

# Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

#### 7 CFR Part 46

[Doc. No. AMS-FV-15-0045]

#### Regulations Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA): Growers' Trust Protection Eligibility and Clarification of "Written Notification"

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the comment period for the proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on December 14, 2016 (81 FR 90255), is extended until March 15, 2017. The rule invited comments on proposed amendments to the regulations under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) that would clarify how growers and other principals may preserve their PACA trust rights. The proposed amendments would also provide guidance on the type of notification required to initiate U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) investigations of alleged PACA violations.

**DATES:** Written or electronic comments received by March 15, 2017, will be considered prior to issuance of a final rule.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments via the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments may also be submitted to "PACA Regulatory Enhancements," AMS, Specialty Crops Program, PACA Division, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 1510-S, Stop 0242, Washington, DC 20250-0242; or fax: (202) 690-4413. All comments should reference the document number and the dates and page numbers of the December 14, 2016, issue and this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be posted online without change, including any personal

information provided, and will be made available for public inspection at the above physical address during regular business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Josephine E. Jenkins, Chief, Investigative Enforcement Branch, (202) 720-6873; or [PACAinvestigations@ams.usda.gov](mailto:PACAinvestigations@ams.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The PACA trust provisions protect participants trading in fruits and vegetables by improving their chances of recovering money owed them when buyers default. A proposed rule regarding amendments to the PACA regulations was published in the **Federal Register** on December 14, 2016 (81 FR 90255). The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) proposed the amendments to clarify how growers and other produce sellers in the marketing chain can preserve their PACA trust rights and how they can notify USDA of the need for investigations into alleged violations of PACA regulations.

The 60-day comment period provided in the proposed rule would have closed February 13, 2017. The comment period for the proposed rule is extended until March 15, 2017. AMS is extending the public comment period for an additional 30 days to ensure that interested persons have sufficient time to review and comment on the proposed rule.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 499a-499t.

Dated: February 14, 2017.

**Bruce Summers,**

*Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-03252 Filed 2-16-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

#### 7 CFR Part 65

[Doc. No. AMS-LPS-16-0014]

#### Addition of Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling Requirements for Venison

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the comment period for the proposed

rule published in the **Federal Register** on January 13, 2017 (82 FR 4198), is extended until April 13, 2017. The proposed rule invited comments on proposed amendments to the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) regulation to add muscle cuts of venison and ground venison to mandatory COOL requirements.

**DATES:** Comments received by April 13, 2017, will be considered prior to issuance of a final rule.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments via the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments may also be submitted to: Doug McKalip, Acting Director, COOL Division; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; Room 2619-S, STOP 0216; 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0216; or email [COOL@ams.usda.gov](mailto:COOL@ams.usda.gov). All comments should reference the document number and the dates and page numbers of the January 13, 2017, issue and this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be posted online without change, including any personal information provided, and will be made available for public inspection at the above physical address during regular business hours.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Doug McKalip, Acting Director, COOL Division; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; Room 2619-S, STOP 0216; 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0216; telephone (202) 720-4486; or email [COOL@ams.usda.gov](mailto:COOL@ams.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on January 13, 2017 (82 FR 4198), requested comments on revisions to the COOL regulations that would add venison to the list of regulated products. Under the proposed rule, suppliers and retailers of venison products would be required to keep records and provide their customers notification of the country of origin of muscle cuts and ground venison that they sell.

The 60-day comment period provided in the proposed rule would have closed March 14, 2017. The comment period for the proposed rule is extended until April 13, 2017.

The Agricultural Marketing Service is extending the public comment period