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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 94-117-2]

Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule.

SUMMARY: We are amending the Oriental fruit fly regulations by removing the quarantine on a portion of Los Angeles County, CA, and by removing the restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from that area. This action is necessary to relieve restrictions that are no longer needed to prevent the artificial spread of the Oriental fruit fly into noninfested areas of the United States. We have determined that the Oriental fruit fly has been eradicated from this portion of Los Angeles County and that the quarantine and restrictions are no longer necessary.

DATES: Interim rule effective April 7, 1995. Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before June 12, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 94-117-2, 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. 94-117-2. 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, Suite 4C03, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Oriental fruit fly, *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel), is a destructive pest of citrus and other types of fruit, nuts, and vegetables. The short life cycle of the Oriental fruit fly allows rapid development of serious outbreaks that can cause severe economic losses. Heavy infestations can cause complete loss of crops.

The Oriental fruit fly regulations, contained in 7 CFR 301.93 through 301.93-10 (referred to below as the regulations), impose restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas to prevent the spread of the Oriental fruit fly to noninfested areas of the United States. The regulations also designate soil and a large number of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and berries as regulated articles. In an interim rule effective on November 7, 1994, and published in the Federal Register on November 14, 1994 (59 FR 56375-56376, Docket No. 94-117-1), we amended the regulations in § 301.93-3 by quarantining a portion of Los Angeles County, CA, and restricting the interstate movement of regulated articles from that area.

Based on trapping surveys conducted by inspectors of California State and county agencies and by inspectors of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, we have determined that the Oriental fruit fly has been eradicated from the previously quarantined portion of Los Angeles County, CA. The last finding of Oriental fruit fly in this area was October 18, 1994.

Since then, no evidence of Oriental fruit fly infestations has been found in this area. Based on Departmental experience, we have determined that sufficient time has passed without finding additional flies or other evidence of infestation to conclude that the Oriental fruit fly no longer exists in Los Angeles County, CA. Further, Oriental fruit fly infestations are not known to exist anywhere else in the continental United States. Therefore, we are removing Los Angeles County, CA,

from the list of quarantined areas in § 301.93-3(c), and revising § 301.93-3(c) to state that the Oriental fruit fly is not known to exist anywhere in the continental 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. Immediate action is warranted to remove an unnecessary regulatory burden on the public. A portion of Los Angeles County, CA, was quarantined due to the possibility that the Oriental fruit fly could be spread from this area to noninfested areas of the United States. Since this situation no longer exists, immediate action is necessary to remove the quarantine on Los Angeles County, CA, and to relieve the restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from that area.

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 interim rule relieves restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from a portion of Los Angeles County, CA. There is very little commercial activity in the previously quarantined area that may be affected by this rule. There are approximately 516 entities that may be affected by this rule. All would be considered small entities. These include 486 fruit sellers, 13 nurseries, 10 swap meets, 6 wholesale distributors, and 1 farmers market. These small entities comprise less than 1 percent of the total number of similar small entities operating in the State of

California. In addition, these small entities sell regulated articles primarily for local intrastate, not interstate, movement so the effect, if any, of this regulation on these entities appears to be minimal.

The effect on those few entities that did move previously regulated articles interstate was minimized by the availability of various treatments, that, in most cases, allowed these small entities to move regulated articles interstate with very little additional cost.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

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 requires 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 document contains no new information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (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 2.17, 2.51, and 371.2(c).

2. In § 301.93–3, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 301.93–3 Quarantined areas.

* * * * *

(c) The Oriental fruit fly is not known to exist anywhere in the continental United States.

Done in Washington, DC, this 7th day of April 1995.

Terry I. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 95–9160 Filed 4–12–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

9 CFR Part 77

[Docket No. 95–020–1]

Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State Designation

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the tuberculosis regulations concerning the interstate movement of cattle and bison by raising the designation of North Carolina from a modified accredited State to an accredited-free State. We have determined that North Carolina meets the criteria for designation as an accredited-free State.

DATES: Interim rule effective April 13, 1995. Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before June 12, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 95–020–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. 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: Dr. Mitchell A. Essey, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Cattle Diseases and Surveillance, VS, APHIS, Suite 3B08, 4700 River Road Unit 36, Riverdale, MD, 20737–1231, (301) 734–7727.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Bovine tuberculosis is the contagious, infectious, and communicable disease caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. The tuberculosis regulations, contained in 9 CFR part 77 (referred to below as the regulations), regulate the interstate movement of cattle and bison because of tuberculosis. Cattle or bison not known

to be affected with or exposed to tuberculosis are eligible for interstate movement without restriction if those cattle or bison are moved from jurisdictions designated as accredited-free States or modified accredited States. The regulations restrict the interstate movement of cattle or bison not known to be affected with or exposed to tuberculosis if those cattle or bison are moved from jurisdictions designated as nonmodified accredited States.

The status of a State is based on its freedom from evidence of tuberculosis, the effectiveness of the State's tuberculosis eradication program, and the degree of the State's compliance with the standards contained in the "Uniform Methods and Rules—Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication," which is part of the regulations via incorporation by reference in part 77. A State must have no findings of tuberculosis in any cattle or bison in the State for at least 5 years in order to be designated as an accredited-free State.

Before publication of this interim rule, North Carolina was designated in § 77.1 of the regulations as a modified accredited State. However, North Carolina now meets the requirements for designation as an accredited-free State. Therefore, we are amending the regulations by removing North Carolina from the list of modified accredited States in § 77.1 and adding it to the list of accredited-free States in that section.

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. Immediate action is warranted, as North Carolina currently meets the criteria for designation as an accredited-free State. This action provides prospective cattle and bison buyers with accurate and up-to-date information, which may affect the marketability of cattle and bison since some prospective buyers prefer to buy cattle and bison from accredited-free States.

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 publication in the Federal Register. 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