

into the United States not later than June 15, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1-³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended December 12, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 26, effective December 18, 1996, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 26 is established as of December 18, 1996, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 17, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than June 15, 1997. The quota amount, 44,522,887 kilograms (98,156,244 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—August 1996 through October 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, P.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on January 22, 1997.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary.

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Agricultural Marketing Service

[No. LS-97-004]

Beef Promotion and Research: Certification and Nomination for the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is accepting applications from State cattle producer and general farm organizations as well as beef importers who desire to be certified to nominate producers or importers for appointment to vacant positions on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board (Board). Organizations which have not previously been certified that are interested in submitting nominations must complete and submit an official application form to AMS. Previously certified organizations do not need to reapply. Notice is also given that vacancies will occur on the Board and that during a period to be established, nominations will be accepted from eligible organizations and individual importers.

DATES: Applications for certification must be received by close of business February 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Certification forms as well as copies of the certification and nomination procedures may be requested from Ralph L. Tapp, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch—STOP 0251; Livestock and Seed Division; AMS, USDA; Room 2606-S; P.O. Box 96456; Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch on 202/720-1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (Act) (7 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.), enacted December 23, 1985, authorizes the implementation of a Beef Promotion and Research Order (Order). The Order, as published in the July 18, 1986, Federal Register (51 FR 26132),

provides for the establishment of a Board. The current Board consists of 104 cattle producers and 7 importers appointed by the Secretary. The duties and responsibilities of the Board are specified in the Order.

The Act and the Order provide that the Secretary shall either certify or otherwise determine the eligibility of State or importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board to ensure that nominees represent the interests of cattle producers and importers. Nominations for importer representatives may also be made by individuals who import cattle, beef, or beef products. Individual importers do not need to be certified as eligible to submit nominations. When individual importers submit nominations, they must establish to the satisfaction of the Secretary that they are in fact importers of cattle, beef, or beef products, pursuant to § 1260.143(b)(2) of the Order [7 CFR 1260.143(b)(2)]. Individual importers are encouraged to contact AMS at the above address to obtain further information concerning the nomination process including the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and required nomination forms and background information sheets. Certification and nomination procedures were promulgated in the final rule, published in the April 4, 1986, Federal Register (51 FR 11557) and currently appear at 7 CFR § 1260.500 through § 1260.640. Organizations which have previously been certified to nominate members to the Board do not need to reapply for certification to nominate producers and importers for the existing vacancies.

The Act and the Order provide that the members of the Board shall serve for terms of 3 years. The Order also requires USDA to announce when a Board vacancy does or will exist. The following States have one or more members whose terms will expire in early 1998:

State or unit	Number of vacancies
Arizona	1
California	2
Colorado	1
Iowa	2
Kansas	2
Louisiana	1
Michigan	1
Minnesota	1
Mississippi	1
Missouri	1
Nebraska	2
New Mexico	1
North Carolina	1
Oklahoma	1
South Carolina	1

State or unit	Number of vacancies
South Dakota	2
Tennessee	1
Texas	4
Utah	1
Wisconsin	2
Wyoming	1
Mid-Atlantic Unit	1
Northeast Unit	1
Western Unit (Oregon-Nevada Region)	1
Importer Unit	2

Since there are no anticipated vacancies on the Board for the remaining States' positions, or for the positions of the Northwest unit, nominations will not be solicited from certified organizations or associations in those States or units.

Uncertified eligible producer organizations in all States that are interested in being certified as eligible to nominate cattle producers for appointment to the listed producer positions, must complete and submit an official "Application for Certification of Organization or Association," which must be received by close of business February 28, 1997. Uncertified eligible importer organizations that are interested in being certified as eligible to nominate importers for appointment to the listed importer positions must apply by the same date. Importers should not use the application form but should provide the requested information by letter as provided for in 7 CFR § 1260.540(b). Applications from States or units without vacant positions on the Board and other applications not received within the 30-day period after publication of this Notice in the Federal Register will be considered for eligibility to nominate producers or importers for subsequent vacancies on the Board.

Only those organizations or associations which meet the criteria for certification of eligibility promulgated at 7 CFR § 1260.530 are eligible for certification. Those criteria are:

- (a) For State organizations or associations:
 - (1) Total paid membership must be comprised of at least a majority of cattle producers or represent at least a majority of cattle producers in a State or unit.
 - (2) Membership must represent a substantial number of producers who produce a substantial number of cattle in such State or unit.
 - (3) There must be a history of stability and permanency.
 - (4) There must be a primary or overriding purpose of promoting the economic welfare of cattle producers.

(b) For organizations or associations representing importers, the determination by the Secretary as to the eligibility of importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board shall be based on applications containing the following information:

- (1) The number and type of members represented (i.e., beef or cattle importers, etc.).
- (2) Annual import volume in pounds of beef and beef products and/or the number of head of cattle.
- (3) The stability and permanency of the importer organization or association.
- (4) The number of years in existence.
- (5) The names of the countries of origin for cattle, beef, or beef products imported.

All certified organizations and associations, including those which were previously certified in the States or units having vacant positions on the Board, will be notified simultaneously in writing of the beginning and ending dates of the established nomination period and will be provided with required nomination forms and background information sheets.

The names of qualified nominees received by the established due date will be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for consideration as appointees to the Board.

The information collection requirements referenced in this notice have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0093, except Board member nominee information sheets are assigned OMB No. 0505-0001.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*

Dated: January 23, 1997.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

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Forest Service

Environmental Impact Statement, Crystal Creek Timber Harvest on the Petersburg Ranger District, Stikine Area, Tongass National Forest, Petersburg, Alaska

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Stikine Area of the USDA Forest Service proposes to harvest approximately 16 million board feet of timber in the Crystal Creek project area, which is near Thomas Bay on the

Southeast Alaska mainland. A variety of harvest methods and silvicultural prescriptions will be used. This project would include the necessary road construction for transport of timber. The existing log transfer site would be reconstructed at Thomas Bay.

The purpose and need for this project is to make available for harvest approximately 16 million board feet of timber. This will:

1. Implement direction in the Tongass Land Management Plan,
2. Contribute to providing a sustained volume of wood to meet local and national demand, and
3. Provide local and regional employment opportunities.

There may also be opportunities to maintain or enhance forage for moose habitat to sustain a huntable population in the area. Activities such as commercial and pre-commercial thinning of second growth stands, and geographically distributing timber harvest over time and habitat will be considered toward achieving this goal.

A variety of resources and values will be maintained through the application of ecosystem management principles in the design of the project.

A range of alternatives will respond to environmental and social issues. The no-action alternative will not harvest timber in the area. The Thomas Bay log transfer facility will be reconstructed and required roads will be constructed or reconstructed as needed.

The decision to be made is:

1. Whether or not timber harvest will occur in the Crystal Creek project area;
2. How much timber will be harvested;
3. Location and design of harvest units;
4. Location and design of road construction and reconstruction; and
5. What mitigation measures and monitoring will be implemented.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be available for public review by June, 1997. The final Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be completed by November, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions, written comments, and suggestions concerning the analysis should be sent to Bruce Sims, Team Leader, Petersburg Ranger District, P.O. Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833, phone (907) 772-3871, fax (907) 772-5995.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All appropriate agencies will be contacted and all required permits will be received before the proposed action is implemented. The following permits are anticipated in order to implement the proposed action: