

Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended May 9, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 17, effective June 24, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.17 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 17, effective December 27, 1995, through June 23, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on June 24, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 17 ends.

The quota amount, 42,728,074 kilograms (94,199,355 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—January 1996 through March 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Public Law 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on June 20, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-16462 Filed 6-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-M

Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 16

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 42,728,074 kilograms (94,199,355 pounds) is established in accordance with section

136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 16, effective June 17, 1996, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.16, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of June 17, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than September 14, 1996 (90 days from the date the quota was established), and entered into the United States not later than December 13, 1996 (180 days from the date the quota was established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Ag Code 0515, PO Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special cotton import quota be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended May 2, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 16, effective June 17, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.16 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 16, effective December 20, 1995, through June 16, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on June 17, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 16 ends.

The quota amount, 42,728,074 kilograms (94,199,355 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—January 1996 through March 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Public Law 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on June 20, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

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Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 42,728,074 kilograms (94,199,355 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective June 10, 1996, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.15, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of June 10, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than September 7, 1996 (90 days from the date the quota was established), and entered into the United States not later than December 6, 1996 (180 days from the date the quota was established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Ag Code 0515, PO Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and

announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended April 25, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective June 10, 1996, is hereby established.

Because there are only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, only 20 such quotas can be in effect at one time. Each subheading corresponds to a Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement specifying that a particular amount of upland cotton may be imported during a particular 180-day period. The special import quota described in this notice cannot take effect until HTS subheading 9903.52.15 becomes available upon the expiration of the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 15, effective December 13, 1995, through June 9, 1996. Therefore, the special import quota described in this notice opens on June 10, 1996, the day after the previous special import quota 15 ends.

The quota amount, 42,728,074 kilograms (94,199,355 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—January 1996 through March 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Public Law 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on June 20, 1996.

Dan Glickman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-16464 Filed 6-26-96; 8:45 am]

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 96-002-2]

Asgrow Seed Co.; Availability of Determination of Nonregulated Status for Squash Line Genetically Engineered for Virus Resistance

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that the Asgrow Seed Company's squash line designed as CZW-3 that has been genetically engineered for virus resistance is no longer considered a regulated article under our regulations governing the introduction of certain genetically engineered organisms. Our determination is based on our evaluation of data submitted by the Asgrow Seed Company in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, an analysis of other scientific data, and our review of comments received from the public in response to a previous notice announcing our receipt of the Asgrow Seed Company's petition. This notice also announces the availability of our written determination document and its associated environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The determination, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, the petition, and all written comments received regarding the petition may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James White, Biotechnology Permits, BBEP, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 147, Riverdale, MD 20737-1237; (301) 734-7612. To obtain a copy of the determination or the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, contact Ms. Kay Peterson at (301) 734-7612; e-mail: mkipeterson@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 18, 1995, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received a petition (APHIS Petition No. 95-352-01p) from the Asgrow Seed Company (Asgrow) of

Kalamazoo, MI, seeking a determination that a yellow crookneck squash line designated as CZW-3 (line CZW-3) that has been genetically engineered to contain genes that confer virus resistance does not present a plant pest risk and, therefore, is not a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

On February 2, 1996, APHIS published a notice in the Federal Register (61 FR 3899-3900, Docket No. 96-002-1) announcing that the Asgrow petition had been received and was available for public review. The notice also discussed the role of APHIS and the Food and Drug Administration in regulating the subject squash line and food products derived from it. In the notice, APHIS solicited written comments from the public as to whether this squash line posed a plant pest risk. The comments were to have been received by APHIS on or before April 2, 1996. During the designated 60-day comment period, APHIS received four comments on the subject petition from universities, an office of the cooperative extension service, and an agricultural consultant. All of the comments were favorable to the petition.

Analysis

Line CZW-3 has been genetically engineered to contain the coat protein genes from cucumber mosaic virus, watermelon mosaic virus 2, and zucchini yellow mosaic virus for resistance to these viruses. The subject squash line also contains the *nptII* gene from the prokaryotic transposon Tn5, which encodes the enzyme neomycin phosphotransferase II and is used as a selectable marker for transformation. Expression of the added genes is controlled in part by 35S promoters and terminators from the plant pathogen cauliflower mosaic virus. The genes used to develop line CZW-3 were stably transferred into the genome of the yellow crookneck squash parental line through the use of the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* transformation system.

The subject squash line has been considered a regulated article under APHIS' regulations in 7 CFR part 340 because it contains gene sequences derived from plant pathogens. However, evaluation of field data reports from field tests of line CZW-3 conducted in 1993 and 1994 under APHIS permits indicates that there were no deleterious effects on plants, nontarget organisms, or the environment as a result of the environmental release of this squash line.