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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

7 CFR Part 2

Revision of Delegations of Authority

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service; Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule revises the delegations of authority from the Under Secretary for Rural Development. This rule will effectuate the change of the delegation of the administration of the hazardous weather early warning systems program, from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service (RHS), to the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 27, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Lamont Heppie, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1522. Telephone: 202-720-9551. E-mail: fheppie@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Administration and Congress recognize the need to advance coverage of the NOAA Weather Radio and Alert Systems in unserved rural areas. The Administration requested, and Congress appropriated funds for this program, under section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926). It has been determined that the hazardous weather early warning systems and the grant funds appropriated therefor should be administered by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), in accordance with the authorizing legislation.

This rule relates to internal agency management. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, notice of proposed rule making and opportunity for comment

are not required, and this rule is made effective on the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. Further, since this rule relates to internal agency management, it is exempt from the provisions of Executive Order Nos. 12866 and 12988. In addition, this action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), and, thus, is exempt from the provisions of that Act. This action is not a rule as defined in 5 U.S.C. 804 and thus does not require review by Congress.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 2

Authority delegations (Government agencies).

PART 2—DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Accordingly, part 2, title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for part 2 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6912(a)(1); 5 U.S.C. 301; Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953, 3 CFR 1949-1953 Comp., p. 1024.

Subpart G—Delegation of Authority by the Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development

2. Amend § 2.47 to redesignate paragraphs (a)(4)(vi) through (a)(4)(x) as (a)(4)(vii) through (a)(4)(xi) and add a new paragraph (a)(4)(vi) to read as follows:

§ 2.47 Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

(a) * * *

(4) * * *

(vi) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926) relating to hazardous weather early warning systems;

* * * * *

3. Amend § 2.49 to revise paragraph (a)(1)(i) to read as follows:

§ 2.49 Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) Section 306 (7 U.S.C. 1926) except subsection 306(a)(11) and except financing for water and waste disposal facilities; hazardous weather early warning systems; grazing facilities;

irrigation and drainage facilities; rural electrification or telephone systems or facilities; and hydro-electric generating and related distribution systems and supplemental and supporting structures if they are eligible for Rural Utilities financing;

* * * * *

Dated: March 18, 2001.

Ann M. Veneman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 01-7388 Filed 3-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 932

[Docket No. FV99-932-610 REVIEW]

California Olives; Section 610 Review of Marketing Order

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Review of marketing order; Continuation of regulations.

SUMMARY: This action summarizes the results of an Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) review of Marketing Order 932 for olives grown in California, under the criteria contained in section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

DATES: *Effective:* March 27, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may obtain a copy of the review. Requests for copies should be sent to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, Room 2525-S, Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Fax: (202) 720-5698; or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kurt Kimmel, Regional Manager, California Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 2202 Monterey Street, Suite 102B, Fresno, California 93721; telephone: (209) 487-5901; Fax: (209) 487-5906; E-mail: Kurt.Kimmel@usda.gov; or George Kelhart, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-

2491; Fax: (202) 720-5698; E-mail: George.Kelhart@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Marketing Order No. 932, as amended (7 CFR Part 932), regulates the handling of olives grown in California. The marketing order is effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (Act), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674).

AMS published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 8014; February 18, 1999), its plan to review certain regulations, including Marketing Order No. 932, under criteria contained in section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA; 5 U.S.C. 601-612). Accordingly, AMS published a notice of review and request for written comments on the California olive marketing order in the August 5, 1999, issue of the **Federal Register** (64 FR 42619). No written comments were received.

The review was undertaken to determine whether the California marketing order for olives should be continued without change, amended, or rescinded to minimize the impacts on small entities. In conducting this review, AMS considered the following factors: (1) The continued need for the marketing order; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received from the public concerning the marketing order; (3) the complexity of the marketing order; (4) the extent to which the marketing order overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal rules, and, to the extent feasible, with State and local governmental rules; and (5) the length of time since the marketing order has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the marketing order.

Currently, there are about 1,000 olive growers in California and two handlers processing canned olives under the marketing order.

AMS has determined that the marketing order should be continued without change. The marketing order was established in 1965 to eliminate inconsistencies in and to improve the quality of canned ripe olives in the marketplace, and to assure that the growers are paid a fair return for the olives delivered by them to canners. The marketing order's regulations on the uniform application of size and quality requirements, through third party inspection continue to be beneficial to growers, canners, and end-users.

The AMS has received no complaints about the marketing order regulations. The marketing order is not unduly complex, and AMS has not identified

any relevant Federal rules, or State and local regulations that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the California olive marketing order.

AMS and the California olive industry monitor marketing operations on a continuing basis. Changes in regulations are implemented to reflect current industry operating practices, and to solve marketing problems as they occur. The goal of these evaluations is to assure that the marketing order and the regulations implemented under it fit the needs of the industry and are consistent with the Act.

Over the years, regulation changes have been made to address industry operation changes and to improve program administration.

AMS plans to continue working with the California olive industry in maintaining an effective marketing order program.

Dated: March 21, 2001.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 01-7529 Filed 3-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 959

[Docket No. FV01-959-1 IFR]

Onions Grown in South Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim final rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: This rule decreases the assessment rate established for the South Texas Onion Committee (Committee) for the 2000-2001 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.04 to \$0.03 per 50-pound container or equivalent of onions handled. The Committee locally administers the marketing order which regulates the handling of onions grown in South Texas. Authorization to assess onion handlers enables the Committee to incur expenses that are reasonable and necessary to administer the program. The fiscal period began August 1 and ends July 31. The assessment rate will remain in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated.

DATES: Effective March 28, 2001. Comments received by May 29, 2001, will be considered prior to issuance of a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this rule. Comments must be sent to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia Cavazos, Marketing Assistant, McAllen Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1313 E. Hackberry, McAllen, Texas 78501; telephone: (956) 682-2833, Fax: (956) 682-5942; or George Kelhart, Technical Advisor, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Jay Guerber, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Agreement No. 143 and Order No. 959, both as amended (7 CFR part 959), regulating the handling of onions grown in South Texas, hereinafter referred to as the "order." The marketing agreement and order are effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "Act."

The Department of Agriculture (Department) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. Under the marketing order now in effect, South Texas onion handlers are subject to assessments. Funds to administer the order are derived from such assessments. It is intended that the assessment rate as issued herein will be applicable to all assessable onions beginning August 1, 2000, and continue until amended, suspended, or