

location and hours of the reading room is listed under the heading ADDRESSES at the beginning of this notice). In addition, copies may be obtained by calling or writing to the individual listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/ppq/lamiroff.pdf>.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no new information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (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 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7711, 7712, 7714, 7731, 7735, 7751, 7752, 7753, 7754, and 7760; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Section 301.75–15 also issued under Sec. 204, Title II, Pub. L. 106–113, 113 Stat. 1501A–293; sections 301.75–15 and 301.75–16 also issued under Sec. 203, Title II, Pub. L. 106–224, 114 Stat. 400 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note).

2. In § 301.93–3, paragraph (c) is amended by adding, under the heading “CALIFORNIA”, an entry for Los Angeles and Orange Counties to read as follows:

§ 301.93–3 Quarantined areas.

* * * * *
(c) * * *

California

Los Angeles and Orange Counties. That portion of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in the La Mirada area bounded by a line as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Whittier Boulevard and Euclid Street; then south on Euclid Street to its intersection with La Palma Avenue; then west on La Palma Avenue to its intersection with Brookhurst Street; then south on Brookhurst Street to its intersection with Lincoln Avenue; then west on Lincoln Avenue to its intersection with Moody Street; then north on Moody Street to its intersection with Crescent Avenue; then west on Crescent Avenue to its intersection with Centralia Street; then west on Centralia

Street to its intersection with Pioneer Boulevard; then north on Pioneer Boulevard to its intersection with 166th Street; then west on 166th Street to its intersection with Maidstone Avenue; then north on Maidstone Avenue to its intersection with Excelsior Drive; then east on Excelsior Drive to its intersection with Pioneer Boulevard; then north on Pioneer Boulevard to its intersection with Florence Avenue; then northeast on Florence Avenue to its intersection with Whittier Boulevard; then south and east on Whittier Boulevard to the point of beginning.

* * * * *

Done in Washington, DC, this 6th day of January 2003 .

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–491 Filed 1–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 906

[Docket No. FV02–906–1 FIR]

Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, (USDA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is adopting, as a final rule, without change, an interim final rule which decreased the assessment rate established for the Texas Valley Citrus Committee (Committee) for the 2002–03 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.12 to \$0.11 per 7/10-bushel carton of oranges and grapefruit handled. The Committee locally administers the marketing order which regulates the handling of oranges and grapefruit grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Authorization to assess orange and grapefruit handlers enables the Committee to incur expenses that are reasonable and necessary to administer the program. The fiscal period began August 1 and ends July 31. The assessment rate will remain in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated.

DATES: Effective February 10, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Belinda G. Garza, Regional Manager, McAllen Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs,

AMS, USDA, 1313 E. Hackberry, McAllen, TX 78501; telephone: (956) 682–2833, Fax: (956) 682–5942; or George Kelhart, Technical Advisor, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; telephone: (202) 720–2491, Fax: (202) 720–8938.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Jay Guerber, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; telephone: (202) 720–2491, Fax: (202) 720–8938, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Agreement and Order No. 906, as amended (7 CFR part 906), regulating the handling of oranges and grapefruit grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas, hereinafter referred to as the “order.” The 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.”

USDA is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. Under the marketing order now in effect, orange and grapefruit handlers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas are subject to assessments. Funds to administer the order are derived from such assessments. It is intended that the assessment rate as issued herein will be applicable to all assessable oranges and grapefruit beginning on August 1, 2002, and continue until amended, suspended, or terminated. 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 USDA 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. Such handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing USDA 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 to review USDA's ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

This rule continues to decrease the assessment rate established for the Committee for the 2002-03 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.12 to \$0.11 per 7/10-bushel carton of oranges and grapefruit.

The Texas orange and grapefruit marketing order provides authority for the Committee, with the approval of USDA, to formulate an annual budget of expenses and collect assessments from handlers to administer the program. The members of the Committee are producers and handlers of Texas oranges and grapefruit. They are familiar with the Committee's needs and with the costs for goods and services in their local area and are thus in a position to formulate an appropriate budget and assessment rate. The assessment rate is formulated and discussed in a public meeting. Thus, all directly affected persons have an opportunity to participate and provide input.

For the 1999-2000 and subsequent fiscal periods, the Committee recommended, and USDA approved, an assessment rate that would continue in effect from fiscal period to fiscal period unless modified, suspended, or terminated by USDA upon recommendation and information submitted by the Committee or other information available to USDA.

The Committee met on May 30, 2002, and unanimously recommended 2002-03 expenditures of \$1,226,022 and an assessment rate of \$0.12 per 7/10-bushel carton of oranges and grapefruit. The Committee met again on August 28, 2002, and recommended a decreased assessment rate of \$0.11, with no change to the previously approved budget of \$1,226,022. Thirteen of the 14 Committee members and alternates acting as members voted in support of the decrease. One Committee member voted against the decrease. In comparison, last year's budgeted expenditures were \$1,236,777. The assessment rate of \$0.11 is \$0.01 lower than the rate previously in effect. The Committee voted to reduce the assessment rate after determining that its reserve fund was higher than necessary, and to lower handler assessment costs for 2002-03 by \$100,000.

The major expenditures recommended by the Committee for the 2002-03 fiscal period include \$810,500 for advertising, \$179,000 for the

Mexican Fruit Fly program, \$107,845 for management and administration of the program, and \$74,777 for compliance. Budgeted expenses for these items in 2001-02 were \$810,500, \$197,000, \$104,500, and \$74,777, respectively.

The assessment rate recommended by the Committee was derived by dividing anticipated expenses by expected shipments of Texas oranges and grapefruit. Texas orange and grapefruit shipments for the year are estimated at 10 million 7/10-bushel cartons, which should provide \$1,100,000 in assessment income. Income derived from handler assessments, along with interest income and funds from the Committee's authorized reserve, will be adequate to cover budgeted expenses. Funds in the reserve (currently \$274,041) will be kept within the maximum of one fiscal period's expenses permitted by the order (\$906.35).

The assessment rate will continue in effect indefinitely unless modified, suspended, or terminated by USDA upon recommendation and information submitted by the Committee or other available information.

Although this assessment rate is effective for an indefinite period, the Committee will continue to meet prior to or during each fiscal period to recommend a budget of expenses and consider recommendations for modification of the assessment rate. The dates and times of Committee meetings are available from the Committee or USDA. Committee meetings are open to the public and interested persons may express their views at these meetings. USDA will evaluate Committee recommendations and other available information to determine whether modification of the assessment rate is needed. Further rulemaking will be undertaken as necessary. The Committee's 2002-03 budget and those for subsequent fiscal periods will be reviewed and, as appropriate, approved by USDA.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this rule on small entities. Accordingly, AMS has prepared this final regulatory flexibility analysis.

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 the 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 approximately 410 producers of oranges and grapefruit in the production area and approximately 15 handlers subject to regulation under the marketing order. Small agricultural producers are defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) (13 CFR 121.201) as those having annual receipts less than \$750,000, and small agricultural service firms are defined as those whose annual receipts are less than \$5,000,000.

An updated Texas citrus industry profile shows that 6 of the 15 handlers (40 percent) shipped over 651,042 7/10-bushel cartons of oranges and grapefruit. Using an average f.o.b. price of \$7.68 per 7/10-bushel carton, these handlers could be considered large businesses under SBA's definition, and the remaining 9 handlers (60 percent) could be considered small businesses. Of the approximately 410 producers within the production area, few have sufficient acreage to generate sales in excess of \$750,000. Thus, the majority of handlers and producers of Texas oranges and grapefruit may be classified as small entities.

This action continues to decrease the assessment rate established for the Committee and collected from handlers for the 2002-03 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.12 to \$0.11 per 7/10-bushel carton of oranges and grapefruit. The Committee recommended 2002-03 expenditures of \$1,226,022 and an assessment rate of \$0.11 per 7/10-bushel carton of oranges and grapefruit. The assessment rate of \$0.11 is \$0.01 lower than the previous rate. The quantity of assessable oranges and grapefruit for the 2002-03 fiscal year is estimated at 10 million cartons. Income derived from handler assessments, along with interest income and funds from the Committee's authorized reserve, will be adequate to cover budgeted expenses.

The major expenditures recommended by the Committee for the 2002-03 fiscal period include \$810,500 for advertising, \$179,000 for the Mexican Fruit Fly program, \$107,845 for management and administration of the program, and \$74,777 for compliance. Budgeted expenses for these items in 2001-02 were \$810,500, \$197,000, \$104,500, and \$74,777, respectively.

The Committee recommended the \$0.11 assessment rate to lower its operating reserve to \$171,249. With a \$0.12 assessment rate, the Committee projected its reserve on July 31, 2003, to be \$271,249, and it thought that was higher than needed to administer the

program. It also recommended the reduced rate to lower handler assessments by \$100,000 during 2002–03.

The Committee reviewed and unanimously recommended 2002–03 expenditures of \$1,226,022, which included a decrease in the Mexican Fruit Fly program and an increase in the management and administration of the program. Budgeted expenses for the advertising program and the compliance program remained the same as last year. In arriving at the budget, the Committee considered information from various sources, including the Executive Committee. The Committee considered leaving the established higher assessment rate unchanged. However, it concluded that the reserves currently held by the Committee are higher than the Committee needs to administer the program.

The assessment rate of \$0.11 per 7/10-bushel carton of assessable oranges and grapefruit was determined by dividing the total budget by the 10 million 7/10-bushel cartons of oranges and grapefruit estimated to be handled during the 2002–03 fiscal period. The \$0.11 rate will provide \$1,100,000 in assessment income. The additional \$126,022 to fund the Committee's estimated expenses will come from the Committee's reserve, a refund of an overpayment from the Mexican Fruit Fly program, and interest income.

A review of historical information (October 1998 through May 2002) and preliminary information pertaining to the upcoming fiscal period indicates that the packinghouse door price for the 2002–03 fiscal period could range, monthly, from \$1.65 to \$10.36 per 7/10-bushel carton of Texas oranges and grapefruit, depending upon the fruit variety, size, and quality. Therefore, the estimated assessment revenue for the 2002–03 fiscal period as a percentage of total grower (packinghouse door) revenue could range between 6.67 percent and 1.06 percent.

This action continues to decrease the assessment obligation imposed on handlers. Assessments are applied uniformly on all handlers, and some of the costs may be passed on to producers. However, decreasing the assessment rate reduces the burden on handlers, and may reduce the burden on producers. In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the Texas orange and grapefruit industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the August 28, 2002, meeting was a public meeting and

all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue. Finally, interested persons are invited to submit information on the regulatory and informational impacts of this action on small businesses.

This action imposes no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large Texas orange and grapefruit handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

USDA has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

An interim final rule concerning this action was published in the **Federal Register** on October 7, 2002 (67 FR 62318). Copies of that rule were also mailed or sent via facsimile to all orange and grapefruit handlers. Finally, the interim final rule was made available through the Internet by the Office of the Federal Register and USDA. A 60-day comment period was provided for interested persons to respond to the interim final rule. The comment period ended on December 6, 2002, and no comments were received.

A small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Jay Guerber at the previously mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

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.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 906

Grapefruit, Marketing agreements, Oranges, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, the interim final rule amending 7 CFR part 906 which was published at 67 FR 62318 on October 7, 2002, is adopted as a final rule without change.

Dated: January 6, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03–454 Filed 1–9–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1208

[FV–02–710]

Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Information Order; Termination

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, (USDA).

ACTION: Final rule; termination order.

SUMMARY: This final rule terminates the Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Information Order (Order) and its rules and regulations in their entirety. This action is necessary because the Order has not been in operation since 1997, and collection efforts under the Order have been exhausted. Therefore, there is no need to continue the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 10, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margaret B. Irby, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 0244, Room 2535–S, Washington, DC 20250–0244, telephone (202) 720–9915, fax (202) 205–2800, e-mail margaret.irby@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final rule is issued under the Fresh Cut Flowers and Fresh Cut Greens Promotion and Information Act of 1993 [7 U.S.C. 6801–6814] (Act).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA or the Department) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This final rule is not intended to have retroactive effect. This final rule will not preempt any state or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this termination order. The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court.

This final rule terminates the Order and its rules and regulations.

The Act authorizes the creation of a generic program of promotion and information for fresh cut flowers and greens and became effective on December 14, 1993. The Order was issued on December 29, 1994, and the National PromoFlor Council (Council) was appointed to administer the Order under USDA supervision. The Order covered approximately 650 wholesale handlers (qualified first handlers) of