

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 955

[Docket No. FV01-955-2]

Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Continuance Referendum

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Referendum order.

SUMMARY: This document directs that a referendum be conducted among eligible growers of Vidalia onions in Georgia, to determine whether they favor continuance of the marketing order regulating the handling of Vidalia onions grown in the production area.

DATES: The referendum will be conducted from June 4 through 22, 2001. To vote in this referendum, growers must have been producing Vidalia onions within the designated production area in Georgia during the period January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the marketing order may be obtained from the office of the referendum agents at the Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2276, Winter Haven, FL 33883-2276, or the Office of the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William G. Pimental, Marketing Specialist, Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 2276, Winter Haven, FL 33883-2276; telephone (863) 229-4770; fax (863) 299-5169; or Melissa Schmaedick, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural

Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, room 2522-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-2491; fax (202) 720-5698.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Marketing Agreement and Order No. 955 (7 CFR part 955), hereinafter referred to as the "order," and the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "Act," it is hereby directed that a referendum be conducted to ascertain whether continuance of the order is favored by the growers. The referendum shall be conducted from June 4 through 22, 2001, among Vidalia onion growers in the production area. Only growers that were engaged in the production of Vidalia onions in Georgia, during the period of January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000, may participate in the continuance referendum.

The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that continuance referenda are an effective means for determining whether growers favor continuation of marketing order programs. The Secretary would consider termination of the order if less than two-thirds of the growers voting in the referendum, and growers of less than two-thirds of the volume of Vidalia onions represented in the referendum, favor continuance. In evaluating the merits of continuance versus termination, the Secretary will consider the results of the referendum and other relevant information regarding operation of the order. The Secretary will evaluate the order's relative benefits and disadvantages to growers, handlers, and consumers to determine whether continuing the order would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the ballot materials to be used in the referendum herein ordered have been submitted to and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0178. It has been estimated that it will take an average of 20 minutes for each of the approximately 136 growers of Vidalia onions in Georgia to cast a ballot. Participation is voluntary. Ballots postmarked after June 22, 2001, will not be included in the vote tabulation.

Christian D. Nissen and William G. Pimental of the Southeast Marketing Field Office, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, are hereby designated as the referendum agents of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct such referendum. The procedure applicable to the referendum shall be the "Procedure for the Conduct of Referenda in Connection With Marketing Orders for Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as Amended" (7 CFR part 900.400 *et seq.*).

Ballots will be mailed to all growers of record and may also be obtained from the referendum agents, or from their appointees.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 955

7 CFR Part 955

Marketing agreements, Onions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

Dated: April 24, 2001.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 01-10662 Filed 4-27-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Thrift Supervision

12 CFR Part 502

[No. OTS-2001-30]

RIN 1550-AB47

Assessments and Fees

AGENCY: Office of Thrift Supervision, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) is proposing to amend its assessments rule to more accurately reflect the increased costs of supervising 3-, 4-, and 5-rated institutions. OTS proposes to set the condition component of its assessments regulation at 50 percent of the size component for 3-rated institutions, and 100 percent of the size component for 4- and 5-rated institutions.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 30, 2001.