

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Senior Agricultural Economist

Duty Statement

I. Program Identification

The Dairy Marketing Branch (DMB) oversees the production and marketing of milk and dairy products to ensure that milk is available to consumers at all times at a fair and reasonable price. The DMB calculates the minimum price processors must pay producers to purchase milk using mathematical formulas based on supply and demand. DMB collects and analyzes cost and production statistics for publication in various formats.

The Economics Unit is responsible for sound public policy in the marketing of milk and dairy products in the State of California. The Unit provides analysis and recommendations regarding the interrelation of state and federal milk-pricing programs.

Classification: Senior Agricultural Economist

Working Title: Same

License or Other Requirement: None

Position Number: 018-553-0186-012 (E48)

Location: Sacramento

Date Prepared: March 11, 2015

Work Hours/Shift: 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

II. Essential And Non-Essential Job Functions

Under the general direction of the Branch Chief, the Senior Agricultural Economist performs the following duties:

A. Essential Functions:

Function #1- Dairy Economist – 50%

- Serves as staff expert representing the Secretary on the economic regulation of milk.
- On behalf of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, conducts and directs economic studies and analysis of:
 - Milk production, milk pricing and dairy product pricing
 - Manufacture, sale and transportation of milk and dairy products
 - Impacts of changes in national and international dairy market conditions

- Provides analysis and recommendations to the Branch Chief and Division Director regarding the interrelation of State and federal milk-pricing programs.
- Provides outreach to stakeholders explaining State and federal marketing orders, how they are administered, how they are similar and how they differ.
- Conducts meetings of producers, handlers, or consumers to discuss marketing issues.
- Maintains a thorough knowledge of the general economic and marketing conditions in California and the United States; works in cooperation with other members of the staff on dairy marketing issues.
- Conducts and directs economic surveys and studies of problems of production, processing, distribution, consumption and transportation of milk and dairy products; competing products to dairy products and changes in national and international dairy market conditions
- Designs economic models to improve the efficacy of survey techniques currently used by the Dairy Marketing Branch to gather product cost and pricing data.
- Prepares economic projections of market prices and production levels for milk and manufactured dairy products by researching data from diverse sources.
- Compiles economic analysis of relevant state and national data regarding current dairy issues.
- Provides economic analysis of the potential effect on dairy producers, dairy processors and consumers of milk and dairy products of current and proposed dairy policy at State, national and international levels.

Function #2- Milk Pricing – 30%

- Generally responsible for ensuring that Class 1, 2, 3, 4a and 4b milk prices are reasonably related to relevant economic factors and will ensure an adequate and continuous supply of products from all classes of milk.
- Participates in the public hearing process including the review and preparation of economic analysis, serving on hearing panels, and preparation of formal findings of fact following such public hearings held for the purpose of establishing or amending Milk Stabilization and Marketing Plans and/or the Pooling Plan for Market Milk.

Function #3- Outreach – 15%

- Advises and assists the dairy industry, consumers of milk and dairy products, and other interested parties concerning the feasibility of proposed changes in milk pricing and/or revenue pooling plans including incentives to move milk to its best and highest value usage.

- Prepares reports, and reviews and recommends legislation pertaining to the marketing of milk and dairy products. Helps develop policy on matters of program development, classified pricing and long term milk marketing trends.

B. Non-Essential Functions:

Function #1- Administrative Duties – 5%

- Taking care of administrative reports, time sheets, travel expense claims, answering general inquiries from the general public and industry.

III. Work Environment

The work environment is typically a normal, air-conditioned office environment. The employee works in a cubicle with a telephone, computer and printer. The employee is responsible for maintaining his or her own filing.

On occasion, the employee is required to travel, both by air and by car. The employee attends meetings at hotels or at the offices of trade organizations. The employee makes tours of dairy farms and dairy processing plants so must be able to maneuver in an often damp, muddy environment exposed to the elements.

There are restrooms on the same floor as the office.

FREE PARKING

* Employee Signature (Date) Supervisor Signature (Date)

*Duties of this position are subject to change and may be revised as needed or required.