

\$18,774 for each violation, except that the maximum penalty for violations occurring during a single investigation is \$76,992.

(4) *Food Safety and Inspection Service.* (i) Civil penalty for certain violations under the Egg Products Inspection Act, codified at 21 U.S.C. 1041(c)(1)(A), has a maximum of \$11,489 for each violation.

(ii) [Reserved]

(5) *Forest Service.* (i) Civil penalty for willful disregard of the prohibition against the export of unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands, codified at 16 U.S.C. 620d(c)(1)(A), has a maximum of \$1,182,251 per violation or three times the gross value of the unprocessed timber, whichever is greater.

(ii) Civil penalty for a violation in disregard of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act or the regulations that implement such Act regardless of whether such violation caused the export of unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands, codified in 16 U.S.C. 620d(c)(2)(A)(i), has a maximum of \$177,360 per violation.

(iii) Civil penalty for a person that should have known that an action was a violation of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act or the regulations that implement such Act regardless of whether such violation caused the export of unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands, codified at 16 U.S.C. 620d(c)(2)(A)(ii), has a maximum of \$118,225 per violation.

(iv) Civil penalty for a willful violation of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act or the regulations that implement such Act regardless of whether such violation caused the export of unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands, codified in 16 U.S.C. 620d(c)(2)(A)(iii), has a maximum of \$1,182,251.

(v) Civil penalty for a violation involving protections of caves, codified at 16 U.S.C. 4307(a)(2), has a maximum of \$25,838.

(6) [Reserved]

(7) *Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.* (i) Civil penalty for any person who willfully and intentionally provides any false or inaccurate information to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation or to an approved insurance provider with respect to any insurance plan or policy that is offered under the authority of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, or who fails to comply with a requirement of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, codified in 7 U.S.C. 1515(h)(3)(A), has a maximum of the greater of: The amount of the pecuniary gain obtained as a result of

the false or inaccurate information or the noncompliance; or \$15,335.

(ii) [Reserved]

(8) *Rural Housing Service.* (i) Civil penalty for a violation of section 536 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, codified in 42 U.S.C. 1490p(e)(2), has a maximum of \$251,321 in the case of an individual, and a maximum of \$2,513,215 in the case of an applicant other than an individual.

(ii) Civil penalty for equity skimming under section 543(a) of the Housing Act of 1949, codified in 42 U.S.C. 1490s(a)(2), has a maximum of \$45,354.

(iii) Civil penalty under section 543b of the Housing Act of 1949 for a violation of regulations or agreements made in accordance with Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, by submitting false information, submitting false certifications, failing to timely submit information, failing to maintain real property in good repair and condition, failing to provide acceptable management for a project, or failing to comply with applicable civil rights laws and regulations, codified in 42 U.S.C. 1490s(b)(3)(A), has a maximum of the greater of: Twice the damages USDA, guaranteed lender, or project that is secured for a loan under Title V suffered or would have suffered as a result of the violation; or \$90,708 per violation.

(9) [Reserved]

(10) *Commodity Credit Corporation.* (i) Civil penalty for willful failure or refusal to furnish information, or willful furnishing of false information under of section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, codified at 7 U.S.C. 7272(g)(5), has a maximum of \$19,940 for each violation.

(ii) Civil penalty for willful failure or refusal to furnish information or willful furnishing of false data by a processor, refiner, or importer of sugar, syrup, and molasses under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, codified at 7 U.S.C. 7272(g)(5), has a maximum of \$19,940 for each violation.

(iii) Civil penalty for filing a false acreage report that exceeds tolerance under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, codified at 7 U.S.C. 7272(g)(5), has a maximum of \$19,940 for each violation.

(iv) Civil penalty for knowingly violating any regulation of the Secretary of the Commodity Credit Corporation pertaining to flexible marketing allotments for sugar under section 359h(b) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, codified at 7 U.S.C. 1359hh(b), has a maximum of \$14,575 for each violation.

(v) Civil penalty for knowing violation of regulations promulgated by the Secretary pertaining to cotton insect eradication under section 104(d) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, codified at 7 U.S.C. 1444a(d), has a maximum of \$17,956 for each offense.

(11) *Office of the Secretary.* (i) Civil penalty for making, presenting, submitting or causing to be made, presented or submitted, a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim as defined under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, codified at 31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(1), has a maximum of \$14,309.

(ii) Civil penalty for making, presenting, submitting or causing to be made, presented or submitted, a false, fictitious, or fraudulent written statement as defined under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, codified at 31 U.S.C. 3802(a)(2), has a maximum of \$14,309.

**Christopher Nelson,**

*Acting Director, United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Budget and Program Analysis.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

#### 7 CFR Part 29

[Doc. No. AMS–CN–25–0028]

RIN 0581–AE40

#### Tobacco Grading and Inspections Services—Rescission of Tobacco Quota Provisions

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**ACTION:** Direct final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This direct final rule amends regulations that govern the inspection of tobacco under the national marketing quota system established under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. The Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004 eliminated the price support and quota system for tobacco produced in the United States. In alignment with E.O. 14192, AMS is removing and, where appropriate, amending regulations that have expired authorizing statutes and govern non-operational programs.

**DATES:** This direct final rule is effective July 28, 2025, without further action or notice, unless a significant adverse comment is received by June 30, 2025. If a significant adverse comment is

received, AMS will publish in the **Federal Register** a withdrawal of this direct final rule prior to the effective date.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments can be submitted electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching the docket number listed above. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this direct final rule. Comments may also be submitted by mail or hand delivery to USDA AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program, 3275 Appling Road, Memphis, TN 38133. All comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments submitted in response to this direct final rule will be included in the record and will be made available to the public at: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Public comments are posted without change. Any identifying information submitted with these comments will also be publicly available.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Angie Snyder, Deputy Administrator, USDA AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program, 3275 Appling Road, Memphis, TN 38133; Telephone: (901) 384-3000; Email: [angie.snyder@usda.gov](mailto:angie.snyder@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Part I of subtitle B of title III of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1311 *et seq.*) authorized the establishment of a national marketing quota program for tobacco to facilitate the orderly marketing of tobacco, thus avoiding abnormally excessive supplies being produced and dumped indiscriminately on the Nation-wide market. However, the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004 (sec. 611(b), Pub. L. 108-357, 118 Stat. 1522; Oct. 22, 2004) eliminated the price support and quota system for tobacco produced in the United States as well as mandatory grading of types of tobacco eligible for price support.

AMS's regulations governing tobacco marketed under the quota program are contained in 7 CFR 29. Upon reviewing these regulations in light of changes to the law and in alignment with Executive Order 14192, AMS has determined that regulations in 7 CFR part 29 pertaining to the obsolete market quota program should be removed and, where appropriate, amended.

AMS is removing the statutory authorities listed under this subpart B heading since these authorities are redundant—already cited under the heading for part 29. Paragraph (2) under paragraph (a) of § 29.47a is amended to remove provisions directly related to market quota provisions. Likewise, paragraph (6) under paragraph (a) of

§ 29.47a are removed as they directly pertain to market quota provisions.

AMS is removing redundant and obsolete statutory authorities listed under subpart C heading.

The language in the heading of subpart F is amended to remove references to obsolete market quota program, and the obsolete statutory authorities listed under this subpart heading are being removed. Multiple sections throughout subpart F, including §§ 29.9207, 29.9221, 29.9240, and 29.9261–9262, are being removed as they pertain to the obsolete market quota program. Lastly, §§ 29.9232–9234, and 29.9236, are amended by removing the word “nonquota,” and § 29.9241 is amended by removing the phrase “with no other quota, nonquota.”

Given that AMS has not provided services related to the tobacco quota program in twenty years, there are no known costs or benefits associated with removing AMS's regulations governing tobacco marketed under the quota program. Mandatory inspection and grading of tobacco subject to marketing quota were user-fee based services, which are services paid for by the industry through fees. Fee rates for tobacco inspection and grading services were set such that all costs associated with these services were covered by revenues generated from providing these services. To the extent there is any uncertainty about the costs and benefits of these regulations, it is the policy of USDA to err on the side of deregulation and focus resources on fairly and rationally enforcing a discrete and manageable number of regulations.

Section 553(b)(3)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*) authorizes agencies to dispense with prior notice and comment for rules when the agency for “good cause” finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under this section, an agency, upon finding good cause, may issue a final rule without first publishing a proposed rule. Removing regulations pertaining to tobacco market quotas and making conforming amendments will provide transparency and may reduce confusion for tobacco producers and other stakeholders. Further, AMS views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse public comment. This rule will become effective, as published in this document, July 28, 2025 without further action, unless adverse comments are received on or before June 30, 2025. Adverse comments are considered to be those comments that suggest the rule should not be

adopted or suggest the rule should be changed.

If AMS receives adverse comments, we will publish a document in the **Federal Register**, withdrawing this rule before the effective date. AMS will then publish a proposed rule for public comment. Following the close of that comment period, the comments will be considered, and a final rule addressing the comments will be published.

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), AMS certifies that this direct final rule will not, if issued, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. AMS has not provided services related to the tobacco quota program in twenty years. The amendments made by the direct final rule will merely conform the CFR with AMS' current operating practices. This rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed by OMB. There are no current information collections associated with the regulations related to the tobacco market quota program.

USDA has determined that there is no reliance interest in obsolete regulations. Moreover, regardless of the lawfulness, USDA has no interest in maintaining regulations that have expired authorizing statutes or govern non-operational programs. Maintaining regulations pertaining to the obsolete tobacco market quota program in 7 CFR part 29 are not a priority. Therefore, AMS is amending 7 CFR 29 to remove, and where appropriate, references and provisions pertaining to mandatory inspection and grading required by the obsolete market quota program.

#### List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 29

Administrative practice and procedure, Advisory committees, Government publications, Imports, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Tobacco.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, AMS amends 7 CFR part 29 as follows:

#### PART 29—TOBACCO INSPECTION

- 1. The authority citation for part 29 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 511–511s.

#### Subpart B—[Amended]

- 2. Remove the authority citation to subpart B.

#### § 29.74a [Amended]

- 3. Amend § 29.74a by:
  - a. Removing the last sentence of paragraph (a)(2) and;

- b. Removing paragraph (a)(6).

#### Subpart C—[Amended]

- 4. Remove the authority citation to subpart C.

#### Subpart F—Policy Statement and Provisions Governing the Identification and Certification of Tobacco

- 5. Revise the heading to subpart F to read as set forth above.

- 6. Remove the authority citation to subpart F.

#### § 29.9204 [Amended]

- 7. Amend § 29.9204 by removing the word “nonquota.”

#### § 29.9207 [Removed]

- 8. Remove § 29.9207.

#### § 29.9221 [Removed]

- 9. Remove the undesignated heading “POLICY STATEMENT” and § 29.9221.

- 10. Revise § 29.9232 to read as follows:

#### § 29.9232 Where certification is available.

Tobacco may be inspected and certified by class or type, upon request of an interested party, when the tobacco is displayed at an approved receiving station where the tobacco is accessible to the inspector.

#### §§ 29.9233, 29.9234, and 29.9236 [Amended]

- 11. Amend §§ 29.9233, 29.9234, and 29.9236 by removing the word “nonquota” wherever it appears.

#### § 29.9240 [Removed]

- 12. Remove § 29.9240.

- 13. Amend § 29.9241 by revising the second sentence to read as follows:

#### § 29.9241 Accessibility of tobacco.

\* \* \* Each croplot shall be displayed at an approved receiving station in a continuous and orderly sequence with no other producer's tobacco in between.  
\* \* \*

#### §§ 29.9261 and 29.9262 [Removed]

- 14. Remove §§ 29.9261 and 29.9262.

**Bruce Summers,**  
*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2025–09550 Filed 5–28–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### 7 CFR Parts 750, 760, 784, and 795

RIN 0560–AI76

#### Removal of Obsolete Regulations

**AGENCY:** Farm Service Agency (FSA), Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** FSA is in the process of reviewing all regulations within its purview to reduce regulatory burdens and costs. Pursuant to this review, FSA has identified the following obsolete, unnecessary, and outdated provisions. FSA is removing these provisions to streamline and clarify the dictates of FSA regulations. The changes in this rule will have no impact on past or present FSA customers.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This rule is effective May 29, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sherrie Grimm; telephone: (202) 401–0062; email: [Sherrie.Grimm@usda.gov](mailto:Sherrie.Grimm@usda.gov). Individuals with disabilities who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY mode)) or dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The President's Executive Order 14219 of February 19, 2025, *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative*, 90 FR 10583, and subsequent implementing memorandum directed all agency heads to review regulations within their purview and rescind those that are, among other things, unlawful or unnecessary. FSA has undertaken such a review and is accordingly rescinding the following provisions from title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

##### Regulatory Certifications

##### Executive Orders

This document does not meet the criteria for a significant regulatory action as specified by Executive Order (E.O.) 12866. This action also has no federalism or tribal implications and will not impose substantial unreimbursed compliance costs on States, local governments, or Indian Tribal governments. Therefore, impact

statements are not required under E.O. 13132 or 13175.

##### Environmental Evaluation

This rule will have no significant effect on the human environment; therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor impact statement is required.

##### Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

##### Explanation of Provisions

The regulations removed are:

##### Soil Bank (7 CFR Part 750)

The regulations at 7 CFR part 750, published at 21 FR 6289 and redesignated by 26 FR 5788, are no longer carried in the CFR. Thus, for the reasons explained in the preamble, FSA is eliminating this part to streamline title 7.

##### Indemnity Payment Programs (7 CFR Part 760)

For the reasons described in the preamble, FSA is eliminating the regulations for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE) codified at 7 CFR part 760 subpart F and subpart G, respectively.

The TAP regulations in 760 subpart F are obsolete as the operative assistance program regulations have been moved to 7 CFR part 1416 subpart E. The regulations in 760 subpart G are obsolete as the time to claim eligible losses under the SURE has passed.

##### 2004 Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Payment Program (7 CFR Part 784)

For the reasons described in the preamble, FSA is eliminating the regulations codified at 7 CFR part 784 related to the 2004 Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Payment Program. This 2004 program, authorized by Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended, is no longer available as all funds have been used. The regulations at 7 CFR part 784 implementing the program are therefore obsolete and unnecessary.

##### Payment Limitations (7 CFR Part 795)

For the purposes outlined in the preamble, FSA is rescinding the payment limitations codified at 7 CFR Part 795.

Part 795 formerly described the payment limitations applicable to certain FSA programs. However, the current payment limitations are set forth