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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. APHIS-2013-0078]

Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas in New Jersey

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the Asian longhorned beetle regulations by removing portions of Middlesex and Union Counties, NJ, from the list of quarantined areas based on our determination that those areas meet our criteria for removal. This action is necessary to relieve restrictions that are no longer necessary. With this change, there are no longer any areas in New Jersey that are quarantined because of Asian longhorned beetle.

DATES: This interim rule is effective March 28, 2014. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 27, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0078-0001>.

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2013-0078, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0078> or in our reading room, which is located in Room 1141 of the USDA South

Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Claudia Ferguson, Regulatory Policy Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 851-2352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB, *Anoplophora glabripennis*), an insect native to China, Japan, Korea, and the Isle of Hainan, is a destructive pest of hardwood trees. The ALB regulations in 7 CFR 301.51-1 through 301.51-9 (referred to below as the regulations) restrict the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantined areas to prevent the artificial spread of ALB to noninfested areas of the United States.

The regulations in § 301.51-3(a) provide that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will list as a quarantined area each State, or each portion of a State in which ALB has been found by an inspector, where the Administrator has reason to believe that ALB is present, or where the Administrator considers regulation necessary because of its inseparability for quarantine enforcement purposes from localities where ALB has been found.

Less than an entire State will be quarantined only if (1) the Administrator determines that the State has adopted and is enforcing restrictions on the intrastate movement of regulated articles that are equivalent to those imposed by the regulations on the interstate movement of regulated articles and (2) the designation of less than an entire State as a quarantined area will be adequate to prevent the artificial spread of ALB.

In 2004, APHIS quarantined portions of Middlesex and Union Counties, NJ, after ALB was first detected in the area in order to prevent the artificial spread of ALB. After the completion of control and regulatory activities, and based on the results of at least 3 years of negative surveys of all regulated host plants within the quarantined areas, APHIS

has determined that Middlesex and Union Counties, NJ, have met the criteria for removal of the Federal quarantine for ALB.

Therefore, in this interim rule, we are amending the list of quarantined areas in § 301.51-3(c) by removing the entry for Middlesex and Union Counties, NJ. This action relieves restrictions on the movement of regulated articles from those areas that are no longer warranted. With this change, there are no longer any areas in New Jersey that are quarantined because of ALB.

Immediate Action

Immediate action is warranted to relieve restrictions on certain areas that are no longer warranted. Under these circumstances, the Administrator has determined that prior notice and opportunity for public comment are contrary to the public interest and that there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 for making this action effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

We will consider comments we receive during the comment period for this interim rule (see **DATES** above). After the comment period closes, we will publish another document in the **Federal Register**. The document will include a discussion of any comments we receive and any amendments we are making to the rule.

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 under Executive Order 12866.

We are amending the ALB regulations by removing portions of Middlesex and Union Counties, NJ, from the list of quarantined areas and removing restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas. We have determined that the ALB is no longer present in that area and that the quarantine and restrictions are no longer necessary.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act requires that agencies consider the economic impact of their rules on small entities, i.e., small businesses, organizations, and governmental jurisdictions. The entities most likely to be affected by this rule include landscaping, tree servicing, waste hauling, firewood sales, trucking,

construction, excavation, and property management in the area being removed from quarantine.

In the portions of Middlesex and Union Counties, NJ, that we are deregulating in this interim rule, there are estimated to be several hundred entities that will be affected. These entities are mainly landscape companies; municipalities would also be affected. While the size of these entities is unknown, it is reasonable to assume that most are small entities based on Small Business Administration size standards.

Any affected entities located within the area removed from quarantine stand to benefit from the interim rule, since they are no longer subject to the restrictions in the regulations. However, our experience with the ALB program in Illinois, New York, and New Jersey has shown that the number and value of regulated articles that are, upon inspection, determined to be infested, and therefore denied a certificate or a limited permit for movement, is small. Thus, any benefit for affected entities in the areas removed from quarantine is likely to be minimal, given that the costs associated with the restrictions that have been relieved were themselves minimal.

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 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, 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 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, we are amending 7 CFR part 301 as follows:

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

- 1. The authority citation for part 301 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

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

§ 301.51–3 [Amended]

- 2. In § 301.51–3, paragraph (c) is amended by removing the heading “New Jersey” and the entry for Middlesex and Union Counties.

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of March 2014.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2014–06947 Filed 3–27–14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

7 CFR Chapter XIV

Continuation of Certain Benefit and Loan Programs, Acreage Reporting, Average Adjusted Gross Income, and Payment Limit

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of authorization.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Act of 2014 (referred to as the 2014 Farm Bill) extends the authorization, with some changes, of many Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs administered by FSA. This document announces to producers the continuation of the following programs and notes specific changes as mandated by the 2014 Farm Bill: The 2014 crop Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Sugar Program, Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC), and Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP). The 2014 Farm Bill also continues, with modifications, the

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) eligibility provisions and payment limits that apply to many FSA and CCC programs. As specified in the 2014 Farm Bill, producers must submit annual acreage reports of all cropland on a farm to qualify for MAL and LDP benefits, and most commodity programs. All of the programs listed above will be continued under existing regulations, except as specified in this document. This document will be followed by amendments to the applicable regulations to implement changes required by the 2014 Farm Bill.

DATES: *Effective Date:* March 28, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan McGlynn; telephone: (202) 720–7641. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

The 2014 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 113–79) authorizes the continuation of certain CCC and FSA programs, including, but not limited to, MAL, LDP, NAP, Sugar Program loans, MILC, and DIPP.

As specified in this document, CCC will implement administration of 2014 crop MAL, LDPs, and sugar loans as specified in the current regulations, subject to changes made by the 2014 Farm Bill. Applicable 2014 crop loan rates, schedules of premiums and discounts, and other related rates will be announced later.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires producers to submit annual acreage reports of all cropland on a farm to qualify for all programs in Title I, subtitles A and B, which includes MAL, LDP, and the new Agriculture Risk Coverage Program, Price Loss Coverage Program, and the Transition Assistance Program for Producers of Upland Cotton. Regulations will be published at a later date for these three new programs as required by the 2014 Farm Bill.

NAP service fees will remain unchanged, although more producers will be eligible for fee waivers and more crops will be eligible with the 2014 Farm Bill changes as specified in the NAP section below.

MILC will continue through the earlier of September 1, 2014, or the date when the new Dairy Margin Protection program specified in section 1403 of the 2014 Farm Bill is implemented. There are minor changes to MILC for the remaining months of FY 2014, as specified in this document.

The 2014 Farm Bill contains no changes to DIPP, which will continue through September 30, 2018.