

cotton industry. At pages 313–314, the Joint Explanatory Statement of the committee of conference for section 14201 stated the expectation that the cotton classification fee would be established in the same manner as was applied during the 1992 through 2007 fiscal years. Specifically, it states that the classification fee should continue to be a basic, uniform fee per bale fee as determined necessary to maintain cost-effective cotton classification service. Further, in consulting with the cotton industry, the Secretary should demonstrate the level of fees necessary to maintain effective cotton classification services and provide the Department of Agriculture with an adequate operating reserve, while also working to limit adjustments in the year-to-year fee.

Under the provisions of section 14201, a user fee (dollar amount per bale classed) is proposed for the 2013 cotton crop that, when combined with other sources of revenue, will result in projected revenues sufficient to reasonably cover budgeted costs—adjusted for inflation—and allow for adequate operating reserves to be maintained. Costs considered in this method include salaries, costs of equipment and supplies, and other overhead costs, such as facility costs and costs for administration and supervision. In addition to covering expected costs, the user fee is set such that projected revenues will generate an operating reserve adequate to effectively manage uncertainties related to crop size and cash-flow timing. Furthermore, the operating reserve is expected to meet minimum reserve requirements set by the Agricultural Marketing Service, which require maintenance of a reserve fund amount equal to at least four months of projected operating costs.

The user fee proposed to be charged cotton producers for cotton classification in 2013 is \$2.20 per bale, which is the same fee charged for the 2012 crop. This fee is based on the preseason projection that 13,250,000 bales will be classed by the United States Department of Agriculture during the 2013 crop year.

Accordingly, § 28.909, paragraph (b) would reflect the continuation of the cotton classification fee at \$2.20 per bale.

As provided for in the 1987 Act, a 5 cent per bale discount would continue to be applied to voluntary centralized billing and collecting agents as specified in § 28.909(c).

Growers or their designated agents receiving classification data would continue to incur no additional fees if classification data is requested only

once. The fee for each additional retrieval of classification data in § 28.910 would remain at 5 cents per bale. The fee in § 28.910(b) for an owner receiving classification data from the National Database would remain at 5 cents per bale, and the minimum charge of \$5.00 for services provided per monthly billing period would remain the same. The provisions of § 28.910(c) concerning the fee for new classification memoranda issued from the National Database for the business convenience of an owner without reclassification of the cotton will remain the same at 15 cents per bale or a minimum of \$5.00 per sheet.

The fee for review classification in § 28.911 would be maintained at \$2.20 per bale.

The fee for returning samples after classification in § 28.911 would remain at 50 cents per sample.

A 15-day comment period is provided for public comments. This period is appropriate because user fees are not changing and it is anticipated that the proposed fees, if adopted, would be made effective for the 2013 cotton crop on July 1, 2013.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 28

Administrative practice and procedure, Cotton, Cotton samples, Grades, Market news, Reporting and record keeping requirements, Standards, Staples, Testing, Warehouses.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 28 is proposed to be amended to read as follows:

PART 28—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 28, Subpart D, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 51–65; 7 U.S.C. 471–476.

■ 2. In § 28.909, paragraph (b) is revised to read as follows:

§ 28.909 Costs.

* * * * *

(b) The cost of High Volume Instrument (HVI) cotton classification service to producers is \$2.20 per bale.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 28.911, the last sentence of paragraph (a) is revised to read as follows:

§ 28.911 Review classification.

(a) * * * The fee for review classification is \$2.20 per bale.

* * * * *

Dated: March 22, 2013.

David R. Shipman,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2013–07181 Filed 3–27–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 905

[Doc. No. AO–13–0163; AMS–FV–12–0069; FV13–905–1]

Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Hearing on Proposed Amendment of Marketing Order No. 905

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of hearing on proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to receive evidence on proposed amendments to Marketing Order No. 905 (order), that regulates the handling of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and tangelos (citrus) grown in Florida. Nine amendments are proposed by the Citrus Administrative Committee (committee), which is responsible for local administration of the order. These proposed amendments would: authorize regulation of new varieties and hybrids of citrus fruit, authorize the regulation of intrastate shipments of fruit, revise the process for redistricting the production area, change the term of office and tenure requirements for committee members, authorize mail balloting procedures for committee membership nominations, increase the capacity of financial reserve funds, authorize pack and container requirements for domestic shipments and authorize different regulations for different markets, eliminate the use of separate acceptance statements in the nomination process, and require handlers to register with the committee.

In addition, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) proposes to make any such changes as may be necessary to the order to conform to any amendment that may result from the hearing. These proposed amendments are intended to update the order to reflect past changes in the industry and potential future changes, and to improve the operation and administration of the order.

DATES: The hearing dates are April 24, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and continuing on April 25, 2013, at 9:00

a.m., if necessary, in Winter Haven, Florida.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 500 3rd Street NW., Winter Haven, Florida 33881.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Schmaedick, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, Post Office Box 952, Moab, UT 84532; Telephone: (202) 557-4783, Fax: (435) 259-1502, or Michelle Sharrow, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or Email: Melissa.Schmaedick@ams.usda.gov or Michelle.Sharrow@ams.usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this proceeding by contacting Jeffrey Smutny, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or Email: Jeffrey.Smutny@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This administrative action is instituted pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "Act." This action is governed by the provisions of sections 556 and 557 of title 5 of the United States Code and, therefore, is excluded from the requirements of Executive Order 12866.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) seeks to ensure that within the statutory authority of a program, the regulatory and informational requirements are tailored to the size and nature of small businesses. Interested persons are invited to present evidence at the hearing on the possible regulatory and informational impacts of the proposals on small businesses.

The amendments proposed herein have been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. They are not intended to have retroactive effect.

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. A handler

is afforded the opportunity for a hearing 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 the 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.

The hearing is called pursuant to the provisions of the Act and the applicable rules of practice and procedure governing the formulation of marketing agreements and orders (7 CFR part 900).

The proposed amendments were recommended by the committee on July 17, 2012, and submitted to USDA on October 25, 2012. After reviewing the proposals and other information submitted by the committee, USDA made a determination to schedule this matter for hearing.

The proposed amendments to the order recommended by the committee are summarized as follows:

1. Amend the definitions of "fruit" and "variety" in § 905.4 and § 905.5 to update terminology and authorize regulation of additional varieties and hybrids of citrus.
2. Amend the definition of "handle or ship" in § 905.9 to authorize regulation of intrastate shipments.
3. Amend § 905.14 to revise the process for redistricting the production area.
4. Amend § 905.20 to change the term of office of committee members from one to two years, and change the tenure requirements for committee members from three to four years.
5. Amend § 905.22 to authorize mail balloting procedures for committee membership nominations.
6. Amend § 905.42 to authorize the committee to increase the capacity of its financial reserve funds from approximately six months of a fiscal period's expenses to approximately two years' fiscal period's expenses.
7. Amend § 905.52 to authorize pack and container requirements for domestic shipments and authorize different regulations for different markets.
8. Amend § 905.28 to eliminate the use of separate acceptance statements in the nomination process.
9. Amend § 905.7 to require handlers to register with the committee.

The committee works with USDA in administering the order. These proposals submitted by the committee have not received the approval of USDA. The committee believes that its proposed amendments would update the order to address changes that have occurred in the industry and potential changes that could occur in the future.

The amendments are intended to improve the operation and administration of the order.

In addition to the proposed amendments to the order, AMS proposes to make any such changes as may be necessary to the order to conform to any amendment that may result from the hearing.

The public hearing is held for the purpose of: (i) Receiving evidence about the economic and marketing conditions which relate to the proposed amendments of the order; (ii) determining whether there is a need for the proposed amendments to the order; and (iii) determining whether the proposed amendments or appropriate modifications thereof will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

Testimony is invited at the hearing on all the proposals and recommendations contained in this notice, as well as any appropriate modifications or alternatives.

All persons wishing to submit written material as evidence at the hearing should be prepared to submit four copies of such material at the hearing. Four copies of prepared testimony for presentation at the hearing should also be made available. To the extent practicable, eight additional copies of evidentiary exhibits and testimony prepared as an exhibit should be made available to USDA representatives on the day of appearance at the hearing. Any requests for preparation of USDA data for this rulemaking hearing should be made at least 10 days prior to the beginning of the hearing.

From the time the notice of hearing is issued and until the issuance of a final decision in this proceeding, USDA employees involved in the decisional process are prohibited from discussing the merits of the hearing issues on an *ex parte* basis with any person having an interest in the proceeding. The prohibition applies to employees in the following organizational units: Office of the Secretary of Agriculture; Office of the Administrator, AMS; Office of the General Counsel; and the Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS. Procedural matters are not subject to the above prohibition and may be discussed at any time.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 905

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

PART 905—ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, TANGERINES, AND TANGELOS GROWN IN FLORIDA

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 905 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

■ 2. Testimony is invited on the following proposals or appropriate alternatives or modifications to such proposals.

Proposals submitted by the Citrus Administrative Committee:

Proposal Number 1

■ 3. Revise § 905.4 to read as follows:

§ 905.4 Fruit.

Fruit means any or all varieties of the following types of citrus fruits grown in the production area:

(a) Citrus *sinensis*, Osbeck, commonly called “oranges”;

(b) Citrus *paradisi*, MacFadyen, commonly called “grapefruit”;

(c) Citrus *reticulata*, commonly called “tangerines” or “mandarin”;

(d) C. *grandis* (L.); Osbeck, commonly called “pummelo”;

(e) “Citrus hybrids” that are hybrids between or among one or more of the four fruits (a) through (d) of this section and the following: trifoliate orange (*Poncirus trifoliate*), sour orange (*C. aurantium*), lemon (*C. limon*), lime (*C. aurantifolia*), citron (*C. medica*), kumquat (*Fortunella*, species), tangelo (*C. reticulata* x *C. paradisi* or *C. grandis*), tangor (*C. reticulata* x *C. sinensis*), and varieties of these species. In addition, citrus hybrids include: tangelo (*C. reticulata* x *C. paradisi* or *C. grandis*), tangor (*C. reticulata* x *C. sinensis*), and temple oranges, and varieties thereof.

■ 4. Revise § 905.5 to read as follows:

§ 905.5 Variety.

Variety or *varieties* means any one or more of the following classifications or groupings of fruit:

(a) Oranges;

(1) Early and Midseason oranges

(2) Valencia, Lue Gim Gong, and similar late maturing oranges of the Valencia type;

(3) Navel oranges

(b) Grapefruit;

(1) Red Grapefruit, to include all shades of color

(2) White Grapefruit

(c) Tangerines and Mandarins;

(1) Dancy and similar tangerines

(2) Robinson tangerines

(3) Honey tangerines

(4) Fallglo tangerines

(5) US Early Pride tangerines

(6) Sunburst tangerines

(7) W-Murcott tangerines

(8) Tangors

(d) Pummelos;

(1) Hirado Buntan and other pink seeded pummelos

(e) Citrus Hybrids;

(1) Tangelos

(i) Orlando Tangelo

(ii) Minneola Tangelo

(2) Temple Oranges

(f) Other varieties of citrus fruits specified in 905.4, including hybrids, as recommended and approved by the Secretary: *Provided*, That in order to add any hybrid variety of citrus fruit to be regulated under this provision, such variety must exhibit similar characteristics and be subject to cultural practices common to existing regulated varieties.

Proposal Number 2

■ 5. Revise § 905.9 to read as follows:

§ 905.9 Handle or Ship.

Handle or *ship* means to sell, transport, deliver, pack, prepare for market, grade, or in any other way to place fruit in the current of commerce within the production area or between any point in the production area and any point outside thereof.

Proposal Number 3

■ 6. Revise § 905.14 to read as follows:

§ 905.14 Redistricting.

The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, redefine the districts into which the production area is divided or reapportion or otherwise change the grower membership of districts, or both: *Provided*, That the membership shall consist of at least eight but not more than nine grower members, and any such change shall be based, insofar as practicable, upon the respective averages for the immediately preceding three fiscal periods of: (1) The number of bearing trees in each district; (2) the volume of fresh fruit produced in each district; (3) the total number of acres of citrus in each district; and (4) other relevant factors. Each redistricting or reapportionment shall be announced on or prior to March 1 preceding the effective fiscal period.

Proposal Number 4

■ 7. Revise § 905.20 to read as follows:

§ 905.20 Term of Office.

The term of office of members and alternate members shall begin on the first day of August of even-numbered years and continue for two years and until their successors are selected and have qualified. The consecutive terms of office of a member shall be limited to

two terms. The terms of office of alternate members shall not be so limited. Members, their alternates, and their respective successors shall be nominated and selected by the Secretary as provided in § 905.22 and § 905.23.

Proposal Number 5

■ 8. In § 905.22 revise paragraphs (a)(1) and (b)(1) and add a new paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 905.22 Nominations.

(a) *Grower members.* (1) The committee shall give public notice of a meeting of producers in each district to be held not later than June 10th of even-numbered years, for the purpose of making nominations for grower members and alternate grower members. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe uniform rules to govern such meetings and the balloting thereat. The chairman of each meeting shall publicly announce at such meeting the names of the persons nominated, and the chairman and secretary of each such meeting shall transmit to the Secretary their certification as to the number of votes so cast, the names of the persons nominated, and such other information as the Secretary may request. All nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before the 20th day of June.

(2) * * *

(b) *Shipper members.* (1) The committee shall give public notice of a meeting for bona fide cooperative marketing organizations which are handlers, and a meeting for other handlers who are not so affiliated, to be held not later than June 10th of even-numbered years, for the purpose of making nominations for shipper members and their alternates. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe uniform rules to govern each such meeting and the balloting thereat. The chairperson of each such meeting shall publicly announce at the meeting the names of the persons nominated and the chairman and secretary of each such meeting shall transmit to the Secretary their certification as to the number of votes cast, the weight by volume of those shipments voted, and such other information as the Secretary may request. All nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before the 20th day of June.

(2) * * *

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, nomination and election of members and alternate members to the committee may be conducted by mail, electronic

mail, or other means according to rules and regulations recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

Proposal Number 6

■ 9. In § 905.42 revise the first sentence of paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 905.42 Handler's accounts.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: *Provided*, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately two fiscal period's expenses. * * *

Proposal Number 7

■ 10. In § 905.52 revise paragraphs (a)(4) and (a)(5) to read as follows:

§ 905.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) * * *

(4) Establish, prescribe, and fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, marking (including labels and stamps), or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment, or other handling of fruit: *Provided*, That such regulation shall not authorize the use of any container or markings which are prohibited under Florida statutes and regulations effective thereunder.

(5) Provide that any or all requirements effective pursuant to paragraphs (a) (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section applicable to the handling of fruit may be different for the handling of fruit within the production area, the handling of fruit for export, or for the handling of fruit between the production area and any point outside thereof within the United States: *Provided*, That such requirements shall not authorize the handling of fruit in any way that is prohibited under Florida statutes and regulations effective thereunder.

* * * * *

Proposal Number 8

■ 11. Revise § 905.28 to read as follows:

§ 905.28 Qualification and Acceptance.

Any person nominated to serve as a member or alternate member of the committee shall, prior to selection by the Secretary, qualify by filing a written qualification and acceptance statement indicating such person's qualifications and willingness to serve in the position for which nominated.

Proposal Number 9

■ 12. Revise § 905.7 to read as follows:

§ 905.7 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with *shipper* and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting fruit for another person) who, as owner, agent, or otherwise, handles fruit in fresh form, or causes fruit to be handled. Each handler shall be registered with the committee pursuant to rules recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

Proposal submitted by USDA:

Proposal Number 10

Make other such changes as may be necessary to the order to conform with any amendment thereto that may result from the hearing.

Dated: March 22, 2013.

Rex A. Barnes,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2013-07180 Filed 3-27-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

12 CFR Part 1090

[Docket No. CFPB-2013-0005]

RIN 3170-AA35

Defining Larger Participants of the Student Loan Servicing Market

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau or CFPB) proposes to amend the regulation defining larger participants of certain consumer financial product and service markets by adding a new section to define larger participants of a market for student loan servicing. The Bureau proposes this rule pursuant to its authority, under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to supervise certain nonbank covered persons for compliance with Federal consumer financial law and for other purposes. The Bureau has the authority to supervise nonbank covered persons of all sizes in the residential mortgage, private education lending, and payday lending markets. In addition, the Bureau has the authority to supervise nonbank "larger participant[s]" of markets for other consumer financial products or services, as the Bureau defines by rule. The proposal (Proposed Rule) would identify a market for student loan servicing and define "larger

participants" of this market that would be subject to the Bureau's supervisory authority.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 28, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments electronically or in paper form. Because paper mail in the Washington, DC area and at the Bureau is subject to delay, commenters are encouraged to submit comments electronically. You may submit comments, identified by *Docket No. CFPB-2013-0005* or RIN 3170-AA35, by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. In general, all comments received will be posted without change to their content.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Monica Jackson, Office of the Executive Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, 1700 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20552.

In addition, comments will be available for public inspection and copying at 1700 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20552, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time. You can make an appointment to inspect the documents by telephoning (202) 435-7275.

All comments, including attachments and other supporting materials, will become part of the public record and will be subject to public disclosure. Submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. Do not include sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers. Comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, such as name and address information, email addresses, or telephone numbers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Young, Senior Counsel, (202) 435-7408, or Jolina Cuaresma, Attorney-Advisor, (202) 435-9212, Office of Supervision Policy, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, 1700 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20552.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview

Title X of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act)¹ established the Bureau on July 21, 2010. Under 12 U.S.C. 5514, the Bureau has supervisory authority over all nonbank covered

¹ Public Law 111-203 (codified at 12 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).