

The Committee also recommended workman's compensation tax expenses of \$400 for which no funding was recommended last year and \$17,400 for an agreement with the Washington State Potato Commission to provide certain services to the Committee as specified in the agreement. Included in the \$17,400 for this year are salaries and salary expenses which were budgeted separately last year at \$11,200 and \$1,800 and other expenses which were \$2,400 for last year. In this year's budget, these items are included under the Commission agreement.

The Committee also unanimously recommended an assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight, \$0.002 less than last season. This rate, when applied to anticipated shipments of 9 million hundredweight, will yield \$27,000 in assessment income. This, along with \$15,300 from the Committee's authorized reserve will be adequate to cover budgeted expenses. Funds in the reserve as of January 31, 1995, were \$75,025, which is within the maximum permitted by the order of two fiscal periods' expenses.

While this rule will impose some additional costs on handlers, the costs are in the form of uniform assessments on all handlers. Some of the additional costs may be passed on to producers. However, these costs will be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the marketing order. Therefore, the Administrator of the AMS has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

After consideration of all relevant material presented, including the information and recommendation submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, it is also found and determined upon good cause that it is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest to give preliminary notice prior to putting this rule into effect because: (1) The Committee needs to have sufficient funds to pay its expenses which are incurred on a continuous basis; (2) the fiscal period begins on July 1, 1995, and the marketing order requires that the rate of assessment for the fiscal period apply to all assessable potatoes handled during the fiscal period; (3) handlers are aware of this rule which was unanimously recommended by the Committee at a public meeting and is similar to other budget rules issued in past years; and (4) this interim final rule provides a 30-day comment period, and

all comments timely received will be considered prior to finalization of this rule.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 946

Marketing agreements, Potatoes, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 946 is amended as follows:

PART 946—IRISH POTATOES GROWN IN WASHINGTON

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 946 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

2. A new § 946.247 is added to read as follows:

Note: This section will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

§ 946.247 Expenses and assessment rate.

Expenses of \$42,300 by the State of Washington Potato Committee are authorized, and an assessment rate of \$0.003 per hundredweight of assessable potatoes is established for the fiscal period ending June 30, 1996.

Unexpended funds may be carried over as a reserve.

Dated: March 31, 1995.

Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,

Deputy Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.
[FR Doc. 95-8425 Filed 4-5-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

7 CFR Part 985

[FV95-985-2IFR]

Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 1994-95 Marketing Year

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim final rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: This interim final rule increases the quantity of Class 3 (Native) spearmint oil produced in the Far West that handlers may purchase from, or handle for, producers during the 1994-95 marketing year. This rule was recommended by the Spearmint Oil Administrative Committee (Committee), the agency responsible for local administration of the marketing order for spearmint oil produced in the Far West. The Committee recommended this rule to avoid extreme fluctuations in supplies and prices and thus help to

maintain stability in the Far West spearmint oil market.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 6, 1995; comments received by May 8, 1995 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 in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, room 2525, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; Fax: (202) 720-5698. All comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert J. Curry, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, 1220 SW. Third Avenue, room 369, Portland, Oregon 97204-2807; telephone: (503) 326-2724; or Caroline C. Thorpe, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, room 2525, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-8139.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Order No. 985 (7 CFR Part 985), regulating the handling of spearmint oil produced in the Far West (Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and designated parts of California, Nevada, Montana, and Utah), hereinafter referred to as the "order." This order is 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 12778, Civil Justice Reform. Under the provisions of the marketing order now in effect, salable quantities and allotment percentages may be established for classes of spearmint oil produced in the Far West. This rule increases the quantity of Class 3 spearmint oil produced in the Far West that may be purchased from or handled for producers by handlers during the 1994-95 marketing year, which ends on May 31, 1995. This rule will not preempt any state or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any handler subject to an order may file with the Secretary a petition stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law and request a modification of the order or to be exempted therefrom. A handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which the handler is an inhabitant, or has his or her principal place of business, has jurisdiction in equity to review the Secretary's ruling on the petition, provided a bill in equity is filed not later than 20 days after date of the entry of the ruling.

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this action on small entities.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of business subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be unduly or disproportionately burdened. Marketing orders issued pursuant to the Act, and rules issued thereunder, are unique in that they are brought about through group action of essentially small entities acting on their own behalf. Thus, both statutes have small entity orientation and compatibility.

There are eight spearmint oil handlers subject to regulation under the order and approximately 260 producers of spearmint oil in the regulated production area. Of the 260 producers, approximately 160 producers hold Class 1 (Scotch) spearmint oil allotment base, and approximately 145 producers hold Class 3 (Native) spearmint oil allotment base. Small agricultural service firms have been defined by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.601) as those having annual receipts of less than \$5,000,000, and small agricultural producers are defined as those whose annual receipts are less than \$500,000. A minority of handlers and producers of Far West spearmint oil may be classified as small entities.

The Far West spearmint oil industry is characterized by producers whose farming operations generally involve more than one commodity and whose income from farming operations are not exclusively dependent on the production of spearmint oil. The U.S. production of spearmint oil is concentrated in the Far West, primarily

Washington, Idaho, and Oregon (part of the area covered by the order). Spearmint oil is also produced in the Midwest. The production area covered by the order accounts for approximately 75 percent of the annual U.S. production of spearmint oil.

This rule increases the quantity of Native spearmint oil that handlers may purchase from, or handle for, producers during the 1994-95 marketing year, which ends on May 31, 1995. This rule increases the salable quantity from 1,287,680 pounds to 1,358,404 pounds and the allotment percentage from 66 percent to 70 percent for Native spearmint oil for the 1994-95 marketing year.

The salable quantity is the total quantity of each class of oil that handlers may purchase from, or handle for, producers during a marketing year. The salable quantity calculated by the Committee is based on the estimated trade demand. The total salable quantity is divided by the total industry allotment base to determine an allotment percentage. Each producer is allotted a share of the salable quantity by applying the allotment percentage to the producer's allotment base for the applicable class of spearmint oil.

The initial salable quantities and allotment percentages for Scotch and Native spearmint oils for the 1994-95 marketing year were recommended by the Committee at its October 6, 1993, meeting. The Committee recommended salable quantities of 723,326 pounds and 897,388 pounds, and allotment percentages of 41 percent and 46 percent, respectively, for Scotch and Native spearmint oils. A proposed rule was published in the December 21, 1993, issue of the **Federal Register** (58 FR 67378). Comments on the proposed rule were solicited from interested persons until January 20, 1994. No comments were received. Accordingly, based upon analysis of available information, a final rule establishing the salable quantities and allotment percentages for Scotch and Native spearmint oils for the 1994-95 marketing year was published in the March 16, 1994, issue of the **Federal Register** (59 FR 12151).

At its June 14, 1994, teleconference meeting, the Committee recommended that the salable quantity and allotment percentage for Native spearmint oil for the 1994-95 marketing year be increased. The Committee recommended that the Native spearmint oil salable quantity be increased from 897,388 pounds to 1,092,577 pounds, and that the allotment percentage, based on a revised total allotment base of 1,951,032 pounds, be increased from 46

to 56 percent resulting in a 195,189 pound increase in the salable quantity.

An interim final rule was published in the August 26, 1994, **Federal Register** (59 FR 44028). Comments on the interim rule were solicited from interested persons until September 26, 1994. No comments were received.

At its October 5, 1994, meeting, the Committee recommended that the salable quantities for Scotch and Native spearmint oils for the 1994-95 marketing year be increased from 723,326 pounds to 811,516 pounds, and from 1,092,577 pounds to 1,287,680 pounds, respectively. Based on a revised total allotment base of 1,763,795 pounds, the Committee recommended that the allotment percentage for Scotch spearmint oil be increased from 41 percent to 46 percent, resulting in an 88,190 pound increase in the salable quantity. Further, based on the revised total allotment base published in the August 26, 1994, **Federal Register** (59 FR 44028), the Committee recommended that the allotment percentage for Native spearmint oil be increased from 56 percent to 66 percent, resulting in a 195,103 pound increase in the salable quantity.

An interim final rule amending the August 26, 1994, rule was published in the October 31, 1994, **Federal Register** (59 FR 54376). Comments on the interim rule were solicited from interested persons until November 30, 1994. No comments were received.

Accordingly, based upon an analysis of available information, a final rule finalizing the 1994-95 salable quantities and allotment percentages was published in the February 2, 1995, **Federal Register** (60 FR 6392).

Pursuant to authority contained in sections 985.50, 985.51, and 985.52 of the order, at its February 22, 1995, meeting, the Committee recommended, with one member voting in opposition, that the salable quantity for Native spearmint oil for the 1994-95 marketing year be increased from 1,287,680 pounds to 1,358,404 pounds. The member voting in opposition favored the establishment of a lower salable quantity that would have resulted in a lower allotment percentage. Based on the revised total allotment base of 1,951,032 pounds, the allotment percentage for Native spearmint oil is increased from 66 percent to 70 percent, resulting in a 70,724 pound increase in the salable quantity.

Native Spearmint Oil Recommendations

(1) Salable Quantity

October 6, 1993	897,388 pounds
June 14, 1994	1,092,577 pounds
October 5, 1994	1,287,680 pounds

February 22, 1995	1,358,404 pounds
(2) Total Allotment Base	
October 6, 1993	1,950,843 pounds
June 14, 1994	1,951,032 pounds
October 5, 1994	1,951,032 pounds
February 22, 1995	1,951,032 pounds
(3) Allotment Percentage	
October 6, 1993	46 percent
June 14, 1994	56 percent
October 5, 1994	66 percent
February 22, 1995	70 percent

In making this latest recommendation the Committee considered all available information on supply and demand.

As of February 22, 1995, the Committee reports that of the 1994-95 marketing year Scotch and Native spearmint oil salable quantities of 811,516 pounds and 1,287,680 pounds, respectively, 154,375 pounds and 70,840 pounds remained available for handling. Handlers have indicated that the available supply of Scotch spearmint oil is adequate to meet anticipated demand through May 31, 1995. However, handlers have indicated that demand for Native spearmint oil may be as high as 100,000 pounds for the remainder of this marketing year. This level of demand was not anticipated by the Committee when it made its initial recommendation for the establishment of the Scotch and Native spearmint oil salable quantities and allotment percentages for the 1994-95 marketing year, nor was it foreseen when the Committee made its June 14 and October 5, 1994, recommendations for increasing the Native spearmint oil salable quantity and allotment percentage.

The recommended salable quantity of 1,358,404 pounds of Native spearmint oil (an increase of 70,724 pounds), combined with the June 1, 1994, carry-in of 19,139 pounds, results in a revised 1994-95 available supply of 1,377,543 pounds. The revised available supply of Native spearmint oil is approximately 300,000 pounds higher than the annual average of sales for the past five years. The Committee anticipates that foreseeable demand for Native spearmint oil will be adequately met for the remainder of the 1994-95 marketing year.

The Department, based on its analysis of available information, has determined that an allotment percentage of 70 percent should be established for Native spearmint oil for the 1994-95 marketing year. This percentage will provide an increased salable quantity of 1,358,404 pounds of Native spearmint oil.

Based on available information, the Administrator of the AMS has determined that the issuance of this interim final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

After consideration of all relevant matter presented, including that contained in the prior proposed, final, and interim final rules in connection with the establishment of the salable quantities and allotment percentages for Scotch and Native spearmint oils for the 1994-95 marketing year, the Committee's recommendation and other available information, it is found that to revise section 985.213 (60 FR 6392) to change the salable quantity and allotment percentage for Native spearmint oil, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, it is also found and determined upon good cause that it is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to public interest to give preliminary notice prior to putting this rule into effect and that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this rule until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** because: (1) This interim final rule increases the quantity of Native spearmint oil that may be marketed immediately; (2) Handlers and producers should be apprised as soon as possible of the salable quantity and allotment percentage of Native spearmint oil contained in this interim final rule; and (3) This rule provides a 30-day comment period and any comments received will be considered prior to finalization of this rule.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 985

Marketing agreements, Oils and fats, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Spearmint oil.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 985 is amended as follows:

PART 985—SPEARMINT OIL PRODUCED IN THE FAR WEST

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 985 continues to read as follows:

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

2. Section 985.213 is amended by revising the introductory text and paragraph (b) to read as follows:

Note: This section will not appear in the annual Code of Federal Regulations.

§ 985.213 Salable quantities and allotment percentages—1994-95 marketing year.

The salable quantity and allotment percentage for each class of spearmint oil during the marketing year beginning on June 1, 1994, shall be as follows:

* * * * *

(b) Class 3 (Native) oil—a salable quantity of 1,358,404 pounds and an allotment percentage of 70 percent.

Dated: March 31, 1995.

Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,

Deputy Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

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BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 208

[Regulation H; Docket No. R-0873]

Membership of State Banking Institutions in the Federal Reserve System

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Final rule; interpretation.

SUMMARY: The Board is issuing an interpretation of the provisions of its Regulation H, Membership of State Banking Institutions in the Federal Reserve System, concerning the establishment of loan production offices and "back office" facilities by state member banks. The interpretation provides that a state member bank may establish a back office facility that is not accessible to the public without such a facility being considered to be a branch. The interpretation also provides that loans originated by a loan production office may be approved at a back office location, rather than at the main office or a branch of the bank, without the loan production office being considered to be a branch, if the proceeds of loans originated by the loan production office are received by customers at locations other than a loan production office or back office facility. This interpretation is intended to provide parity between state member banks and national banks with respect to the establishment of loan production offices and back office facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 6, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lawrance Stewart, Senior Attorney (202/452-3513), Legal Division. For the hearing impaired *only*, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf ("TDD"), Dorothea Thompson (202/452-3544).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In connection with the acquisition of a mortgage company by a state member bank, the Board has been asked to consider two issues with respect to the types of facilities that a state member bank may establish to engage in activities related to lending at locations that are not approved branches: (1) Whether a state member bank may establish a "back office" facility that is not accessible to the public without