

(h) Agreement by the parties that they will consider the award as final and will comply therewith;

(i) Stipulation by the parties that arbitration is to take place under rules and regulations issued by the Secretary, and that any such rules and regulations pertaining to mediation and arbitration shall be considered a part of the submission;

(j) Stipulation that a stenographic report of the proceedings must be made.

The submission shall be signed by each party before a notary public, and when the signature is that of an agent of a corporation or cooperative association, the same shall be accompanied by evidence of the authority to sign.

A submission may be withdrawn at any time before the award, and any question held by the arbitrator to be a separable question may be withdrawn before award by agreement of all parties. When any question is so withdrawn, the parties shall file with the arbitrator the agreement on that question reached by the parties, showing all the details thereof, and the arbitrator shall include it in the record of the arbitration.

#### § 900.114 Designation of arbitrator.

The Administrator, after receiving the submission, will designate one or more persons to act as arbitrator.

#### § 900.115 Hearing.

The arbitrator shall have full discretion to conduct the hearing in such manner as will, in his opinion, enable him to ascertain all the facts in the case.

Parties to the dispute may appear in person or by duly accredited agents and may be represented by counsel.

All relevant and material evidence may be presented. The arbitrator shall not be bound by the legal rules of evidence.

The arbitrator, in the presence of the parties, may require the production of books and records for examination by himself, but not for examination of confidential information by other parties to the dispute unless the party producing the same consents to its examination by the other parties to the dispute.

No evidence offered by one party shall be received except in the presence of all parties unless the parties so agree in a submission specifying the nature of the evidence to be received.

Final determination as to what will be considered confidential information shall be made by the arbitrator.

The arbitrator may request the opinions of economists, marketing specialists, statisticians, lawyers, accountants, and other experts.

When more than two arbitrators are designated to hear a dispute, and they disagree, the award of the majority shall be the final

award. If the arbitrators are evenly divided, there shall be no award.

A stenographic record of all the proceedings during an arbitration must be made.

#### § 900.116 Award.

An award shall be made within ten days after the close of the hearing.

The award shall be in writing and shall cover only points of dispute raised in the submission.

The arbitrator, in making the award, may use his own technical knowledge in addition to the evidence submitted by the parties.

The award shall state the period during which it shall be in effect, said period to be not less than thirty days from the effective date thereof; and said period may be extended by agreement among the parties upon notification thereof to the Administrator, unless or until the Administrator withdraws his approval.

The arbitrator shall sign the award in the presence of a notary public, or, when more than one arbitrator is designated the arbitrator shall sign in the presence of each other.

Copies of the award shall be delivered to the parties by the Division.

#### § 900.117 Approval of award.

The award shall not become effective until approved by the Secretary, and the Secretary will not approve an award if there is evidence of fraud, or evidence of misconduct upon the part of the arbitrator, or lack of evidence to support the award, or if the award provides for any unfair trade practice.

#### § 900.118 Costs.

The parties jointly shall pay for the stenographic record. A copy of the record shall be furnished by the parties to the arbitrator and shall be forwarded by him to the Administrator, ultimately to be filed in the office of the hearing clerk.

The arbitrator shall not receive compensation for parties to the dispute.

### Subpart—Miscellaneous Regulations

AUTHORITY: Sec. 10, 48 Stat. 37, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 610.

#### § 900.200 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the terms as defined in the Act shall apply with equal force and effect. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) The term *Act* means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress (48 Stat. 31), as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 246, 7 U.S.C. 601), as amended;

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

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(c) The term *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 his stead;

(d) The term *General Counsel* means the General Counsel of the Department;

(e) The term *Administrator* means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead.

(f) [Reserved]

(g) The term *FEDERAL REGISTER* means the publication provided for by the Act of July 26, 1935 (49 Stat. 500), and acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof;

(h) The term *marketing agreement* means any marketing agreement or any amendment thereto which may be entered into pursuant to section 8b of the Act;

(i) The term *marketing order* means any order or any amendment thereto which may be issued pursuant to section 8c of the Act;

(j) The term *person* means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or any other business unit;

(k) The term *official* means the Secretary, any officer, employee, or other person employed or appointed by the Department, and any agency or agent appointed by the Secretary to administer a marketing agreement or a marketing order, and any agent or employee of any such agency or agent;

(l) The term *information* means and includes reports, books, accounts, records, and the facts and information contained therein and required to be furnished to or acquired by any official pursuant to the provisions of any marketing agreement or marketing order.

[25 FR 5907, June 28, 1960, as amended at 26 FR 7796, Aug. 22, 1961; 28 FR 579, Jan. 23, 1963]

### § 900.201 Investigation and disposition of alleged violations.

Whenever the Administrator has reason to believe that any handler has violated, or is violating, the provisions of any marketing order, he may institute such investigation and, after due notice to such handler, conduct such hearing in order to determine the facts as, in his opinion, are warranted. If, in the opinion of the Administrator and the General Counsel, the facts developed as a result of such investigation or hearing warrant such action, the General Counsel shall refer the matter to the Attorney General for appropriate action.

### § 900.210 Disclosures of information.

All information in the possession of any official which relates to the business or property of any person, and which was furnished

by, or obtained from, such person pursuant to the provisions of any marketing agreement or marketing order, shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed, divulged, or made public, unless otherwise expressly provided in said marketing agreement or marketing order, or unless said person authorizes said official, in writing, to disclose such information, except that:

(a) Such information may be disclosed, divulged, or made public if it has been obtained from or furnished by a person who is not the person to whose business or property such information relates or an employee of such latter person, or if such information is otherwise required by law to be furnished to an official;

(b) Such information may be furnished to other officials for use in the regular course of their official duties;

(c) Such information may be combined and published in the form of general statistical studies or data in which the identity of the person furnishing such information or from whom it was obtained shall not be disclosed;

(d) Such information may be disclosed upon lawful demand made by the President or by either House of Congress or any committee thereof, or, if the Secretary determines that such disclosure is not contrary to the public interest, such information may be disclosed in response to a subpoena by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(e) Such information may be offered in evidence (whether or not it has been obtained from or furnished by the person against whom it is offered) by or on behalf of the Secretary, the United States, or the official who obtained it or to whom it was furnished, in any administrative hearing held pursuant to section 8c (15)(A) of the Act or in any action, suit, or proceeding, civil or criminal, in which the Secretary or the United States or any such official is a party, and (1) which is instituted (i) for the purpose of enforcing or restraining the violation of any marketing agreement or marketing order, or (ii) for the purpose of collecting any penalty or forfeiture provided for in the act, or (iii) for the purpose of collecting any monies due under a marketing agreement or marketing order, or (2) in which the validity of any marketing agreement or marketing order, or any provision of either, is challenged or involved.

(f) Such information may be furnished to the duly constituted authorities of any State, pursuant to a written agreement made under authority of section 10(i) of the Act, to the extent that such information is relevant to transactions within the regulatory jurisdiction of such authorities.

### § 900.211 Penalties.

Any official who shall have violated the provisions of § 900.210 by wilfully divulging, disclosing, or making public any information

acquired by or furnished to or in the possession or custody of such official pursuant to the provisions of a marketing agreement or marketing order shall be subject to a penalty of \$100 for each offense. (The civil penalty provided in this section is prescribed under the authority contained in sec. 10(c) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 610(c)); this provision is not intended to supersede the provision in sec. 8d(2) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 608d(2)) for criminal liability and removal from office.

**Subpart—Procedure for Conduct of Referenda To Determine Producer Approval of Milk Marketing Orders To Be Made Effective Pursuant to Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as Amended**

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

SOURCE: 30 FR 15412, Dec. 15, 1965, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 900.300 General.**

Unless otherwise prescribed, the procedure contained in this subpart shall be applicable to each producer referendum conducted for the purpose of ascertaining whether the issuance by the Secretary of a milk marketing order is approved or favored, as required under the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (48 Stat. 31, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 601-674). The procedure in this subpart replaces the procedure for conducting similar referenda (15 FR 5177) issued August 7, 1950.

**§ 900.301 Definitions.**

As used in this subpart and in all supplementary instructions, forms, and documents, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) *Act*. "Act" means Public Act. No. 10, 73d Congress (48 Stat. 31), as amended and as re-enacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 246), as amended.

(b) *Department*. "Department" means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) *Secretary*. "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 his stead.

(d) *Administrator*. "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead.

(e) *Person*. "Person" includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, and any other business unit.

(f) *Order*. "Order" means the marketing order (including an amendatory order) with respect to which the Secretary has directed that a referendum be conducted.

(g) *Producer*. "Producer" means any person who is a dairy farmer and who, during the representative period, met the requirements of the term "producer" as defined in the order had such order been in effect during the representative period.

(h) *Handler*. "Handler" means any person who, during the representative period, met the requirements of the term "handler" as defined in the order had such order been in effect during the representative period.

(i) *Referendum agent*. "Referendum agent" means the person designated by the Secretary to conduct the referendum.

(j) *Representative period*. "Representative period" means the period designated by the Secretary pursuant to section 8c of the act (7 U.S.C. 608c).

(k) *Cooperative association*. "Cooperative association" means any association of producers that the administrator has found to be qualified pursuant to section 608c(12) of the Act.

[30 FR 15412, Dec. 5, 1965, as amended at 37 FR 8059, Apr. 25, 1972]

**§ 900.302 Associations eligible to vote.**

(a) Any association of producers, not previously determined to be a cooperative association may file an application for a determination as to whether it is a cooperative association and thus eligible to vote in a referendum. Such application shall be filed with the Administrator at least 60 days prior to the holding of the referendum: *Provided, however,* That the Administrator may permit the filing of an application in less than 60 days when, in the opinion of the Administrator, such filing would not delay the conduct of the referendum.

(b) Within a time fixed by the referendum agent, but not later than 5 days prior to the final date for balloting, each cooperative association electing to vote shall, upon the request of the referendum agent, furnish to him a certified list showing the name and address of each producer for whom it claims the right to vote and the plant at which such person's milk was received during the representative period.

**§ 900.303 Conduct of referendum.**

The referendum shall be conducted by mail in the manner prescribed in this subpart. The referendum agent may utilize such personnel or agencies of the Department as are deemed necessary by the Administrator.