERAL MILK ORDER
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July 9, 2021

TO: Northeast Order Pool Handlers
FROM: Shawn M. Boockoff, Market Administrator
SUBJECT: Temporary Dumping of Surplus Milk – *June 1, 2021 – July 10, 2021*

Pool handler Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) requested a temporary authorization allowing pool handlers to dispose of surplus milk at a farm or non-plant location, with said milk retaining the status of pooled producer milk. The period covered by this action would be June 1, 2021, through July 10, 2021. Subsequent to the DFA request, pool handlers Agri-Mark, Inc. (Agri-Mark) and Boonville Farms Cooperative, Inc. (Boonville) submitted requests for a similar allowance.

In their request, DFA noted that production has not changed appreciably, but that regional processing capacity has been severely impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Access to food service businesses is still limited in some cities as public safety orders remain in place. Labor shortages have further intensified the capacity loss with processing plants not able to fully staff all shifts and haulers lacking enough drivers to keep up with milk pickups and deliveries. Agri-Mark's and Boonville's comments echoed the DFA comments and, taken together, are evident of the issue across the northeast market.

In consideration of the aforementioned factors, the Market Administrator agrees to temporarily authorize the pooling of milk disposed of or "dumped" at farm or other non-plant locations for the requested period of **June 1, 2021–July 10, 2021**, provided the following conditions are met:

- Handlers and/or their producers that utilize this temporary policy must have been pooled on the Northeast Order for all of their commercially marketed production for the months of July through November 2020.
- The milk must have been picked up at the farm, measured and sampled for payment. The tanker test will be a weighted average of the producer tests.
- Notification should be given to the Market Administrator's office as soon as possible. The milk will be priced at the location that the dump occurred, therefore, at pool time the farm dumps should be reported separately, grouped by location zone. At pool time a separate list must be submitted of all producers whose milk was dumped, along with the component tests of the applicable milk (if available), and the physical location and address, including county, of where the milk was dumped. Due to the timing relative to the June 2021 pool, preliminary audits can be conducted as needed to adjust for any at-farm or other non-plant location disposals.

Any such requested dumps will be subject to audit verification by the Market Administrator as a condition to be included as pooled producer milk during the respective pool period.