

Durum or Hard red winter) for the period between May 1 and June 30, 1996; or, \$3.60 per bushel.

(4) *To claim compensation.* To claim compensation, a grower or handler must complete and submit to an inspector whichever of the following three forms are applicable, as determined by the inspector: ASCS Form 574, ASCS Form 578, and FCI Form 73. The forms will be furnished by USDA. Growers must also submit a copy of the contract the grower has for the wheat, if the wheat was under contract; handlers must also submit a copy of the contract the handler had with the grower for the wheat, if the wheat was under contract. Finally, a grower or handler must submit a copy of the receipt for the final sale of the wheat, showing the intended use for which the wheat was sold.

(c) *Nonpropagative wheat that is not sold.* If a grower or handler of nonpropagative wheat in the quarantined area is not able to or elects not to sell their wheat, they will be eligible to receive compensation at the rate of \$2.50 per bushel. Compensation will only be paid if the grower or handler has destroyed the wheat by burying it in a sanitary landfill. To claim compensation, the grower or handler must complete and submit to an inspector whichever of the following three forms are applicable, as determined by the inspector: ASCS Form 574, ASCS Form 578, and FCI Form 73. The forms will be furnished by USDA. In addition, the grower or handler must submit a receipt from the sanitary landfill verifying how much wheat was buried.

(d) *Decontamination of grain storage facilities.* Owners of grain storage facilities that have been decontaminated pursuant to an Emergency Action Notification (PPQ Form 523) issued by an inspector are eligible to be compensated, on a one time only basis, for up to 50 percent of the cost of decontamination. However, compensation will not exceed \$20,000 per premise (as defined in § 301.89-1). Compensation is limited to the direct costs of decontaminating facilities. General clean-up, repair, and refurbishment costs are excluded from compensation. To claim compensation, the owner of the grain storage facility must submit to an inspector records demonstrating that decontamination was performed on all structures, conveyances, or materials ordered to be decontaminated by the Emergency Action Notification on the facility premise. The records must include a copy of the Emergency Action Notification, contracts with individuals or companies hired to perform the

decontamination, receipts for equipment and materials purchased to perform the decontamination, time sheets for employees of the grain storage facility who performed activities connected to the decontamination, and any other documentation that helps show decontamination has been completed.

(e) *Flour millers.* Flour millers who, in accordance with a compliance agreement with APHIS, heat-treat millfeed made from wheat produced in the quarantined area are eligible to be compensated at the rate of \$35.00 per short ton of millfeed. The amount of millfeed compensated will be calculated by multiplying the weight of wheat from the quarantined area received by the miller by 25 percent (the average percent of millfeed derived from a short ton of grain). To claim compensation, the miller must submit to an inspector a copy of the limited permit under which the wheat was moved to the mill and a copy of the bill of lading for the wheat (showing the weight of the wheat in short tons). Flour millers must also submit verification that the millfeed was heat treated, in the form of a copy of the limited permit under which the wheat was moved to a treatment facility and a copy of the bill of lading accompanying that movement.

Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of June 1996.

Terry L. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-16999 Filed 7-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 96-016-6]

Karnal Bunt; Removal of Quarantined Areas

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the Karnal bunt regulations by removing areas in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas from the list of areas quarantined because of infestations of Karnal bunt. This action is necessary to relieve restrictions on the areas of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas that do not produce wheat, durum wheat, or triticale or that do produce wheat but we have been able to determine that they have no association with Karnal bunt contaminated seed. The interstate movement of regulated articles from these areas does not present a risk of spreading Karnal bunt.

DATES: Interim rule effective June 27, 1996. Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before September 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 96-016-6, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 96-016-6. Comments received 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 comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael B. Stefan, Operations Officer, Domestic and Emergency Operations, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-8247; or e-mail: mstefan@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Karnal bunt is a serious fungal disease of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), durum wheat (*Triticum durum*), and triticale (*Triticum aestivum* X *Seale cereals*), a hybrid of wheat and rye. The disease is caused by the smut fungus *Tilletia indica* (Mitra) Mundkur and is spread by spores. Karnal bunt is a serious disease that affects both yield and grain quality. It adversely affects the color, odor, and palatability of flour and other foodstuffs made from affected grain. Grain containing any amount of bunted kernels is reduced in quality. Karnal bunt does not present a risk to human health.

On March 20, 1996, the Secretary of Agriculture signed a "Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency" authorizing the Secretary to take emergency action under 7 U.S.C. 150dd with regard to Karnal bunt within the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. The "Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency" was published in the Federal Register on March 25, 1996 (61 FR 12058, Docket No. 96-016-1). On March 26, 1996, the Secretary of Agriculture signed a "Declaration of Emergency" authorizing the transfer and use of funds within the Department for a program to control Karnal bunt wherever it may be found in the United States. The "Declaration of Emergency" was published in the Federal Register on March 29, 1996 (61 FR 14046, Docket No. 96-016-2).

In an interim rule effective March 25, 1996, and published in the Federal Register March 28, 1996 (61 FR 13649–13655, Docket No. 96–016–3), we established the Karnal bunt regulations (7 CFR 301.89–1 through 301.89–11) and quarantined the State of Arizona and a total of six counties in the States of New Mexico and Texas. The regulations impose restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas in order to prevent the artificial spread of Karnal bunt to noninfested areas of the United States.

On April 12, 1996, the Secretary of Agriculture signed a “Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency” authorizing the Secretary to take emergency action under 7 U.S.C. 150dd with regard to Karnal bunt within the State of California. The “Declaration of Extraordinary Emergency” was published in the Federal Register on April 18, 1996 (61 FR 16895–16896, Docket No. 96–016–4).

In an interim rule effective April 19, 1996, and published in the Federal Register on April 25, 1996 (61 FR 18233–18235, Docket No. 93–016–5) we amended the regulations by adding Imperial County, CA, and a portion of Riverside County, CA, to the list of areas quarantined because of infestations of Karnal bunt. We also added *Tilletia indica* (Mitra) Mundkur, the organism that causes Karnal bunt, to the list of restricted articles.

Removal of Quarantined Areas

Section 301.89–3(e) of the regulations lists those States or portions of States that are quarantined because of Karnal bunt. We are amending § 301.89–3(e) by removing the following portions of the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas from the list of quarantined areas: Yavapai County, Coconino County, Navajo County, Apache County, Gila County, Greenlee County, and Santa Cruz County, AZ; portions of Mohave County and Pima County, AZ; portions of Hidalgo County, Luna County, and Sierra County, NM; and a portion of Hudspeth County, TX. These areas do not produce wheat, durum wheat, or triticale, or do produce wheat but we have been able to determine that they have no association with Karnal bunt contaminated seed, and, therefore, do not present a risk of being, or becoming, infested with Karnal bunt. The remainder of the counties in the State of Arizona, Dona Ana County, NM, and El Paso County, TX, will remain under quarantine because of infestations of Karnal bunt.

The area of Mohave County, AZ, that will remain under quarantine is that

portion of the county bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Arizona/Nevada State line and State Route 68; then east along State Route 68 to U.S. Highway 93; then southeast along U.S. Highway 93 to Interstate 40; then south along Interstate 40 to the Arizona/California State line; then north along the State line to the point of beginning.

The area of Pima County, AZ, that will remain under quarantine is that portion of the county bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the Pima County line, the Pinal County line, and the Papago Indian Reservation boundary; then east along the Pima County line to its easternmost point; then south along the Pima County line to the Cochise and Santa Cruz County lines; then west along the Pima County line to the United States/Mexico boundary; then west along the United States/Mexico boundary to the Papago Indian Reservation boundary; then north along the Papago Indian Reservation boundary to the point of beginning.

The area of Hidalgo County, NM, that will remain under quarantine is that portion of the county bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the Arizona/New Mexico State line and Interstate 10; then east along Interstate 10 to the Hidalgo/Grant County line; then south and east along the Hidalgo County line to the Luna County line; then south along the Hidalgo County line to its southernmost point; then west and north along the Hidalgo county line to point of beginning.

The area of Luna County, NM, that will remain under quarantine is that portion of the county bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the Grant/Luna County line and Interstate 10; then east along Interstate 10 to U.S. Highway 180; then north along U.S. Highway 180 to State Route 26; then north along State Route 26 to State Route 27; then northeast along State Route 27 to the Luna/Sierra County line; then east along the Luna County line to the Dona County line; then south along the Luna County line to the United States/Mexico boundary; then west along the United States/Mexico boundary to the Hidalgo County line; then north along the Luna County line to the point of beginning.

The area of Sierra County, NM, that will remain under quarantine is that portion of the county bounded as follows: Beginning at intersection of the Luna/Sierra County line and State Route 27; then north along State Route 27 to State Route 152; then east along State Route 152 to Interstate 25; then north along Interstate 25 to State Route 52;

then northwest along State Route 52 to the Sierra/Socorro County line; then east along the Sierra County line to the Lincoln County line; then south along the Sierra County line to the Dona Ana County line; then west along the Sierra County line to the point of beginning.

The area of Hudspeth County, TX, that will remain under quarantine is that portion of the county bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the El Paso/Hudspeth County line and U.S. Highway 62/U.S. Highway 180; then east along U.S. Highway 62/U.S. Highway 180 to County Road 1111; then south along County Road 1111 to its terminus; then west along an imaginary line to the United States/Mexico boundary; then northwest along the United States/Mexico boundary to the El Paso/Hudspeth County line; then north along the El Paso/Hudspeth County line to the point of beginning.

This action relieves unnecessary regulatory restrictions on the public while continuing to prevent the artificial spread of Karnal bunt into noninfested areas of the United States.

Immediate Action

The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that there is good cause for publishing this interim rule without prior opportunity for public comment. The areas affected by this document were quarantined to prevent Karnal bunt from spreading to noninfested areas of the United States. Because wheat, durum wheat, and triticale are not grown in these areas or these areas have no association with Karnal bunt contaminated seed and because the continued quarantined status of these areas would impose unnecessary regulatory restrictions on the public, immediate action is warranted to relieve restrictions.

Because prior notice and other public procedures with respect to this action are impracticable and contrary to the public interest under these conditions, we find good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 to make it effective upon signature. We will consider comments that are received within 60 days of publication of this rule in the Federal Register. After the comment period closes, we will publish another document in the Federal Register. It will include a discussion of any comments we receive and any amendments we are making to the rule as a result of the comments.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. For this action, the Office of Management and Budget

has waived its review process required by Executive Order 12866.

This action removes seven entire counties in Arizona and portions of six counties in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas from the list of areas quarantined because of Karnal bunt. This situation makes compliance with section 603 and timely compliance with section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 603 and 604) impracticable. This rule may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. If we determine this is so, then we will discuss the issues raised by section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act in our Final Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis.

Executive Order 12372

This program/activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.025 and is subject to Executive Order 12372, which required intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V.)

Executive Order 12778

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are inconsistent with this rule; (2) has no retroactive effect; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no new information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Accordingly, 7 CFR part 301 is amended as follows:

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

1. The authority citation for part 301 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 150bb, 150dd, 150ee, 150ff, 161, 162, and 164–167; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

2. In section 301.89–3, paragraph (e) is amended by revising the entries for Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas to read as follows:

§ 301.89–3 Quarantined areas.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

Arizona

Cochise County. The entire county.

Graham County. The entire county.

LaPaz County. The entire county.

Maricopa County. The entire county.

Mohave County. Beginning at the intersection of Arizona/Nevada State line and State Route 68; then east along State Route 68 to U.S. Highway 93; then southeast along U.S. Highway 93 to Interstate 40; then south along Interstate 40 to the Arizona/California State line; then north along the State line to the point of beginning.

Pima County. Beginning at the intersection of the Pima County line, the Pinal County line, and the Papago Indian Reservation boundary; then east along the Pima County line to its easternmost point; then south along the Pima County line to the Cochise and Santa Cruz County lines; then west along the Pima County line to the United States/Mexico boundary; then west along the United States/Mexico boundary to the Papago Indian Reservation boundary; then north along the Papago Indian Reservation boundary to the point of beginning.

Pinal County. The entire county.

Yuma County. The entire county.

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New Mexico

Dona Ana County. The entire county.

Hidalgo County. Beginning at the intersection of the Arizona/New Mexico State line and Interstate 10; then east along Interstate 10 to the Hidalgo/Grant County line; then south and east along the Hidalgo County line to the Luna County line; then south along the Hidalgo County line to its southernmost point; then west and north along the Hidalgo County line to point of beginning.

Luna County. Beginning at the intersection of the Grant/Luna County line and Interstate 10; then east along Interstate 10 to U.S. Highway 180; then north along U.S. Highway 180 to State Route 26; then north along State Route 26 to State Route 27; then northeast along State Route 27 to the Luna/Sierra County line; then east along the Luna County line to the Dona County line; then south along the Luna County line to the United States/Mexico boundary; then west along the United States/Mexico boundary to the Hidalgo County line; then north along the Luna County line to the point of beginning.

Sierra County. Beginning at intersection of the Luna/Sierra County line and State Route 27; then north along State Route 27 to State Route 152; then east along State Route 152 to

Interstate 25; then north along Interstate 25 to State Route 52; then northwest along State Route 52 to the Sierra/Socorro County line; then east along the Sierra County line to the Lincoln County line; then south along the Sierra County line to the Dona County line; then west along the Sierra County line to the point of beginning.

Texas

El Paso County. The entire county.

Hudspeth County. Beginning at the intersection of the El Paso/Hudspeth County line and U.S. Highway 62/U.S. Highway 180; then east along U.S. Highway 62/U.S. Highway 180 to County Road 1111; then south along County Road 1111 to its terminus; then west along an imaginary line to the United States/Mexico boundary; then northwest along the United States/Mexico boundary to the El Paso/Hudspeth County line; then north along the El Paso/Hudspeth County line to the point of beginning.

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Done in Washington, DC, this 27th day of June 1996.

Terry L. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96–16998 Filed 7–3–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 946

[Docket No. FV96–946–2FIR]

Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (Department) is adopting as a final rule, without change, the provisions of an interim final rule that established an assessment rate of the State of Washington Potato Committee (Committee) under Marketing Order 946 for the 1996–97 and subsequent fiscal periods. The Committee is responsible for local administration of the marketing order which regulates the handling of Irish potatoes grown in Washington. Authorization to assess potato handlers enables the Committee to incur expenses that are reasonable and necessary to administer the program. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective on July 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Martha Sue Clark, Program Assistant, Marketing Order Administration