

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket No. FV00-930-1NC]

Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection for tart cherries grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin, Marketing Order No. 930.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 23, 2000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Valerie L. Emmer-Scott, Marketing Specialist, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Tel: (202) 205-2829, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on this notice by contacting Jay Guerber, Regulatory Fairness Representative, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C., 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah,

Washington and Wisconsin, Marketing Order No. 930.

OMB Number: 0581-0177.

Expiration Date of Approval: January 31, 2001.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Marketing order programs provide an opportunity for producers of fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops, in a specified production area, to work together to solve marketing problems that cannot be solved individually. Order regulations help ensure adequate supplies of high quality product and adequate returns to producers. Under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (AMAA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674) industries enter into marketing order programs. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to oversee the order operations and issue regulations recommended by a committee of representatives from each commodity industry.

The information collection requirements in this request are essential to carry out the intent of the AMAA, to provide the respondents the type of service they request, and to administer the program, which has operated since 1996.

The tart cherry marketing order regulates the handling of tart cherries in the states of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin, hereinafter referred to as the "order." The order authorizes volume controls that provide for a reserve pool in times of heavy cherry supplies. Other major marketing order provisions, not currently in use, include minimum grade and size regulations and authorization for market research and development projects, including paid advertising.

The order, and rules and regulations issued thereunder, authorize the Cherry Industry Administrative Board (Board), the agency responsible for local administration of the order, to require handlers and producers to submit certain information. Much of this information is compiled in aggregate and provided to the industry to assist in carrying out marketing decisions.

The Board has developed forms as a means for persons to file required information with the Board relating to tart cherry inventories, shipments,

diversions, and other information needed to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the AMAA. Since this order regulates the canned and frozen form of tart cherries, reporting requirements will be in effect all year. A USDA form is used to allow growers to vote on amendments or continuance of the marketing order. In addition, tart cherry producers and handlers who are nominated by their peers to serve as representatives on the Board must file nomination forms with the Secretary.

Formal rulemaking amendments to the order must be approved in referendum conducted by the Secretary. Also, the Secretary may conduct a continuance referendum to determine industry support for continuation of the order. Handlers are asked to sign an agreement to indicate their willingness to abide by the provisions of the order whenever the order is amended. These forms are included in this request.

The forms covered under this information collection require the minimum information necessary to effectively carry out the requirements of the order, and their use is necessary to fulfill the intent of the AMAA as expressed in the order, and the rules and regulations issued under the order.

The information collected is used only by authorized representatives of the USDA, including AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs' regional and headquarter's staff, and authorized employees of the Board. Authorized Board employees and the industry are the primary users of the information, and AMS is the secondary user.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .191 hours per response.

Respondents: Tart cherry producers and for-profit businesses handling fresh and processed tart cherries produced in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 943.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 4.93

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 887.63 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of the information is necessary for the

proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments should reference OMB No. 0581-0177 and the Tart Cherry Marketing Order No. 930, and be mailed to Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2525-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; Fax (202) 720-5698; or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular USDA business hours at 14th and Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC, room 2525-S.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 20, 2000.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-7332 Filed 3-23-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcements Numbers 21 Through 26 and Numbers 1 Through 10

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Sixteen special import quotas for upland cotton are established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991, and Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996. The quotas are referenced as the Commodity Credit Corporation Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Numbers 21 through 26 and Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Numbers 1 through 10 and are set forth in subheadings 9903.52.21 through 9903.52.26 and subheadings 9903.52.01 through 9903.52.10, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: Each of the special quotas is subject to an established date and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than 90 days from the established date and entered into the United States not later than 180 days from the established date. Dates applicable to each individual special import quota are contained in a table following this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott O. Sanford, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of

Agriculture, STOP 0515, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20013-0515 or call (202) 720-3392.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 3.00 cents per pound. This condition was met for 16 consecutive 10-week periods ending October 28, 1999. Therefore, quotas referenced as Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Numbers 21 through 26 and Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Numbers 1 through 10 are established subject to the following dates and quantities.

Each special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to extra long staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, P.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 17, 2000.

Parks Shackelford,

Acting Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

Secretary of Agriculture's cotton import quota announcement	HTS sub-heading	News release date	Quota start date	90-day purchase date	180-day import date	Quota amount (kilograms)	3-month consumption base period
Number 21	9903.52.21	7/15/99	7/22/99	10/19/99	1/17/00	42,388,357	March-May 1999.
Number 22	9903.52.22	7/22/99	7/29/99	10/26/99	1/24/00	42,388,357	March-May 1999.
Number 23	9903.52.23	7/29/99	8/05/99	11/02/99	1/31/00	42,645,766	April-June 1999.
Number 24	9903.52.24	8/05/99	8/12/99	11/09/99	2/07/00	42,645,766	April-June 1999.
Number 25	9903.52.25	8/12/99	8/19/99	11/16/99	2/14/00	42,645,766	April-June 1999.
Number 26	9903.52.26	8/19/99	8/26/99	11/23/99	2/21/00	42,645,766	April-June 1999.
Number 1	9903.52.01	8/26/99	9/02/99	11/30/99	2/28/00	42,282,225	May-July 1999.
Number 2	9903.52.02	9/02/99	9/09/99	12/07/99	3/06/00	42,282,225	May-July 1999.
Number 3	9903.52.03	9/09/99	9/16/99	12/14/99	3/13/00	42,282,225	May-July 1999.
Number 4	9903.52.04	9/16/99	9/23/99	12/21/99	3/20/00	42,282,225	May-July 1999.
Number 5	9903.52.05	9/23/99	9/30/99	12/28/99	3/27/00	42,282,225	May-July 1999.
Number 6	9903.52.06	9/30/99	10/07/99	1/04/00	4/03/00	41,677,786	June-August 1999.
Number 7	9903.52.07	10/07/99	10/14/99	1/11/00	4/10/00	41,677,786	June-August 1999.
Number 8	9903.52.08	10/14/99	10/21/99	1/18/00	4/17/00	41,677,786	June-August 1999.
Number 9	9903.52.09	10/21/99	10/28/99	1/25/00	4/24/00	41,677,786	June-August 1999.
Number 10	9903.52.10	10/28/99	11/04/99	2/01/00	5/01/00	40,830,552	July-September 1999.