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this form, I understand that I am forfeiting my right to receive the Federal milk marketing order's minimum prices for that portion of the milk which is under contract for the duration of the contract. I also understand that this contract milk will be priced in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

Printed Name: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____
Address: _____
Producer Number: _____

(f) *Other definitions.* The definition of any term in parts 1000–1131 of this chapter apply to, and are hereby made a part of this part, as appropriate.

Subpart B—Program Rules

§ 1145.2 Program.

(a) Any handler defined in 7 CFR 1000.9 may enter into forward contracts with producers or cooperative associations of producers for the handler's eligible volume of milk. Milk under forward contract in compliance with the provisions of this part will be exempt from the minimum payment provisions that would apply to such milk pursuant to 7 CFR 1001.73, 1005.73, 1006.73, 1007.73, 1030.73, 1032.73, 1033.73, 1124.73, 1126.73 and 1131.73 for the period of time covered by the contract.

(b) No forward price contract may be entered into under the program after September 30, 2012, and no forward contract entered into under the program may extend beyond September 30, 2015.

(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.

PART 1150—DAIRY PROMOTION PROGRAM

Subpart—Dairy Promotion and Research Order

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AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 4501–4514 and 7 U.S.C. 7401

SOURCE: 49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart—Dairy Promotion and Research Order

DEFINITIONS

§ 1150.101 Act.

Act means Title I, Subtitle B, of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, Pub. L. 98–180, 97 Stat. 1128, as approved November 29, 1983, and any amendments thereto.

§ 1150.102 Department.

Department means the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 1150.103 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any other officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in the Secretary's stead.

§ 1150.104 Board.

Board means the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board established pursuant to § 1150.131.

§ 1150.105 Person.

Person means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative or other entity.

§ 1150.106 United States.

United States means the 48 contiguous States in the continental United States.

§ 1150.107 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the calendar year or such other annual period as the Board may determine.

§ 1150.108 Eligible organization.

Eligible organization means any organization which has been certified by the Secretary pursuant to §§ 1150.270 through 1150.278 of this part.

§ 1150.109 Qualified State or regional program.

Qualified State or regional program means any State or regional dairy

product promotion, research or nutrition education program which is certified as a qualified program pursuant to § 1150.153.

§ 1150.110 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in the production of milk for commercial use.

§ 1150.111 Milk.

Milk means any class of cow's milk produced in the United States.

§ 1150.112 Dairy products.

Dairy products means products manufactured for human consumption which are derived from the processing of milk, and includes fluid milk products.

§ 1150.113 Fluid milk products.

Fluid milk products means those milk products normally consumed in liquid form as a beverage.

§ 1150.114 Promotion.

Promotion means actions such as paid advertising, sales promotion, and publicity to advance the image and sales of, and demand for, dairy products generally.

§ 1150.115 Research.

Research means studies testing the effectiveness of market development and promotion efforts, studies relating to the nutritional value of milk and dairy products, and other related efforts to expand demand for dairy products.

§ 1150.116 Nutrition education.

Nutrition education means those activities intended to broaden the understanding of sound nutritional principles, including the role of milk and dairy products in a balanced diet.

§ 1150.117 Plans and projects.

Plans and projects means promotion, research and nutrition education plans, studies or projects pursuant to §§ 1150.139, 1150.140 and 1150.161.

§ 1150.118 Marketing.

Marketing means the sale or other disposition in commerce of dairy products.

§ 1150.119 Cooperative association.

Cooperative association means any cooperative marketing association of producers which is organized under the provisions of the Act of Congress of February 18, 1922, as amended, known as the ''Capper-Volstead Act''.

NATIONAL DAIRY PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD

§ 1150.131 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a National Dairy Promotion and Research Board of thirty-six members. For purposes of nominating producers to the Board, the United States shall be divided into thirteen geographic regions and the number of Board members from each region shall be as follows:

(1) One member from region number one comprised of the following States: Washington and Oregon.

(2) Eight members from region number two comprised of the following State: California.

(3) Four members from region number three comprised of the following States: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

(4) Four members from region number four comprised of the following States: Arkansas, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

(5) Two members from region number five comprised of the following States: Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

(6) Five members from region number six comprised of the following State: Wisconsin.

(7) Two members from region number seven comprised of the following States: Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.

(8) One member from region number eight comprised of the following States: Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

(9) Three members from region number nine comprised of the following States: Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia.

(10) One member from region number ten comprised of the following States: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

(11) Two members from region number eleven comprised of the following States: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

(12) Two members from region number twelve comprised of the following State: New York.

(13) One member from region number thirteen comprised of the following States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

(b) The Board shall be composed of milk producers appointed by the Secretary either from nominations submitted pursuant to § 1150.133 or in accordance with § 11150.136. A milk producer may be nominated only to represent the region in which such producer's milk is produced.

(c) At least every five years, and not more than every three years, the Board shall review the geographic distribution of milk production volume throughout the United States and, if warranted, shall recommend to the Secretary a reapportionment of regions and/or a modification of the number of members from regions in order to best reflect the geographic distribution of milk production volume in the United States.

(d) The number of members for each region which shall serve on the Board shall be determined by dividing the total pounds of milk produced in the United States for the calendar year previous to the date of review by 36 which provides a factor of pounds of milk per member, and then dividing the total pounds of milk for each region by such factor.

(e) In determining the volume of milk produced in the United States, the Board and the Secretary shall utilize the information received by the Board pursuant to § 1150.171 and data published by the Department.

[49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 6264, Feb. 9, 1989; 59 FR 13435, Mar. 22, 1994; 63 FR 57895, Oct. 29, 1998; 68 FR 52336, Sept. 3, 2003; 73 FR 56451, Sept. 29, 2008]

§ 1150.132 Term of office.

(a) The members of the Board shall serve for terms of three years, except that the members appointed to the initial Board shall serve proportionately, for terms of one, two and three years.

(b) Each member of the Board shall serve until October 31 of the year in which his/her term expires, except that a retiring member may serve until a successor is appointed.

(c) No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

[49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, as amended at 60 FR 53253, Oct. 13, 1995]

§ 1150.133 Nominations.

Nominations for members of the Board shall be made in the following manner:

(a) Upon effectuation of this provision, the Secretary shall solicit nominations for the initial Board from all eligible organizations. If the Secretary determines that a substantial number of producers are not members of, or their interests are not represented by, such eligible organizations, the Secretary shall also solicit nominations from such producers through general farmer organizations or by other means.

(b) After the appointment of the initial Board, the Secretary shall announce at least 120 days in advance when a Board member's term is expiring and shall solicit nominations for that position in the manner described in paragraph (a) of this section. Nominations for such position should be submitted to the Secretary not less than 60 days prior to the expiration of such term.

(c) An eligible organization may submit nominations only for positions on the Board that represent regions in which such eligible organization can establish that it represents a substantial number of producers. If there is more than one Board position for any such region, the organization may submit nominations for each position.

(d) Where there is more than one eligible organization representing producers in a specific region, they may caucus and jointly nominate producers for each position representing that region on the Board for which a member is to be appointed. If joint agreement is not reached with respect to any such nominations, or if no caucus is held, each eligible organization may submit to the Secretary nominations for each appointment to be made to represent that region.

§ 1150.134 Nominee's agreement to serve.

Any producer nominated to serve on the Board shall file with the Secretary at the time of the nomination a written agreement to:

(a) Serve on the Board if appointed;

(b) Disclose any relationship with any organization that operates a qualified State or regional program or has a contractual relationship with the Board; and

(c) Withdraw from participation in deliberations, decision-making, or voting on matters where paragraph (b) applies.

§ 1150.135 Appointment.

From the nominations made pursuant to § 1150.133, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Board on the basis of representation provided for in § 1150.131(a).

§ 1150.136 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member of the Board, the Secretary shall appoint a successor from the most recent list of nominations for the position or from nominations made by the Board.

§ 1150.137 Procedure.

(a) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum at a properly convened meeting of the Board. Any action of the Board shall require the concurring votes of at least a majority of those present and voting. The Board shall establish rules concerning timely notice of meetings.

(b) The Board may take action upon the concurring votes of a majority of its members by mail, telephone, or telegraph when in the opinion of the chairman of the Board such action must be taken before a meeting can be called. Action taken by this emergency procedure is valid only if all members are notified and provided the opportunity to vote and any telephone vote is confirmed promptly in writing. Any action so taken shall have the same force and effect as though such action had been taken at a properly convened meeting of the Board.

[49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 9984, Mar. 13, 1985]

§ 1150.138 Compensation and reimbursement.

The members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses, including a per diem allowance as recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary, incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this subpart.

§ 1150.139 Powers of the Board.

The Board shall have the following powers:

(a) To receive and evaluate, or on its own initiative develop, and budget for plans or projects to promote the use of fluid milk and dairy products as well as projects for research and nutrition education and to make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such proposals;

(b) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms and provisions;

(c) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(d) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this subpart;

(e) To disseminate information to producers or eligible organizations through programs or by direct contact utilizing the public postage system or other systems;

(f) To select committees and subcommittees of Board members, and to adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(g) To establish advisory committees of persons other than Board members and pay the necessary and reasonable expenses and fees of the members of such committees;

(h) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart; and

(i) With the approval of the Secretary, to invest, pending disbursement pursuant to a plan or project, funds collected through assessments authorized under § 1150.152 in, and only in, obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, in general obligations

of any State or any political subdivision thereof, in any interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit of a bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System, or in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

§ 1150.140 Duties of the Board.

The Board shall have the following duties:

(a) To meet not less than annually, and to organize and select from among its members a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary;

(b) To appoint from its members an executive committee whose membership shall equally reflect each of the different regions in the United States in which milk is produced, and to delegate to the committee authority to administer the terms and provisions of this subpart under the direction of the Board and within the policies determined by the Board;

(c) To appoint or employ such persons as it may deem necessary and define the duties and determine the compensation of each;

(d) To review all programs that promote milk and dairy products on a brand or trade name basis that have requested certification pursuant to § 1150.153, and to recommend to the Secretary whether such request should be granted;

(e) To develop and submit to the Secretary for approval, promotion, research, and nutrition education plans or projects resulting from research or studies conducted either by the Board or others;

(f) To solicit, among other proposals, research proposals that would increase the use of fluid milk and dairy products by the military and by persons in developing nations, and that would demonstrate the feasibility of converting surplus nonfat dry milk to casein for domestic and export use;

(g) To prepare and submit to the Secretary for approval, budgets on a fiscal period basis of its anticipated expenses and disbursements in the administration of this subpart, including probable costs of promotion, research and nutrition education plans or projects, and also including a general description of the proposed promotion, research and nutrition education programs contemplated therein;

(h) To maintain such books and records, which shall be available to the Secretary for inspection and audit, and prepare and submit such reports from time to time to the Secretary as the Secretary may prescribe, and to make appropriate accounting with respect to the receipt and disbursement of all funds entrusted to it;

(i) With the approval of the Secretary, to enter into contracts or agreements with national, regional or State dairy promotion and research organizations or other organizations or entities for the development and conduct of activities authorized under §§ 1150.139 and 1150.161, and for the payment of the cost thereof with funds collected through assessments pursuant to § 1150.152. Any such contract or agreement shall provide that:

(1) The contractors shall develop and submit to the Board a plan or project together with a budgets or budget which shall show the estimated cost to be incurred for such plan or project;

(2) Any such plan or project shall become effective upon approval of the Secretary; and

(3) The contracting party shall keep accurate records of all of its transactions and make periodic reports to the Board of activities conducted and an accounting for funds received and expended, and such other reports as the Secretary or the Board may require. The Secretary or employees of the Board may audit periodically the records of the contracting party;

(j) To prepare and make public, at least annually, a report of its activities carried out and an accounting for funds received and expended;

(k) To have an audit of its financial statements conducted by a certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, at least once each fiscal period and at such other times as the Secretary may request, and to submit a copy of each such audit report to the Secretary;

(l) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the Board, committees of the Board and advisory committees as is given to such Board or committee members in order that the

Secretary, or a representative of the Secretary, may attend such meetings;

(m) To submit to the Secretary such information pursuant to this subpart as may be requested; and

(n) To encourage the coordination of programs of promotion, research and nutrition education designed to strengthen the dairy industry's position in the marketplace and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for fluid milk and dairy products produced in the United States.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 1150.151 Expenses.

(a) The Board is authorized to incur such expenses (including provision for a reasonable reserve) as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the Board for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this subpart. However, after the first full year of operation of the order, administrative expenses incurred by the Board shall not exceed 5 percent of the projected revenue of that fiscal year. Such expenses shall be paid from assessments collected pursuant to § 1150.152.

(b) The Board shall reimburse the Secretary, from assessments collected pursuant to § 1150.152, for administrative costs incurred by the Department after May 1, 1984.

§ 1150.152 Assessments.

(a) Each person making payment to a producer for milk produced in the United States and marketed for commercial use shall collect an assessment on all such milk handled for the account of the producer at the rate of 15 cents per hundredweight of milk for commercial use or the equivalent thereof and shall remit the assessment to the Board.

(b) Any producer marketing milk of that producer's own production in the form of milk or dairy products to consumers, either directly or through retail or wholesale outlets, shall remit to the Board an assessment on such milk at the rate of 15 cents per hundredweight of milk for commercial use or the equivalent thereof.

(c) In determining the assessment due from each producer pursuant to § 1150.152 (a) and (b), a producer who is participating in a qualified State or regional program(s) shall receive a credit for contributions to such program(s), but not to exceed the following amounts:

(1) In the case of contributions for milk marketed on or before May 31, 1984, up to the actual rate of contribution that was in effect under such program(s) on November 29, 1983, not to exceed 15 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed.

(2) In all other cases, the credit shall not exceed 10 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed.

(d) In order for a producer described in § 1150.152(a) to receive the credit authorized in § 1150.152(c), either the producer or a cooperative association on behalf of the producer must establish to the person responsible for remitting the assessment to the Board that the producer is contributing to a qualified State or regional program. Producers who contribute to a qualified program directly (other than through a payroll deduction) must establish with the person responsible for remitting the assessment to the Board, with validation by the qualified program, that they are making such contributions.

(e) In order for a producer described in § 1150.152(b) to receive the credit authorized in § 1150.152(c), the producer and the applicable qualified State or regional program must establish to the Board that the producer is contributing to a qualified State or regional program.

(f) The collection of assessments pursuant to § 1150.152(a) and (b) shall begin with respect to milk marketed on and after the effective date of this section and shall continue until terminated by the Secretary. If the Board is not constituted by the date the first assessments are to be collected, the Secretary shall have the authority to receive the assessments on behalf of the Board. The Secretary shall remit such assessments to the Board when it is constituted.

(g) Each person responsible for the remittance of the assessment pursuant

to § 1150.152(a) and (b) shall remit the assessment to the Board not later than the last day of the month following the month in which the milk was marketed.

(h) Money remitted to the Board shall be in the form of a negotiable instrument made payable to ''National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.'' Remittances and reports specified in § 1150.171 shall be mailed to the location designated by the Secretary or the Board.

§ 1150.153 Qualified State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education programs.

(a) Any organization which conducts a State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education program may apply to the Secretary for certification of qualification so that producers may receive credit pursuant to § 1150.152(c) for contributions to such program.

(b) In order to be certified by the Secretary as a qualified program, the program must:

(1) Conduct activities as defined in §§ 1150.114, 1150.115, and 1150.116 that are intended to increase consumption of milk and dairy products generally;

(2) Except for programs operated under the laws of the United States or any State, have been active and ongoing before enactment of the Act;

(3) Be financed primarily by producers, either individually or through cooperative associations;

(4) Not use a private brand or trade name in its advertising and promotion of dairy products unless the Board recommends and the Secretary concurs that such preclusion should not apply;

(5) Certify to the Secretary that any requests from producers for refunds under the program will be honored by forwarding to either the Board or a qualified State or regional program designated by the producer that portion of such refunds equal to the amount of credit that otherwise would be applicable to that program pursuant to § 1150.152(c); and

(6) Not use program funds for the purpose of influencing governmental policy or action.

(c) An application for certification of qualifications of any State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education program which does not satisfy the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section shall be denied. The certification of any qualified program which fails to satisfy the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section after certification shall be subject to suspension or termination.

(1) Prior to the denial of an application for certification of qualification, or the suspension or termination of an existing certification, the Director of the Dairy Division shall afford the applicant or the holder of an existing certification an opportunity to achieve compliance with the requirements for certification within a reasonable time, as determined by the Director.

(2) Any State or regional dairy product promotion, research or nutrition education program whose application for certification of qualification is to be denied, or whose certification of qualification is to be suspended or terminated shall be given written notice of such pending action and shall be afforded an opportunity to petition the Secretary for a review of the action. The petition shall be in writing and shall state the facts relevant to the matter for which the review is sought, and whether petitioner desires an informal hearing. If an informal hearing is not requested, the Director of the Dairy Division shall issue a final decision setting forth the action to be taken and the basis for such action. If petitioner requests a hearing, the Director of the Dairy Division, or a person designated by the Director, shall hold an informal hearing in the following manner:

(i) Notice of a hearing shall be given in writing and shall be mailed to the last known address of the petitioner or of the State or regional program, or to an officer thereof, at least 20 days before the date set for the hearing. Such notice shall contain the time and place of the hearing and may contain a statement of the reason for calling the hearing and the nature of the questions upon which evidence is desired or upon which argument may be presented. The hearing place shall be as convenient to the State or regional program as can reasonably be arranged.

(ii) Hearings are not to be public and are to be attended only by representatives of the petitioner or the State or regional program and of the U.S. Government, and such other parties as either the State or regional program or the U.S. Government desires to have appear for purposes of submitting information or as counsel.

(iii) The Director of the Dairy Division, or a person designated by the Director, shall be the presiding officer at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in such manner as will be most conducive to the proper disposition of the matter. Written statements or briefs may be filed by the petitioner or the State or regional program, or other participating parties, within the time specified by the presiding officer.

(iv) The presiding officer shall prepare preliminary findings setting forth a recommendation as to what action should be taken and the basis for such action. A copy of such findings shall be served upon the petitioner or the State or regional program by mail or in person. Written exceptions to the findings may be filed within 10 days after service thereof.

(v) After due consideration of all the facts and the exceptions, if any, the Director of the Dairy Division shall issue a final decision setting forth the action to be taken and the basis for such action.

[49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, as amended at 56 FR 8258, Feb. 28, 1991]

§ 1150.154 Influencing governmental action.

No funds collected by the Board under this subpart shall in any manner be used for the purpose of influencing governmental policy or action, except to recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 1150.155 Adjustment of accounts.

Whenever the Board or the Department determines through an audit of a person's reports, records, books or accounts or through some other means that additional money is due the Board or that money is due such person from the Board, such person shall be notified of the amount due. The person shall then remit any amount due the Board by the next date for remitting assessments as provided in § 1150.152. Overpayments shall be credited to the account of the person remitting the overpayment and shall be applied against amounts due in succeeding months.

§ 1150.156 Charges and penalties.

(a) *Late-payment charge.* Any unpaid assessments to the Board pursuant to § 1150.152 shall be increased 1.5 percent each month beginning with the day following the date such assessments were due. Any remaining amount due, which shall include any unpaid charges previously made pursuant to this section, shall be increased at the same rate on the corresponding day of each month thereafter until paid. For the purpose of this section, any assessment that was determined at a date later than prescribed by this subpart because of a person's failure to submit a report to the Board when due shall be considered to have been payable by the date it would have been due if the report had been filed when due. The timeliness of a payment to the Board shall be based on the applicable postmark date or the date actually received by the Board, whichever is earlier.

(b) *Penalties.* Any person who willfully violates any provision of this subpart shall be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than the amount specified in § 3.91(b)(1)(xx) of this title for each such violation and, in the case of a willful failure to pay, collect, or remit the assessment as required by this subpart, in addition to the amount due, a penalty equal to the amount of the assessment on the quantity of milk as to which the failure applies. The amount of any such penalty shall accrue to the United States and may be recovered in a civil suit brought by the United States. The remedies provided in this section shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available by law or in equity.

[49 FR 11816, Mar. 28, 1984, as amended at 70 FR 29579, May 24, 2005]

§ 1150.157 Assessment exemption.

(a) A producer described in § 1150.152 (a) and (b) who operates under an approved National Organic Program (NOP) (7 CFR part 205) system plan;

produces only products that are eligible to be labeled as 100 percent organic under the NOP, except as provided for in paragraph (h) of this section; and is not a split operation shall be exempt from the payment of assessments.

(b) To apply for an exemption under this section, a producer pursuant to § 1150.152 (a) and (b) shall submit a request for exemption to the Board on a form provided by the Board at any time initially and annually thereafter on or before July 1 as long as the producer continues to be eligible for the exemption.

(c) The request shall include the following: the producer's name and address, a copy of the organic farm or organic handling operation certificate provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent as defined in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502), a signed certification that the applicant meets all of the requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section for an assessment exemption, and such other information as may be required by the Board and with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) If a producer described in § 1150.152 (a) and (b) complies with the requirements of this section, the Board will grant an assessment exemption and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the producer. For exemption requests received on or before August 15, 2005, the Board will have 60 days to approve the exemption request; after August 15, 2005, the Board will have 30 days to approve the exemption request. If the application is disapproved, the Board will notify the applicant of the reason(s) for disapproval within the same timeframe.

(e) The producer described in paragraph (c) of this section shall provide a copy of the Certificate of Exemption to each person responsible for remitting assessments to the Board on behalf of the producer pursuant to § 1150.152.

(f) The person responsible for remitting assessments to the Board pursuant to § 1150.152 shall maintain records showing the exempt producer's name and address and the exemption number assigned by the Board pursuant to § 1150.172.

(g) The exemption will apply not later than the last day of the month following the Certificate of Exemption issuance date.

(h) Agricultural commodities produced and marketed under an organic system plan, as described in 7 CFR 205.201, but not sold, labeled, or represented as organic, shall not disqualify a producer from exemption under this section, except that producers who produce both organic and non-organic agricultural commodities as a result of split operations shall not qualify for exemption. Reasons for conventional sales include lack of demand for organic products, isolated use of antibiotics for humane purposes, chemical or pesticide use as the result of State or emergency spray programs, and crops from a buffer area as described in 7 CFR part 205, provided all other criteria are met.

[70 FR 2753, Jan. 14, 2005]

PROMOTION, RESEARCH AND NUTRITION EDUCATION

§ 1150.161 Promotion, research and nutrition education.

(a) The Board shall receive and evaluate, or on its own initiative develop, and submit to the Secretary for approval any plans or projects authorized in §§ 1150.139, 1150.140 and this section. Such plans or projects shall provide for:

(1) The establishment, issuance, effectuation, and administration of appropriate plans or projects for promotion, research and nutrition education with respect to milk and dairy products; and

(2) The establishment and conduct of research and studies with respect to the sale, distribution, marketing and utilization of milk and dairy products and the creation of new products thereof, to the end that marketing and utilization of milk and dairy products may be encouraged, expanded, improved or made more acceptable. Included shall be research and studies of proposals intended to increase the use of fluid milk and dairy products by the military and by persons in developing nations and proposals intended to demonstrate the feasibility of converting nonfat dry

milk to casein for domestic and export use.

(b) Each plan or project authorized under § 1150.161(a) shall be periodically reviewed or evaluated by the Board to insure that the plan or project contributes to an effective program of promotion, research and nutrition education. If it is found by the Board that any such plan or project does not further the purposes of the Act, the Board shall terminate such plan or project.

(c) No plan or project authorized under § 1150.161(a) shall make use of unfair or deceptive acts or practices with respect to the quality, value or use of any competing product.

REPORTS, BOOKS AND RECORDS

§ 1150.171 Reports.

Each producer marketing milk of that producer's own production directly to consumers and each person making payment to producers and responsible for the collection of the assessment under § 1150.152 shall be required to report at the time for remitting assessments to the Board such information as may be required by the Board or by the Secretary. Such information may include but not be limited to the following:

(a) The quantity of milk purchased, initially transferred or which, in any other manner, are subject to the collection of the assessment;

(b) The amount of assessment remitted;

(c) The basis, if necessary, to show why the remittance is less than the number of hundredweights of milk multiplied by 15 cents; and

(d) The date any assessment was paid.

§ 1150.172 Books and records.

Each person who is subject to this subpart, and other persons subject to § 1150.171, shall maintain and make available for inspection by employees of the Board and the Secretary such books and records as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this subpart and the regulations issued hereunder, including such records as are necesssary to verify any reports required. Such records shall be retained for at least two years beyond the fiscal period of their applicability.

§ 1150.173 Confidential treatment.

All information obtained from such books, records or reports under the Act and this subpart shall be kept confidential by all persons, including employees and former employees of the Board, all officers and employees and all former officers and employees of the Department, and by all officers and all employees and all former officers and employees of contracting agencies having access to such information, and shall not be available to Board members. Only those persons having a specific need for such information in order to effectively administer the provisions of this subpart shall have access to such information. In addition, only such information so furnished or acquired as the Secretary deems relevant shall be disclosed by them, and then only in a suit or administrative hearing brought at the discretion, or upon the request, of the Secretary, or to which the Secretary or any officer of the United States is a party, and involving this subpart. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit:

(a) The issuance of general statements based upon the reports of the number of persons subject to this subpart or statistical data collected therefrom, which statements do not identify the information furnished by any person; and

(b) The publication, by direction of the Secretary, of the name of any person who has been adjudged to have violated this subpart, together with a statement of the particular provisions of the subpart violated by such person.

MISCELLANEOUS

§ 1150.181 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of this subpart, the Board shall recommend not more than five of its members to the Secretary to serve as trustees for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Board. Such persons, upon designation by the Secretary, shall become trustees of all the funds and property owned, in the possession of, or under the control of the Board, including unpaid claims

or property not delivered or any other claim existing at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall:

(1) Continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary;

(2) Carry out the obligations of the Board under any contract or agreements entered into by it pursuant to § 1150.140(i);

(3) From time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Board and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct; and

(4) Upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such persons full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Board or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered pursuant to this subpart shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the Board and upon the trustees.

(d) Any residual funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be turned over to the Secretary to be used, to the extent practicable, in the interest of continuing one or more of the promotion, research or nutrition education plans or projects authorized pursuant to this subpart.

§ 1150.182 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant hereto, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not:

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may hereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued thereunder;

(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or any regulation issued thereunder; or

(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the United States, or of the Secretary, or of any person, with respect to any such violation.

§ 1150.183 Personal liability.

No member or employee of the Board shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly, in any way whatsoever to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts of either commission or omission of such member or employee, except for acts of dishonesty or willful misconduct.

§ 1150.184 Patents, copyrights, inventions and publications.

Any patents, copyrights, trademarks, inventions or publications developed through the use of funds collected under the provisions of this subpart shall be the property of the U.S. Government as represented by the Board, and shall, along with any rents, royalties, residual payments, or other income from the rental, sale, leasing, franchising, or other uses of such patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications, inure to the benefit of the Board. Upon termination of this subpart, § 1150.181 shall apply to determine disposition of all such property.

§ 1150.185 Amendments.

The Secretary may from time to time amend provisions of this part. Any interested person or organization affected by the provisions of the Act may propose such amendments to the Secretary.

§ 1150.186 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart or the applicability thereof to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

§ 1150.187 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

The information collection and recordkeeping requirements contained in §§ 1150.133, 1150.152, 1150.153, 1150.171, 1150.172, 1150.202, 1150.204, 1150.205, 1150.211 and 1150.273 of these regulations (7 CFR Part 1150) have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35 and have been

assigned OMB Control Number 0581–0147.

[50 FR 9984, Mar. 13, 1985]

Subpart—Procedure for Certification of Milk Producer Organizations

§ 1150.270 General.

Organizations must be certified by the Secretary that they are eligible to represent milk producers and to participate in the making of nominations of milk producers to serve as members of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board as provided in the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983. Certifications of eligibility required of the Secretary shall be conducted in accordance with this subpart.

§ 1150.271 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

(a) *Act* means Title I, Subtitle B, of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, Pub. L. 98–180, 97 Stat. 1128, as approved November 29, 1983, and any amendments thereto;

(b) *Department* means the United States Department of Agriculture;

(c) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated to act in the Secretary's stead;

(d) *Dairy Division* means the Dairy Division of the Department's Agricultural Marketing Service;

(e) *Producer* means any person engaged in the production of milk for commercial use;

(f) *Dairy products* means products manufactured for human consumption which are derived from the processing of milk, and includes fluid milk products; and

(g) *Fluid milk products* means those milk products normally consumed in liquid form as a beverage.

§ 1150.272 Responsibility for administration of regulations.

The Dairy Division shall have the responsibility for administering the provisions of this subpart.

§ 1150.273 Application for certification.

Any organization whose membership consists primarily of milk producers may apply for certification. Applicant organizations should supply information for certification using as a guide ''Application for Certification of Organizations,'' Form DA–26. Form DA–26 may be obtained from the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

§ 1150.274 Certification standards.

(a) Certification of eligible organizations shall be based, in addition to other available information, on a factual report submitted by the organization, which shall contain information deemed relevant and specified by the Secretary for the making of such determination, including the following:

(1) Geographic territory covered by the organization's active membership;

(2) Nature and size of the organization's active membership including the total number of active milk producers represented by the organization;

(3) Evidence of stability and permanency of the organization;

(4) Sources from which the organization's operating funds are derived;

(5) Functions of the organization; and

(6) The organization's ability and willingness to further the aims and objectives of the Act.

(b) The primary considerations in determining the eligibility of an organization shall be whether its membership consists primarily of milk producers who produce a substantial volume of milk, and whether the primary or overriding interest of the organization is in the production or processing of fluid milk and dairy products and promotion of the nutritional attributes of fluid milk and dairy products.

(c) The Secretay shall certify any organization which he finds meets the criteria under this section and his determination as to eligibility shall be final.

§ 1150.275 Inspection and investigation.

The Secretary shall have the right, at any time after an application is received from an organization, to examine such books, documents, papers,

records, files, and facilities of an organization as he deems necessary to verify the information submitted and to procure such other information as may be required to determine whether the organization is eligible for certification.

§ 1150.276 Review of certification.

Certifications issued pursuant to this subpart are subject to termination or suspension if the organization does not currently meet the certification standards. A certified organization may be requested at any time to supply the Dairy Division with such information as may be required to show that the organization continues to be eligible for certification. Any information submitted to satisfy a request pursuant to this section shall be subject to inspection and investigation as provided in § 1150.275.

§ 1150.277 Listing of certified organizations.

A copy of each certification shall be furnished by the Dairy Division to the respective organization. Copies also shall be filed in the Dairy Division where they will be available for public inspection.

§ 1150.278 Confidential treatment.

All documents and other information submitted by applicant organizations and otherwise obtained by the Department by investigation or examination of books, documents, papers, records, files, or facilities shall be kept confidential by all employees of the Department. Only such information so furnished or acquired as the Secretary deems relevant shall be disclosed by them, and then only in the issuance of general statements based upon the applications of a number of persons, which do not identify the information furnished by any one person.

PARTS 1151–1159 [RESERVED]

PART 1160—FLUID MILK PROMOTION PROGRAM

Subpart—Fluid Milk Promotion Order

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