

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all prunes handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year's shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose.

§ 924.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a) (2) and (3) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of any excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal period unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: *Provided*, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish and maintain during one or more fiscal years an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed approximately one fiscal year's operational expenses. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for all expenses authorized pursuant to § 924.40.

(3) Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: *Provided*, That to the extent

practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to his successor in office, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

RESEARCH

§ 924.45 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, and marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of fresh prunes. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 924.41.

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REGULATIONS

§ 924.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to § 924.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

(1) The estimated total production of prunes within the production area;

(2) The expected general quality and size of prunes in the production area and in other areas;

(3) The expected demand conditions for prunes in different market outlets;

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(4) The expected shipments of prunes produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;

(5) Supplies of competing commodities;

(6) Trend and level of consumer income;

(7) Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of prunes; and

(8) The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season.

(b) In the event it becomes advisable, because of changes in the supply and demand situation for prunes, to modify substantially such marketing policy, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy report setting forth the information prescribed in this section. The committee shall publicly announce the contents of each marketing policy report, including each revised marketing policy report, and copies thereof shall be maintained in the office of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers.

§ 924.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of prunes in the manner provided in § 924.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for prunes during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 924.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of prunes whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations will tend

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to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

(1) Limit, during any period or periods, the shipment of any particular grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of prunes grown in any district or districts: *Provided*, That whenever any regulation under this paragraph prescribes a specific maturity requirement applicable to the handling of any variety of prunes, such maturity requirement shall apply uniformly to all prunes of such variety grown in both districts;

(2) Limit the shipment of prunes by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of prunes;

(4) Prescribe requirements, as provided in this paragraph, applicable to exports of any variety of prunes which are different from those applicable to the handling of the same variety to other destinations.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to growers and handlers.

§ 924.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to § 924.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of prunes in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension. If the Secretary finds