

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 955

[Docket No. FV-95-955-1]

Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Order Directing That a Referendum be Conducted

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Referendum order.

SUMMARY: This document directs that a referendum be conducted among eligible producers of Vidalia onions to determine whether they favor continuance of the marketing order regulating the handling of Vidalia onions grown in the production area.

DATES: The referendum will be conducted from March 1 through March 31, 1995. To vote in this referendum, growers must have been producing Vidalia onions during the period January 1 through August 15, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the marketing order may be obtained from the office of the referendum agent at P.O. Box 2276, Winter Haven, Florida, 33883-2276, or the Office of the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William J. Pimental, Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2276, Winter Haven, Florida, 33881-2276; telephone: (813) 299-4770, or Shoshana Avrishon, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2536-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-3610.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Marketing Order No. 955 [7 CFR Part

955], hereinafter referred to as the "order," and the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended [7 U.S.C. 601-674], hereinafter referred to as the "Act," it is hereby directed that a referendum be conducted to ascertain whether continuance of the order is favored by the producers. The referendum shall be conducted during the period March 1 through March 31, 1995, among Vidalia onion producers in the production area. Only producers that were engaged in the production of Vidalia onions during the period of January 1 through August 15, 1994, may participate in the continuance referendum.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that continuance referenda are an effective means for ascertaining whether producers favor continuation of marketing order programs. The Secretary would consider termination of the order if less than two-thirds of the producers voting in the referendum and producers of less than two-thirds of the volume of Vidalia onions represented in the referendum favor continuance. In evaluating the merits of continuance versus termination, the Secretary will not only consider the results of the continuance referendum. The Secretary will also consider other relevant information concerning the operation of the order; the order's relative benefits and disadvantages to producers, handlers, and consumers; and whether continued operation of the order would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

In any event, section 8c(16)(B) of the Act requires the Secretary to terminate an order whenever the Secretary finds that a majority of all producers affected by the order favor termination, and such majority produced for market more than 50 percent of the commodity covered under such order.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the ballot materials used in the referendum herein ordered have been submitted to and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0160 for Vidalia onions. It has been estimated that it will take an average of 10 minutes for each of the approximately 250 producers of Vidalia onions to cast a ballot. Participation is voluntary. Ballots postmarked after

March 31, 1995, will not be included in the vote tabulation.

William J. Pimental and Christian D. Nissen of the Southeast Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, are hereby designated as the referendum agents of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct such referendum. The procedure applicable to the referendum shall be the "Procedure for the Conduct of Referenda in Connection With Marketing Orders for Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as Amended" (7 CFR part 900.400 *et seq.*).

Ballots will be mailed to all producers of record and may also be obtained from the referendum agents.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 955

Marketing agreements, Onions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

Dated: February 21, 1995.

Patricia Jensen,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

[FR Doc. 95-4740 Filed 2-24-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 308, 310, 318, 320, 325, 326, 327, and 381

[Docket No. 95-005N]

Information Briefings: Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Announcement of outreach activities.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing a series of public outreach activities to provide information on the proposed rule titled "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Systems" that was published on February 3, 1995. These activities consist of six briefings on the proposal; three scientific/technical conferences; and one two-day public hearing. These