

determining the number and kind of small entities that may incur benefits or costs from the implementation of this interim rule.

Under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701–7772), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to regulate the interstate movement of articles to prevent the spread of injurious plant pests in the United States.

This interim rule amends the Medfly regulations by adding a portion of Los Angeles County, CA, to the list of quarantined areas. This action is necessary on an emergency basis to prevent the spread of the Medfly into noninfested areas of the United States.

This rule restricts the interstate movement of regulated articles from the newly quarantined area. The portion of Los Angeles County, CA, subject to quarantine under this rule is a predominantly residential area with many apartment buildings. Available information indicates that there are no entities in the quarantined area that sell, process, handle, or move regulated articles. Such entities would include fruit sellers, nurseries, growers, packinghouses, certified farmer's markets, and swapmeets.

The alternative to this interim rule was to make no changes in the regulations. After consideration, we rejected this alternative because if no action was taken, the Medfly would spread to noninfested areas of the continental United States.

This interim rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements.

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.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared for this interim rule. The site-specific environmental assessment and programmatic Medfly environmental impact statement

provide a basis for our conclusion that the implementation of integrated pest management to achieve eradication of the Medfly would not have a significant impact on human health or the natural environment. Based on the finding of no significant impact, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact were prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead on (202) 690–2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/ppq/hydepeka.pdf>.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This interim rule contains no 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. 166, 7711, 7712, 7714, 7731, 7735, 7751, 7752, 7753, and 7754; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Section 301.75–15 also issued under Sec. 204, Title II, Pub. L. 106–113, 113 Stat. 1501A–293; sections 301.75–15 and 301.75–16 also issued under Sec.

203, Title II, Pub. L. 106–224, 114 Stat. 400 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note).

2. In § 301.78–3, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 301.78–3 Quarantined Areas.

* * * * *

(c) The areas described below are designated as quarantined areas:

California

Los Angeles County. That portion of the county in the Hyde Park area bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of La Brea Avenue and Interstate Highway 10; then east along Interstate Highway 10 to Alameda Street; then south along Alameda Street to Washington Boulevard; then east along Washington Boulevard to Sante Fe Avenue; then south along Sante Fe Avenue to Truba Avenue; then south along Truba Avenue to Tweedy Boulevard; then west along Tweedy Boulevard to Alameda Street; then south along Alameda Street to 103rd Street; then west along 103rd Street to Wilmington Avenue; then south along Wilmington Avenue to Interstate Highway 105; then west along Interstate Highway 105 to Hawthorne Boulevard; then north along Hawthorne Boulevard to La Brea Avenue; then north along La Brea Avenue to the point of beginning.

Done in Washington, DC, this 15th day of October 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01–26329 Filed 10–18–01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1260

[No. LS–01–05]

Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would adjust representation on the Cattleman's Beef Promotion and Research Board (Board), established under the Beef Promotion and Research Act (Act) of 1985, to reflect changes in cattle inventories and cattle and beef imports that have occurred since the most recent Board reapportionment rule became effective in 1999. These adjustments are required by the Beef Promotion and Research Order (Order) and would

result in a decrease in Board membership from 110 to 108, effective with the Secretary's appointments for terms beginning early in the year 2003.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 18, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send two copies of comments to Ralph L. Tapp, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch, Room 2627-S; Livestock and Seed Program; Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA; STOP 0251; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-0251.

Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the above office in Room 2627-South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch, on 202/720-1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Orders 12866 and 12988, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Department of Agriculture (Department) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866. This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. It is not intended to have retroactive effect. Section 11 of the Act provides that nothing in the Act may be construed to preempt or supersede any other program relating to beef promotion organized and operated under the laws of the United States or any State. There are no administrative proceedings that must be exhausted prior to any judicial challenge to the provisions of this rule.

Pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 601 *et seq.*), the Administrator of AMS has considered the economic effect of this action on small entities and has determined that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The purpose of RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of businesses subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be unduly burdened.

In the January 26, 2001, issue of "Cattle," the Department's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) estimates that in 2000 the number of cattle operations in the United States totaled about 1.1 million. The majority of these operations subject to the Order, 7 CFR 1260.101 *et seq.*, are considered small businesses under the criteria established by the Small Business Administration.

The proposed rule imposes no new burden on the industry. It only adjusts representation on the Board to reflect changes in domestic cattle inventory and cattle and beef imports. This action would adjust representation on the Board, established under the Act. The adjustments are required by the Order and would result in a decrease in Board membership from 110 to 108.

The Board was initially appointed August 4, 1986, pursuant to the provisions of the Act (7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*) and the Order issued thereunder. Domestic representation on the Board is based on cattle inventory numbers, and importer representation is based on the conversion of the volume of imported cattle, beef, or beef products into live animal equivalencies.

Section 1260.141(b) of the Order provides that the Board shall be composed of cattle producers and importers appointed by the Secretary from nominations submitted by certified producer organizations. A producer may only be nominated to represent the unit in which that producer is a resident.

Section 1260.141(c) of the Order provides that at least every 3 years and not more than every 2 years, the Board shall review the geographic distribution of cattle inventories throughout the United States and the volume of imported cattle, beef, and beef products and, if warranted, shall reapportion units and/or modify the number of Board members from units in order to reflect the geographic distribution of cattle production volume in the United States and the volume of cattle, beef, or beef products imported into the United States.

Section 1260.141(d) of the Order authorizes the Board to recommend to the Secretary modifications in the number of cattle per unit necessary for representation on the Board.

Section 1260.141(e)(1) provides that each geographic unit or State that includes a total cattle inventory equal to or greater than 500,000 head of cattle shall be entitled to one representative on the Board. Section 1260.141(e)(2) provides that States that do not have total cattle inventories equal to or greater than 500,000 head shall be grouped, to the extent practicable, into geographically-contiguous units, each of which have a combined total inventory of not less than 500,000 head. Such grouped units are entitled to at least one representative on the Board. Each unit that has an additional one million head of cattle within a unit qualifies for additional representation on the Board as provided in § 1260.141(e)(4). As provided in § 1260.141(e)(3), importers are represented by a single unit, with

the number of Board members based on a conversion of the total volume of imported cattle, beef, or beef products into live animal equivalencies.

The initial Board appointed in 1986 was composed of 113 members. Reapportionment based on a 3-year average of cattle inventory numbers and import data, reduced the Board to 111 members in 1990 and 107 members in 1993 before the Board was increased to 111 members in 1996. The Board was decreased to 110 members in 1999 and will be decreased to 108 members with appointments for terms effective early in 2003.

The current Board representation by States or units has been based on an average of the January 1, 1996, 1997, and 1998 inventory of cattle in the various States as reported by NASS of the Department. Current importer representation has been based on a combined total average of the 1995, 1996, and 1997 live cattle imports as published by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department and the average of the 1995, 1996, and 1997 live animal equivalents for imported beef products.

Recommendations concerning Board reapportionment were approved by the Board at its August 9, 2001, meeting. In considering reapportionment, the Board reviewed cattle inventories as well as cattle, beef, and beef product import data for the period January 1, 1998, to January 1, 2001. The Board recommended that a 3-year average of cattle inventories and import numbers should be continued. The Board determined that an average of the January 1, 1999, 2000, and 2001 Department cattle inventory numbers would best reflect the number of cattle in each State or unit since publication of the 1999 reapportionment rule.

The Board reviewed the February 28, 2001, Department's Economic Research Service circular, "Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook," to determine proper importer representation. The Board recommended the use of a combined total of the average of the 1998, 1999, and 2000 cattle import data and the average of the 1998, 1999, and 2000 live animal equivalents for imported beef products. The method used to calculate the total number of live cattle equivalents was the same as that used in the previous reapportionment of the Board. The recommendation for importer representation is based on the most recent 3-year average of data available to the Board at its August 9, 2001, meeting to be consistent with the procedures used for domestic representation.

The Board's recommended reapportionment plan would decrease the number of representatives on the Board from 110 to 108. Five States—Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, New York, and Wisconsin—lose one member each; two States and one unit—New Mexico, Wyoming, and Importer unit—gain one member each. In addition, because

South Carolina no longer has sufficient cattle inventory to qualify for a position on the Board independently, the Board proposes that South Carolina be merged with Georgia, a contiguous State that has only one member, to form a Southeast unit. The combined cattle inventory of South Carolina and Georgia would entitle the Southeast unit to two

members on the Board, thus enabling both States to be represented. The States and units affected by the reapportionment plan and the current and proposed member representation per unit are as follows: (Units are listed with the State makeup recommended by the Board.)

States	Current representation	Proposed representation
1 Alabama	2	1
2. Illinois	2	1
3. Kentucky	3	2
4. New Mexico	1	2
5. New York	2	1
6. Wisconsin	4	3
7. Wyoming	1	2
8. Importer unit	7	8
9. Southeast unit		
South Carolina		
Georgia		2
	1	
	1	

The 2001 nomination and appointment process was in progress while the Board was developing its recommendations. Thus, the Board reapportionment as proposed by this rulemaking would be effective, if adopted, with 2002 nominations and appointments that will be effective early in the year 2003.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1260

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Agricultural research, Imports, Marketing agreement, Meat and meat products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For reasons set forth in the preamble, it is proposed that 7 CFR part 1260 be amended as follows:

PART 1260—BEEF PROMOTION AND RESEARCH

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 1260 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*

2. In § 1260.141, paragraph (a) and the table immediately following it, are revised to read as follows:

§ 1260.141 Membership of Board.

(a) Beginning with the 2002 Board nominations and the associated appointments effective early in the year 2003, the United States shall be divided into 39 geographical units and 1 unit representing importers, and the number of Board members from each unit shall be as follows:

CATTLE AND CALVES ¹			CATTLE AND CALVES ¹ —Continued		
State/unit	(1,000 head)	Directors	State/unit	(1,000 head)	Directors
1. Alabama	1,440	1	Washington	1,187	.....
2. Arizona	833	1	Total ...	1,408	.....
3. Arkansas	1,823	2	37. Northeast ...	.....	1
4. California	5,117	5	Connecticut	65	.....
5. Colorado	3,167	3	Delaware ...	28	.....
6. Florida	1,820	2	Maine	99	.....
7. Idaho	1,940	2	Massachu- setts	55	.....
8. Illinois	1,497	1	New Hamp- shire	45	.....
9. Indiana	953	1	New Jersey	50	.....
10. Iowa	3,683	4	Rhode Is- land	6	.....
11. Kansas	6,617	7	Vermont	300	.....
12. Kentucky	2,303	2	Total ...	.....	647
13. Louisiana	887	1	38. Mid-Atlantic	.....	1
14. Michigan	1,013	1	District of Columbia	0	.....
15. Minnesota	2,533	3	Maryland	243	.....
16. Mississippi	1,100	1	West Vir- ginia	420	.....
17. Missouri	4,333	4	Total ...	663	.....
18. Montana	2,583	3	39. Southeast ...	.....	2
19. Nebraska	6,650	7	Georgia	1,293	.....
20. Nevada	517	1	South Caro- lina	463	.....
21. New Mexico	1,617	2	Total ...	1,756	.....
22. New York	1,433	1	40. Importer ² ...	7,654	8
23. North Caro- lina	957	1			
24. North Da- kota	1,927	2			
25. Ohio	1,237	1			
26. Oklahoma ...	5,183	5			
27. Oregon	1,447	1			
28. Pennsyl- vania	1,653	2			
29. South Da- kota	3,950	4			
30. Tennessee ..	2,167	2			
31. Texas	13,900	14			
32. Utah	903	1			
33. Virginia	1,650	2			
34. Wisconsin ...	3,383	3			
35. Wyoming	1,563	2			
36. Northwest ...	.....	1			
Alaska	11	.....			
Hawaii	162	.....			

¹ 1999, 2000, and 2001 average of January 1 cattle inventory data.

² 1998, 1999, and 2000 average of annual import data.

* * * * *

Dated: October 12, 2001.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 01-26395 Filed 10-18-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1260

[No. LS-99-20]

Amendment to the Beef Promotion and Research Rules and Regulations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would amend the Beef Promotion and Research Rules and Regulations (Rules and Regulations) established under the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 (Act) to provide the opportunity for a producer to pay the \$1-per-head assessment to the Qualified State Beef Council (QSBC) located in the producer's State of residence prior to sale, subject to certain conditions.

DATES: Written comments must be received by December 18, 2001. Written comments on the information collection requirements must be received on or before December 18, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send two copies of comments to Ralph L. Tapp, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch, Room 2627-S; Livestock and Seed Program; Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA; STOP 0251; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-0251. Comments received may be inspected at this location between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. State that your comments refer to Docket No. LS-99-20.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), also send comments regarding the merits of the burden estimate, ways to minimize the burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, or any other aspect of this collection of information to the above address. Comments concerning the information collection and recordkeeping under the PRA should also be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Offices of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ralph L. Tapp, Chief, Marketing Programs Branch on 202/720-1115 or fax 202/720-1125.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Orders 12866 and 12988, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Department of Agriculture (Department) is proposing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866. This rule has been determined not to be significant and, therefore, has not been reviewed by OMB.

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. It is not intended to have a retroactive effect. Section 11 of the Act provides that nothing in the Act may be construed to preempt or supersede any other program relating to beef promotion organized and operated under the laws of the United States or any State. There are no administrative proceedings that must be exhausted prior to any judicial challenge to the provisions of this rule.

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Administrator of AMS has considered the economic effect of this action on small entities and has determined that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities. The purpose of RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of businesses subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be unduly burdened.

The Department's National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates that in calendar year 2000 the number of cattle operations in the United States totaled approximately 1.1 million, including feedlot operations. There are also 45 QSBCs in the United States. The majority of these operations are considered small businesses under the criteria established by the Small Business Administration.

The proposed rule imposes no significant burden on the industry as it merely gives producers the opportunity to voluntarily pay the \$1-per-head assessment on cattle of their own production prior to sale and to remit the assessments to the QSBC located in the producer's State of residence.

The impact on QSBCs would be a redistribution of an estimated maximum of one-half million dollars of the \$40 million currently retained annually in total by the 45 QSBCs. The agency estimates that up to 6 million head or 20 percent of the approximately 30 million head of steers and heifers slaughtered annually are sold for

slaughter under retained ownership. The agency also estimates that assessments on up to one-sixth of the cattle (1 million head) would be paid in advance to QSBCs. If the \$1 assessment were paid in advance to QSBCs on these cattle, the QSBCs' 50 percent share of up to \$1 million in assessments or as much as \$500,000 would be redistributed among the QSBCs.

The major cattle feeding States of Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and Oklahoma could reasonably be expected to account for up to 80 percent of the \$500,000 in reduced revenue to QSBCs annually. These States collect an average of \$8 million annually and retain one-half that amount or \$4 million. Assuming that the revenue to each of these five States available for State directed programs was reduced by an average of \$80,000, it would represent a 2-percent decrease in the average revenue available for State directed programs in these States.

The remaining 40 QSBCs have annual State budgets that average about \$500,000. An estimated net increase in annual income for these States, as a result of the advance payment of assessments, could average up to \$10,000 per State representing a 2-percent increase.

Producers wishing to direct payment of assessments to the QSBC in the producers' State of residence when cattle are sent to another State for feeding under retained ownership would complete a form which would be provided to affected parties including the QSBC, the feedlot, and the packer or the collecting person.

Copies of the completed "Certification of Producer Directed Payment of Cattle Assessments" form shall be maintained on file by the producer, the QSBC or the Board, the feedlot operator, and the purchaser of the cattle for 2 years.

We estimate the average cost of the reporting burden per respondent would be \$16 annually.

We estimate the total average cost of the recordkeeper burden per recordkeeper would be \$8 annually.

The Administrator of AMS has considered the economic effect of this action on small entities and has determined that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

In compliance with OMB regulations [5 CFR part 1320] which implements PRA, the information collection requirements contained in this proposed rule are being submitted for OMB approval.

Title: Certification of Producer Directed Payment of Assessments.