

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.

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]

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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. 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.

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

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. 1621 *et seq.*

Dated: February 14, 2017.

Bruce Summers,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-03255 Filed 2-16-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 205

[Doc. No. AMS-NOP-16-0052; NOP-16-03]

National Organic Program (NOP); Sunset 2017 Amendments to the National List

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 January 18, 2017, is extended until April 19, 2017. The rule invited comments on recommendations submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) following their October 2015 meeting. The proposed rule would remove eleven substances from the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) for use in organic production and handling.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 19, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments via the Internet at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Robert Pooler, Standards Division, National Organic Program, USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 2642-S, STOP 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268. All comments should reference the document number and the dates and page numbers of the January 18, 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: Robert Pooler, Standards Division; email: bob.pooler@ams.usda.gov;

Telephone: (202) 720-3252; or Fax: (202) 205-7808.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposed rule to remove eleven substances from the National List was published in the **Federal Register** on January 18, 2017 (82 FR 5431). The National List identifies the substances that may and may not be used in organic production and handling. As required by the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), the substances included on the National List are reviewed periodically by the NOSB, which recommends National List revisions to the Secretary. The proposed rule would remove eleven substances from the National List as recommended by the NOSB on October 29, 2015.

The 60-day comment period provided in the proposed rule would have closed March 20, 2017. The comment period for the proposed rule is extended until April 19, 2017. The Agricultural Marketing Service 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. 6501-6522.

Dated: February 14, 2017.

Bruce Summers,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-03250 Filed 2-16-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1260

[Doc. No. AMS-LPS-16-0071]

Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment

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 4203), is extended until April 13, 2017. The proposed rule invited comments on proposed adjustments to representation on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board (Board) to reflect recent changes in domestic cattle inventories and levels of imported cattle, beef, and beef products. The proposed adjustment would decrease Board membership from 100 to 99.

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 by mail to: Mike Dinkel, Agricultural Marketing Specialist; Research and Promotion Division; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; Room 2610-S, STOP 0249, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0249; or via fax to (202) 720-1125. 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: Mike Dinkel, Research and Promotion Division, at (301) 352-7497; fax (202) 720-1125; or email Michael.Dinkel@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposed rule regarding the apportionment of certified producer and importer seats on the Board was published in the **Federal Register** on January 13, 2017 (82 FR 4203). The Board developed recommendations for reapportionment based on reviews of the geographic distribution of cattle inventories throughout the United States and the volume of imported cattle, beef, and beef products. The proposal would increase the number of importers on the Board by one, and it would decrease the number of producers from both Virginia and Texas by one each, for a net decrease of one Board member. If adopted, the proposed reapportionment would be effective with appointments for terms beginning in 2018.

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.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2901-2911.

Dated: February 14, 2017.

Bruce Summers,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-03251 Filed 2-16-17; 8:45 am]

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